

# UPPSC- CURRENT AFFAIRS SPECIAL



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## Last 6 Months AGREEMENTS & MOU's

**UP-PSC CURRENT AFFAIR**

Part - 6

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## April 2020 – Important MoUs & Agreements

### Britannia Industries teams up with Dunzo to deliver essential items

- An online delivery platform, Dunzo has partnered with packaged foods company Britannia Industries to deliver range of products to its consumers.
- Britannia Industries has launched a Britannia Essentials store that will be available to Dunzo app users. □ The batch of essential products produced by Britannia Industries will be available at Britannia's distribution centers.
- These essential products will be sourced by Dunzo from distribution centers to ensure proper handling of goods as well as the availability of these products to the people.
- Hence, Britannia Industries will be leveraging the innovative and most advanced technology platform of Dunzo to enable seamless delivery of products every day.

### PT POINTERS:

**Britannia Industries** Limited is an Indian food-products corporation. Founded in 1892 and headquartered in Kolkata, it is one of India's oldest existing companies. It is now part of the Wadia Group headed by Nusli Wadia. □ CEO: Varun Berry

- Headquarters: Bengaluru

### IIL partners with Griffith University of Australia to develop vaccine for coronavirus

- Vaccine manufacturer Indian Immunologicals (IIL) partnered with Australia's Griffith University to do research and develop a vaccine for COVID-19.
- The two entities have signed a pact regarding this.

### Highlights:

- Under the partnership Scientists from India and Australia will develop a 'live attenuated SARS-CoV-2 vaccine' using the latest codon deoptimization technology.
- IIL stated that the technology looks promising for developing a vaccine for prophylactic, active, single-dose immunization against novel coronavirus in humans, with an enhanced safety profile.
- The vaccine is expected to provide long-lasting protection with a single dose administration with an anticipated safety profile similar to other licensed vaccines for active immunization.
- Upon the completion of the research, the vaccine strain will be transferred to IIL. It will work with the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), to conduct clinical trials. IIL intends to use its Vero cell platform tech for mass production of the vaccine.
- IIL is promoted by the National Dairy Development Board. It is committed to addressing critical public health needs by engaging in this collaboration.

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## **PT POINTERS:**

**Australia (Capital/Currency):** Canberra/ Australian dollar

- Prime Minister: Scott Morrison

## **NCL partners with BEL to speed up the manufacturing of Digital IR Thermometer**

- CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) Pune, Maharashtra has designed and developed Digital IR Thermometer to help in the mitigation of the Coronavirus outbreak.
- NCL has partnered with Bharat Electronics Ltd, Pune (BEL) to speed up the manufacture of the newly designed thermometer.

## **Digital IR Thermometer:**

- CSIR-NCL developed a handheld digital Infra-Red (IR) thermometer. It is the primary and important component that is used to measure to Coronavirus infection. Digital IR Thermometer can be charged using a mobile phone or power bank as a power source.
- NCL has made the design of IR thermometers available in open source to manufacturers across India for free.  
The guidelines give complete details about the manufacturing ready hardware and software design.
- The effort is to enable a large number of manufacturers to manufacture the thermometers and cater to their local demands.
- About 100 prototype units will be made for pilot distribution and testing at TUV Rheinland India Pvt Ltd Bangalore.

## **PT POINTERS:**

**NCL:** National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) is a government based laboratory that functions under the aegis of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) India.

- Established: 1950
- Location: Pune, Maharashtra

**BEL:** Bharat Electronics Limited is an Indian state-owned aerospace and defence company with about nine factories, and several regional offices in India. It is owned by the Indian Government and primarily manufactures advanced electronic products for the Indian Armed Forces.

- Headquarters: Bengaluru
- Owner: Government of India

## **L&T signs agreement with Indian Army for advanced IT-enabled network**

- Larsen & Toubro(L&T) signs agreement with the Indian Army for setting up an advanced IT-enabled system to operate the Armed Forces network under the Network of Spectrum (NFS).
- It creates a centralised network monitoring, management and control system for all the seven layers under NFS which interconnects 414 Defence stations.

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- The project involves the creation of a resilient Cloud-based IT infrastructure on Infrastructure as a service (IAAS) model.
- The scope also includes Next-Generation Operations System and Software-based Unified Network Management System, Eight Network Operations Centers (NOCs) consisting of National NOCs, Disaster Recovery NOCs, Regional NOCs, Security Operation Centers, Tier III Data Centres and Training Infrastructure.
- According to L&T, the project will be implemented in 18 months. It is a 3-month warranty and a seven-year maintenance contract.

## **PT POINTERS:**

**L&T:** Larsen & Toubro Limited, commonly known as L&T is an Indian multinational conglomerate company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India. It was founded by two Danish engineers taking refuge in India.

- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founders: Henning Holck-Larsen, Søren Kristian Toubro
- CMD: S. N. Subrahmanyam
- Director: R. Shankar Raman

## **CCI approves Hitachi's acquisition of 80.1% stake in ABB's power grid business**

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the proposed acquisition of 80.1% share capital of ABB Management Holding AG by Hitachi Limited from ABB Ltd, where ABB Management will hold the entire power grid business of ABB.

## **PT POINTERS:**

**Hitachi:** It is a Japanese firm & is the parent company of Hitachi group of companies. It is active in business segments, including IT solution, energy solution, industry solution, mobility solution, and smart life solution.

- Headquarters: Chiyoda, Tokyo
- President & CEO: Toshiaki Higashihara

**ABB:** It is a Swiss company which involves development, engineering, manufacturing and sale of products, systems and projects in the power grids sector.

- Headquarters: Zurich, Switzerland
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO): Björn Rosengren

## **HUL teams up with UNICEF to support India to combat COVID-19**

- Hindustan Unilever has partnered with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to support India to combat COVID-19.
- The partnership aims to initiate a mass communication campaign with an objective of informing and empowering the general public against the COVID-19 pandemic.

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- The mass communication campaign titled ‘#BreakTheChain’ or ‘#VirusKiKadiTodo’ will unite the technical knowledge of UNICEF with the marketing expertise and scale of HUL.
- They will together create engaging communication tools that can help people change behaviours and stay safe during the pandemic.
- ‘#BreakTheChain’ or #VirusKiKadiTodo’ campaign would be based on key themes namely: social distancing, hand washing and generosity, and would comprise of simple and powerful 5 and 15 second informative assets in order to empower general public with prevention strategies to safeguard themselves against COVID-19.

## **PT POINTERS:**

**UNICEF:** The United Nations Children's Fund is a United Nations agency responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide. Headquarters: New York, New York, United States

- Head: Henrietta H. Fore
- Founded: 11 December 1946, New York, New York, United States
- Founders: United Nations General Assembly, Ludwik Rajchman
- Parent organizations: United Nations General Assembly, United Nations Economic and Social Council

**HUL:** Hindustan Unilever Limited is the Indian subsidiary of Unilever. It is headquartered in Mumbai, India. Its products include foods, beverages, cleaning agents, personal care products, water purifiers and consumer goods. ☐ Parent organization: Unilever

- CEO: Sanjiv Mehta
- Headquarters: Mumbai

## **Domino's Pizza launches 'Domino's Essentials' service**

- Domino's Pizza has partnered with ITC Foods to launch “Domino's Essentials”.

## **Highlights of this Partnership:**

- Through “Domino's Essentials” service, everyday grocery essentials offered by ITC Foods will be delivered while leveraging the delivery infrastructure of Domino's.
- This partnership aims to serve the community by ensuring uninterrupted supply of essential items at their doorsteps, without them having to step outside of their homes.
- The “Domino's Essentials” service will be available for consumers via “Domino's Essentials” section on the Domino's app.
- Domino's Pizza will leverage its supply chain and delivery network to deliver essential goods to the customers at their home.
- This service is an effort which aligns with the government's decision of nationwide lockdown to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.


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## **PT POINTERS:**

**ITC:** ITC Limited is an Indian multinational conglomerate company headquartered in Kolkata, West Bengal. Established in 1910 as the 'Imperial Tobacco Company of India Limited', the company was renamed as the 'India Tobacco Company Limited' in 1970 and later to 'I.T.C. Limited' in 1974.

- CEO: Sanjiv Puri
- Headquarters: Kolkata

**Domino's Pizza, Inc.,** branded as Domino's, is an American multinational pizza restaurant chain founded in 1960.

The corporation is headquartered at the Domino's Farms Office Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and incorporated in Delaware

- CEO: Richard E. Allison Jr.
- Headquarters: Ann Arbor Charter Township, Michigan, United States
- Founders: Tom Monaghan, James Monaghan

## **Flipkart inks partnership with ICICI Lombard to offer health plan for Covid-19**

- Flipkart Private Limited inks partnership with ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Limited & Go Digit General Insurance to launched two health insurance policies.
- Both the policies provide an easy claim, hospitalisation, room or intensive care unit (ICU) expenditure, ambulance assistance and teleconsultation and do not require any medical testing at the time of purchase.
- The name of the two policies that specifically cover coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

### **'COVID-19 Protection Cover'**

- 'COVID-19 Protection Cover' by ICICI Lombard provides an instant Rs 25,000 benefit plan paid to the customer if he tests positive for COVID-19. It is priced at an annual premium of Rs 159.

### **'Digit Illness Group Insurance'**

- 'Digit Illness Group Insurance' offered by Digit Insurance allows consumers to avail a hospitalization cover up to a sum assured of Rs 1 lakh with an annual premium of Rs 511. Further, there is no limit on room rent or ICU. The policy includes 30 days pre-hospitalization and 60 days post-hospitalization fee. Policyholders can also get 1% of the sum assured for ambulance assistance.

## **PT POINTERS:**

**Flipkart Private Limited,** d/b/a Flipkart is an Indian e-commerce company based in Bengaluru, India. It was founded by Sachin Bansal and Binny Bansal in 2007.

- Founded: October 2007
- CEO: Kalyan Krishnamurthy (Jan 2017–)
- Founders: Sachin Bansal, Binny Bansal

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- Parent organization: Walmart

## Bharat Biotech in tie-up with FluGen to develop 'CoroFlu' vaccine

- Bharat Biotech in tie-up with the US-based company FluGen and University of Wisconsin Madison to develop a vaccine named "Coro-Flu" to fight against COVID-19.
- CoroFlu will build on the backbone of FluGen's flu vaccine candidate known as M2SR.
- The vaccine is being developed on the basis of FluGen's flu vaccine candidate known as M2SR, a self-limited version of the influenza virus.
- It induces an immune response against the flu. The vaccine will be built by FluGen's lab that inserts gene sequences from SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes the disease COVID-19 into M2SR so that the novel vaccine will also induce immunity against the coronavirus.

## IndiGrid to acquire Gurgaon-Palwal Transmission Limited

- The Board of the Investment Manager of IndiGrid, India's first Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) in the power sector, has approved the acquisition of Gurgaon-Palwal Transmission Limited (GPTL), Sterlite power with a value of Rs 1,080 crore.

### Highlights:

- This acquisition is made to ensure reliable power supply in the region, which may reduce carbon emissions by reducing dependence on DG (diesel production) sets.
- IndiGrid's AUM (assets under management) will increase by 10% to USD 1.75 billion through this acquisition, it also intends to acquire solar projects with robust power purchase agreements, operational track record and financially strong counter parties or off-takers.
- GPTL is a part of Inter State Transmission Scheme (ISTS) network, which consists of 3 Gas Insulated Substations (GIS) totaling 3,000 Mega Volt Ampere (MVA) and 270 circuit kilometers of 400 KiloVolt (KV) transmission lines spread across Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan.

### PT POINTERS:

#### GPTL:

- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Managing Director : Pratik Agarwal

#### IndiGrid:

- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- CEO & Whole time director: Harsh Shah

## UNIDO signs MoU with Consumer Unity Trust Society to counter economic impact of COVID-19

- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN), has inked an memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS), a non-profit organisation based in Jaipur, Rajasthan, to promote

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consumers to contribute to the global development agenda as well as support their respective governments in times of global crisis like coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

## **Highlights:**

- Tha MoU, valid for 5 years, aims to create a joint technical co-operation initiatives to support ongoing activities in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).
- As per the MoU, CUTS will support e-commerce as a platform to accelerate Member States' transition to the digital economy and adapt to the 4th Industrial Revolution.
- Both the agencies also decided to implement a BRICS e-commerce project that will build upon the success of UNIDO's pilot e-commerce project implemented in the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries from 2016 to 2018.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **Consumer Unity and Trust**

#### **Society (CUTS):**

□ Headquarters: Jaipur, Rajasthan

- Secretary General: Pradeep S. Mehta

**UNIDO:** The United Nations Industrial Development Organization, is a specialized agency of the United Nations that assists nations in growing and developing industry to reduce poverty. It is headquartered at the U.N. Office in Vienna, Austria and is a member of the United Nations Development Group.

- Headquarters location: Vienna, Austria
- Founded: 1966
- Parent organization: United Nations Economic and Social Council
- Formation: 17 November 1966; 53 years ago
- Heads: Kandeh Yumkella, Li Yong

### **YES Bank extends bancassurance partnership with Max Life Insurance**

- YES Bank has announced the extension of its strategic bancassurance relationship with the Max Life Insurance.
- The tie-up has been extended for 5-years in order to reaffirm their commitment to invest in building a digitally-enabled ecosystem, to offer customers a broad range of need-based products and services in order to provide a seamless experience for customers.
- The extended strategic bancassurance relationship aims to enhance business and make investment

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **Max Life Insurance:**

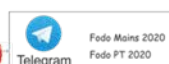
- It is a joint venture between Max Financial Services Ltd and Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance. □  
CMD: Prashant Tripathy

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- Tagline: Karo Jyada ka Iraada.
- Head Office: New Delhi **Yes Bank:**
- Establishment: 2004
- Headquarter: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- CMD: Prashant Kumar
- Tagline: Experience our Expertise

## **BSNL in partnership with SBI launches Bharat InstaPay a UPI-based payment platform**

- Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in partnership with the State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a Unified Payments Interface (UPI) based payment platform, Bharat InstaPay to enable all types of channel partners of BSNL to digitize their payment transactions on a round the clock basis/ real- time basis.

### **Highlights:**

- In particular it will help the prepaid sellers to buy the services immediately for sale. ☐ It will improve BSNL's credibility towards partners, & will help in growth of partners' business at a faster pace.
- 1 time online verification process is introduced, which is to be done by the partners themselves by visiting the portal.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **BSNL:**

- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Chairman & Managing Director: Pravin Kumar Purwar **SBI:**
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra ☐ Chairman: Rajnish Kumar

## **Central Drug Research Institute inks an MoU with King George's Medical University to sequence virus strains**

- Central Drug Research Institute has inked an MoU with King George's Medical University, Lucknow to sequence the virus strains obtained from COVID-19 patients in Uttar Pradesh
- Initially, the Lucknow-based lab will sequence the virus strains from the samples of a few patients.
- A team has been put into place for analyzing whether changes to the viral sequences, if any, will impact the proposed treatment strategies.

## **Novelis Inc. of Hindalco acquired US's Aleris for \$2.8 billion deal**

- The Aditya Birla group's Hindalco Industries Ltd. has acquired Aleris Corporation through its wholly owned subsidiary Novelis Inc. for an enterprise value of \$2.8 billion (Rs 21,295 crores). Hindalco is now one of the world's largest aluminium makers.

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- This acquisition took place after 2 years of signing the deal. It's deadline was January 2020 but was delayed due to regulatory hurdles.
- Novelis will acquire Aleris' 13 plants across North America, Europe and Asia.
- Aleris Corp was Ohio, United States (US)-based aluminium rolled products maker and has long-term supply contracts with aircraft makers Boeing, Airbus and Bombardier.
- The acquisition will also give Hindalco access to the aluminium supply market for the building and construction segments.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **Hindalco:**


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- Headquarter: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Managing Director :Satish Pai **Novelis Inc.**
- Headquarters: Atlanta, Georgia, United States
- President and Chief Executive Officer : Steve Fisher
- Parent Company: Hindalco Industries

### Amway Partners with TCS for Strategic IT Operations Transformation

- Tata Consultancy Services ,a leading global IT services, consulting, and business solutions organization, and Amway, a global leader in direct selling, have entered into a strategic partnership to transform the latter's global technology operations.
- Amway was looking to transform its IT infrastructure and operations and its global service desk in order to improve agility, accelerate speed to market, and enhance customer experience.
- The transformed operating model will feature self-healing capabilities, chatbots, self-help and improvement of its service desk mobile app.
- These enhancements will strengthen Amway's operational resilience and end user experience.
- Additionally, TCS will promote agile working methods and standardize operating procedures to enable greater agility and accelerate Amway's transformation

journey. **PT POINTERS:**

**Amway** is an American multi-level marketing company that sells health, beauty, and home care products. The company was founded in 1959 by Jay Van Andel and Richard DeVos and is based in Ada, Michigan. Amway and its sister companies under Alticor reported sales of \$8.8 billion in 2018.

- Headquarters: Ada Township, Michigan, United States
- Parent organization: Alticor
- CEO: Milind Pant
- Founded: 9 November 1959, Ada Township, Michigan, United States
- Founders: Richard DeVos, Jay Van Andel

### Paytm Payments Bank inks partnership with Mastercard

- Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) inks partnership with Mastercard to issue virtual and physical debit cards.
- These cards enable its customers to perform secure online transactions, make payment in stores as well as withdraw cash from ATMs.
- The main objective of PPBL is to issue over 10 million digital debit cards in FY 2020-21.
- Paytm Payments Bank Ltd cases to have 5.7 crore account holders and 30 crore computerized wallets.

## Good Morning Times 2020

- Mastercard offers its fully-integrated global payment platform to Paytm Payments Bank to enable cardholders to have access to the safest way of making electronic payments. **PPBL:**
- Headquarter: Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- CMD: Satish Kumar Gupta **Mastercard:**
- Headquarter: New York, United States (US)
- President and CEO: Ajay Banga

### IT firm Tech Mahindra joins hands with IBM to set up innovation centres

- Tech Mahindra Limited, an Indian multinational subsidiary of the Mahindra Group, has entered into the partnership with US (United States) based IBM (International Business Machines Corporation) to establish innovation centres with the aim to boost digital transformation & encourage adoption of more hybrid cloudbased technologies among its global customers.

#### **Highlights:**

- Both the firms have decided to open a 1st such centre in Bengaluru (Karnataka) later in 2020, which showcases transformation solutions built with IBM Cloud Paks, enterprise-ready containerized software solutions running on Red Hat OpenShift.
- More such centres will be opened throughout North America and the United Kingdom(UK) sometime in 2020.
- The tie-up is in line with Tech Mahindra's TechMNxt charter, which aims on providing solutions that enable digital transformation and meet the customer's evolving and dynamic needs. **PT POINTERS:**

### **Tech Mahindra Limited:**

- Headquarter: Pune, Maharashtra.
- Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer: Chander Prakash Gurnani

### **IBM**

- Headquarters: New York, U.S.
- President: Jim Whitehurst

### **NIIT's US arm signs agreement with US-based EdTech company**

- NIIT (National Institute of Information Technology) Limited announced that its US (United States) subsidiary has signed a managed service agreement with a US-based education technology (EdTech) company to provide virtual services to education providers.
- The term of the agreement is 5 years. **Highlights:**
- The demand for online courses has seen a quantum jump globally after the outbreak of COVID-19 and consequent of lockdowns.
- Both companies can provide innovative solutions in the testing and certification marketplace, through this significant partnership.

## Good Morning Times 2020

- About NIIT: NIIT is a leading skills and talent development corporation building manpower pool for global industry requirements.
- It has a footprint in over 30 countries offering training and development solutions to individuals, enterprises and institutions.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **NIIT Limited:**

- Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana.
- CEO: Sapnesh Lalla

#### **Federal Bank to acquire additional stake of up to 4% in IDBI Federal Life Insurance**

- The Federal Bank's board has approved its purchase to acquire an additional stake of up to 4% in the equity capital of IDBI Federal Life Insurance Company Limited (IFLIC) from Industrial Development Bank of

India (IDBI) Bank, increasing the total shareholding in the life insurance joint venture to 30% from 26%.

### **Highlights:**

- The IDBI Bank board has also approved a proposal to sell a 23-27% stake in its insurance arm IFLIC on April 3.
- IDBI Bank has 48% stake in IFLIC. Since Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has 51% majority stake in IDBI Bank, & looks to sell its entire stake in IFLIC.
- Current insurance regulations do not allow LIC to hold more than 10% stake in another insurer, either directly or indirectly.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Federal Bank:**

- Headquarters: Aluva, Kerala
- Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO): Shyam Srinivasan **IFLIC:**
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO: Vighnesh Shahane **IDBI:**
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman: M R Kumar

#### **Vodafone Idea ties up with Paytm to launch 'Recharge Saathi'**

- Vodafone idea ties up with Paytm have launched the 'Recharge Saathi' program.

## Good Morning Times 2020

- This program will help individuals and small businesses to earn additional income.
- Vodafone Idea will also give an assured cashback to merchant partners for multiple recharges.
- Under this programme, any Paytm customer can sell Vodafone and Idea recharges on Paytm app after registration.
- This will help him earn some amount as commission. Individuals and small businesses such as pharmacists, milk booth operators, newspaper vendors and individuals would be able to earn up to Rs5,000 every month under the programme.

### **PT POINTERS:**

**Vodafone Idea Limited** is an Indian telecom operator with its headquarters based in Mumbai, Maharashtra and Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Vodafone Idea is a pan-India integrated GSM operator offering 2G, 3G and 4G VoLTE mobile services under two brands named Vodafone and Idea.

- CEO: Ravinder Takkar
- Headquarters: Gandhinagar

**Paytm** is an Indian e-commerce payment system and financial technology company, based out of Noida, India. □ Founder: Vijay Shekhar Sharma

- Founded: August 2010, Noida
- CEO: Vijay Shekhar Sharma
- Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- Parent organization: One97 Communications

### **IICT collaborated LAXAI Life Sciences to reduce dependency for APIs and drug intermediates**

- Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad, has collaborated with Hyderabad-based integrated pharmaceutical company, LAXAI Life Sciences, to develop and manufacture Active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and drug intermediates.
- The initiative may help to reduce the dependency of the Indian pharmaceutical sector on Chinese imports of these ingredients.

### **Provisions:**

- The collaboration will use the know-how for the commercial manufacturing of the products.
- LAXAI Life Sciences will be one of the first few to commercialize these products.
- The manufacturing of these APIs and intermediates will be taken up at US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA)/Good manufacturing practice (GMP) approved plants held by LAXAI through its subsidiary, Therapiva Private Limited.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **IICT:**

- Director: Dr. Srivari Chandrasekhar
- Founded: 1944



## Good Morning Times 2020

### ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund Bharat-22 ETF picks shares worth Rs.59 crore in NALCO

- The Prudential Mutual Fund Bharat-22 ETF of ICICI picked up share of value Rs.59 Crore in the National Aluminium Company (NALCO) through the open market transaction.
- The National Stock Exchange said that more than 1.71 crore shares were bought at an average of Rs.34.43 apiece.
- This got the total deal value to Rs.58.9 crore and the NALCO's shares ended at Rs.30.95 apiece, down 8.16% on the NSE.
- 50 lakhs shares of Reliance Naval and Engineering Ltd were sold by the Yes Bank for Rs.65 Lakhs and Rs.1.13 Lakhs worth shares were sold by a private lender on 23rd April 2020.
- On 24th April 2020, The shares of Reliance Naval and Engineering ended at Rs.1.3 apiece, up 4% **PT POINTERS:**

#### **NALCO:**

- NALCO is under the Ministry of mines belongs to the Navaratna group 'A'CPSE having integrated and diversified operations in mining, metal and power.
- Headquarters: Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India
- Chairman: Sridhar Patra

#### **ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund:**

- It is a joint venture between ICICI Bank and Prudential Plc, a UK financial services sector.
- It is a second largest asset management company in India
- MD & CEO: Nimesh Shah
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: 1993

### NSDC and Amazon India collaborate to launch Combat COVID-19 Digital Campaign

- To raise public awareness on the novel coronavirus, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has partnered with Amazon India, to launch the "Fight Against COVID-19 #AwareIndiaSafeIndia; Digital Campaign".
- Using digital platforms and online community engagement, the campaign will drive awareness on the importance of precautionary measures in combating COVID 19 such as physical distancing and maintaining hygiene.
- In addition to this, Amazon and NSDC will engage students and skill trainees through NSDC's network of 11,000+ Training Centres, 800+ Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra and digital interfaces.
- Amazon can scale up digital communication in a short span of time, covering millions and impacting community behavior positively

## Good Morning Times 2020

- The partnership will identify volunteers, namely 'COVID-19 Digital Heroes' through digital outreach across various platforms.
- Students who are a part of Amazon's ALEXA student ambassador program will also act as COVID-19 Digital Heroes and help amplify the campaign further.
- The campaign's content will be aligned with the official communication and guidance from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Aarogya Setu app that has been launched recently.

### **PT POINTERS:**

**NSDC:** National Skill Development Corporation is a not-for-profit public limited company incorporated on July 31, 2008 under section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956. NSDC was set up by Ministry of Finance as Public Private Partnership model.

- CEO: Manish Kumar Headquarters location: New Delhi
- Founded: 2008
- Type of business: Non-profit organisation

### **Wipro and Nutanix Partner to Launch Digital Database Services (DDS)**

- Nutanix, a leader in enterprise cloud computing, and Wipro Limited, a leading global information technology, consulting and business process services company announced the launch of Wipro's Digital Database Services (DDS) powered by Nutanix Era and Nutanix HCI software.
- This offering will enable enterprises to efficiently manage databases, optimizing time and effort of IT teams.
- Wipro's Digital Database Services (DDS), built on Nutanix solutions for Databases including Nutanix HCI software and Nutanix Era, allows enterprises and users to provision and manage databases just-in-time, without prior knowledge of hardware, database software and associated configurations.
- The result is accelerated application release time, allowing database administrators to focus on new innovation instead.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Wipro:**

- CEO: Abidali Neemuchwala
- Owner: Azim Premji
- Founders: M.H. Hasham Premji, Sudipto Halder

#### **Nutanix**

- Founded: September 2009, Delaware, United States
- Headquarters: San Jose, California, United States

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- Subsidiaries: FRAME, Inc., Netsil Inc., PernixData, Minjar, Inc., Idea Device Technologies Pvt Ltd., Nutanix Netherlands B. V.
- Founders: Dheeraj Pandey, Ajeet Singh, Mohit Aron

### **May 2020 – Important MoUs & Agreements**

#### **Oxford University announces landmark partnership with AstraZeneca**

- The University of Oxford has today announced an agreement with the UK-based global biopharmaceutical company AstraZeneca for the further development, large-scale manufacture and potential distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine candidate currently being trialled by the University.
- The partnership is to begin immediately with the final terms being agreed in the coming weeks. This will allow for rapid vaccination around the world if the COVID-19 vaccine candidate proves to be effective.
- The vaccine candidate was developed by the University's Jenner Institute who began trials in humans last week jointly with the University's Oxford Vaccine Group.

#### **PT POINTERS:**

The **University of Oxford** is a collegiate research university in Oxford, England. There is evidence of teaching as early as 1096, making it the oldest university in the English-speaking world and the world's second-oldest university in continuous operation.

- Address: Oxford OX1 2JD, United Kingdom
- Acceptance rate: 17.5% (2015)
- Founded: Oxford, United Kingdom
- Undergraduate tuition and fees: 9,250 GBP (2017 – 18)

#### **AstraZeneca**

- Headquarters: Cambridge, United Kingdom
- CEO: Pascal Soriot

#### **Facebook partners with Bollywood for 'I FOR INDIA' fundraiser concert**

- Facebook has launched a home-to-home fundraiser concert, 'I For India'. 100% proceeds from the fundraiser concert will go to the India COVID Response Fund managed by GiveIndia.

## Good Morning Times 2020

- Facebook has collaborated with some of the biggest stars in India and Bollywood for this.
- The four hour-long concert was live on Facebook on May 03, 2020 starting at 7:30 PM.
- The concert featured stars like A R Rahman, Aamir Khan, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Akshay Kumar, Alia Bhatt, Javed Akhtar, Anushka Sharma, Katrina Kaif, Nick Jonas, Priyanka Chopra, Lilly Singh, Virat Kohli, Ustad Zakhir Hussain.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Facebook:**

- Founders: Mark Zuckerberg, Andrew McCollum, Eduardo Saverin, Dustin Moskovitz, Chris Hughes Trending
- CEO: Mark Zuckerberg
- Headquarters: Menlo Park, California, United States

### **IIT Gandhinagar collaborates with CPWD to Launch Series of Welfare Measures for Migrant Laborers**

- Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar has joined hands with Central Public Works Department (CPWD) to launch a series of welfare measures for the benefit of migrant laborers working in the construction projects at the Institute.
- In the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, the Institute has stepped up its efforts to ensure the health, safety and well-being of around 800 construction workers involved in construction activities on campus.
- The Institute constituted a 'Shramik Kalyan Samiti' (Labor Welfare Committee) to interact, educate and help construction workers fight against the pandemic
- The Institute volunteer groups regularly sensitize the workers and create awareness about preventive measures against COVID-19, such as frequent hand wash and social distancing. □ Breathing techniques have been explained to the laborers.
- All the workers' colonies are equipped with a first aid box.
- 'Shramik Kalyan Samiti,' Institute has launched a fundraising drive to provide support for construction workers and their families.
- IIT Gandhinagar is providing free medical support and consultation to construction workers in its medical center.
- A free screening test of all workers was done in the workers housing colony.
- Institute also provides ambulance services to workers needing medical examination or treatment.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **CPWD:**

- Headquarters location: New Delhi

## Good Morning Times 2020

- Founded: July 1854

### **BDL partners with IIT-Kanpur to manufacture ventilators for COVID-19 treatment**

- Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), a defence Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), has signed an MoU NOCCA Robotics, an incubated start-up of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur for the large-scale manufacturing of ventilators.

#### **Highlights:**

- The MoU will give a big boost to the development of affordable ventilators for COVID-19 treatment.
- BDL partnered with IIT Kanpur's incubator Foundation for Innovation and Research in Science and Technology (FIRST) and NOCCA Robotics Private Limited (NRPL) to manufacture ventilators.
- It aims to develop an affordable ventilator which will be able to scale up the production. The device will be in line with the Make in India initiative.
- For the project, the team has received inputs from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS).

#### **PT POINTERS:**

**BDL:** Bharat Dynamics Limited is one of India's manufacturers of ammunitions and missile systems. It was founded in 1970 in Hyderabad, Telangana. BDL was established in the year 1970 to be a manufacturing base for guided weapon systems.

- Headquarters: India
- Founder: India

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- Headquarters: India
- Founder: India
- Chairman & MD: Siddharth Mishra

### CSIR-IGIB, TATA Sons sign MoU for licensing KNOWHOW for FELUDA for rapid and COVID-19 diagnosis

- CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB) and TATA Sons signed an MoU for licensing of KNOWHOW for FNCAS9 Editor Linked Uniform Detection Assay (FELUDA) for rapid diagnosis of COVID-19.

### Highlights:

- The license includes the transfer of the knowledge for scaling up the KNOWHOW in the form of a kit that can be deployed for COVID-19 testing on ground in May 2020.
- A completely indigenous scientific invention, FELUDA for COVID-19 was designed for mitigating the ongoing COVID-19 situation and cater to mass testing. The technology is highly affordable, relative ease of use, and non-dependency on expensive Q-PCR machines.
- CSIR IGIB and TATA Sons will work together to bring for widespread use on the development and commercialization of Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR) based technology for COVID-19 detection.
- This innovative test uses cutting edge CRISPR technology for the detection of the genomic sequence of the novel coronavirus.
- It uses a simple test protocol to administer and interpret which also enables results to be made available to the medical fraternity in relatively lesser time, as compared to other test protocols.
- The technology was initiated and developed at CSIR IGIB under sickle cell mission and utilizes an indigenously developed cutting edge CRISPR Cas9 technology to specifically recognize the COVID-19 sequence in the given sample.
- The new technology will help to rapidly assess and establish the presence of viral infection in a sample.

### PT POINTERS:

**CSIR-IGIB:** CSIR Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology is a scientific research institute devoted primarily to biological research. It is a part of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, India. □ Director: Anurag Agrawal

- Founded: 1977



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**Tata Group** is an Indian multinational conglomerate holding company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India. Founded in 1868 by Jamsetji Tata, the company gained international recognition after purchasing several global companies. One of India's largest conglomerates, Tata Group is owned by Tata Sons.

- Owner: Tata Sons
- Founder: Jamsetji Tata
- Founded: 1868, Mumbai

### **PNB Housing Finance Limited signs MoU with IIT Delhi to develop reusable PPE kits**

- Punjab National Bank Housing Finance Limited(PNBHFL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding(MoU) with Indian Institute of Technology(IIT) Delhi to support the research and development of a unique prototype material to be used in the manufacture of washable and reusable Personal Protective Equipment(PPE) surgical gowns and masks by using Jacquard knitting technology(machine knitting with a jacquard attachment that makes patterns by the use of colored yarns).

### **Highlights**

- By this MoU, the PNBHFL will support the Department of Textile and Fibre Engineering, IIT Delhi in fasttracked R&D of high-quality PPE material.
- The cloth technology developed under this initiative will help in producing affordable, sustainable and reusable PPEs. The prototype will be tested at government-accredited labs & will be supplied to notable government hospitals.
- The knit construction for the mask is optimized for a secure 3D-fit around the face with a layer of meltblown, non-woven material in between to ensure efficient filtration and barrier protection with good breathability.
- As for the gown, the fabric and lamination process can be engineered in achieving a stretchable, nonpermeable gown adhering to international standards.

### **Significance of PPE**

- In managing patients with highly contagious COVID-19, healthcare professionals rely heavily on PPEs to protect themselves or others from being infected or infecting others.
- But the lack of PPEs poses a risk of infection for armed doctors, nurses and other frontline workers to the risk of infection while caring for COVID-19 patients.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **PNBHFL:**

- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Managing Director(MD) & Chief Executive Officer(CEO): Sanjaya Gupta **IIT Delhi:**

## Good Morning Times 2020

- Director: V. Ramgopal Rao

### **Coir Board signs MoU with IIT-Madras for setting up Centre of Excellence for coir applications**

- Coir Board signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras, to establish a “Centre of Excellence (CoE) for the application of Coir exclusively or in combination with other natural fibres”. **Highlights:**
- The Institute has also recommended the use of CGT in the low volume rural roads as a re-enforcement material.
- The Centre of Excellence (CoE) aims at furthering the research work so far done in the coir sector with the support of IIT Madras team of experts.
- It will also support the development of relevant technology and evolve standards for production and processing through specific projects and monitor research projects and mentor of Coir Board’s research institutes/laboratories.
- The Centre of Excellence will also assist in generating the Intellectual Property Rights and technology transfer.
- Coir Board will provide a financial assistance of Rs.5 crores initially for a period of two years for the establishment and running of Centre of Excellence.
- 27 areas of R&D needs of the Coir industry have been identified, to be taken up by this Centre of Excellence, in addition to 10 in-house projects of IITM, in machinery development and road projects.

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- Director: Bhaskar Ramamurthy

### **TRIFED, Art of Living Foundation collaborates to provide Free Ration Kits to needy tribes**

**India artisans** □ Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Art Of Living Foundation (AOL) to help the needy tribes India artisans amid COVID-19 pandemic. **Highlights:**

- The agreement aims to collaborate in respective programmes of each organization for promoting Tribal Enterprises.

## Good Morning Times 2020

- Under this, the Art of Living Foundation has agreed to provide Free Ration Kits to Needy Tribes India Artisans.
- TRIFED Regional Offices have compiled the list of needy tribal artisans and have identified 9,409 needy tribal artisans located across the country for distribution of ration kits under #iStandWithHumanity campaign of Art Of Living.
- The move will be coordinated with the AOL offices in all States.

### **PT POINTERS:**

The **Art of Living Foundation** is a volunteer-based, humanitarian and educational non-governmental organization. It was founded in 1981 by Ravi Shankar. The Art of Living Foundation has centers in more than 156 countries. □ Founder: Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

- Founded: 1981
- Headquarters: Bengaluru
- Subsidiaries: Sri Sri Ravishankar Vidya Mandir Trust, Art of Living Yoga & Meditation Centre

### **India signs MoUs with Russia for coking coal**

- Coal India signed MOUs with two Russian entities within the areas of coking coal mining within the Russian Far East and therefore the Arctic Region.
- The first MOU was signed with Far Eastern Agency for Attracting Investments and Supporting Exports (FEAAISE), Russia and the second MoU was signed with Eastern Mining Company (FEMC) of Russian Federation for exploring, identifying, sourcing, negotiating and consummating interdependent investment opportunities within the mining sector within the Russian Far East .
- India is seeking a long-term agreement for supply of crude oil from Russia as it seeks to diversify its sources for hydrocarbons.
- Both the countries has begun negotiations on long-term assured supplies of petroleum , especially from Russia's Far East , and has also invited Russian companies, particularly in gas business, gas infrastructure and petrochemicals, to invest in India.

### **PT POINTERS:**

**Coal India Limited** is an Indian state-owned coal mining and refinery company headquartered in Kolkata, West Bengal, India. It is the largest coal-producing company in the world and a Maharatna PSU. The company contributes to around 82% of the coal production in India.

- Headquarters: Kolkata
- CEO: Anil Kumar Jha
- Director: Anil Kumar Jha

**Russia (Capital/Currency):** Moscow/ Russian Rouble

## Good Morning Times 2020

- President: Vladimir Putin

### ICMR partners India Post for delivery of COVID-19 testing kits

- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has entered into a tie-up with the India Post for delivery of its coronavirus COVID-19 testing kits.
- These kits are taken from ICMR 16 regional depots to 200 additional labs designated for coronavirus testing across the country.
- ICMR has planned to conduct 1 lakh COVID-19 tests per day all over the country.
- In order to achieve this, India Post with its 1,50,000 post offices has entered into an agreement with the ICMR. The kits are delivered with a packing of dry ice.

### PT POINTERS:

The Department of Posts, trading as India Post, is a government-operated postal system in India, which is a subsidiary of the Ministry of Communications. Generally called "the post office" in India, it is the most widely distributed postal system in the world.

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Founder: Government of India
- Founded: 1 April 1854
- Subsidiary: India Post Payments Bank
- Parent organization: Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

### ICMR partners with Bharat Biotech International Limited for developing indigenous #Covid 19 vaccine

- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) partners with Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL) for developing indigenous Covid 19 vaccine.
- The vaccine will be developed using the virus strain isolated at the ICMR's National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune,
- The strain has been successfully transferred from NIV to BBIL.
- Work on vaccine development has been initiated between the two partners.
- The ICMR-NIV will provide continuous support to BBIL for vaccine development.
- ICMR and BBIL will seek fast-track approvals to expedite vaccine development, subsequent animal studies and clinical evaluation of the candidate vaccine.

### PT POINTERS:

#### Bharat Biotech International Limited

- Founder: Krishna Ella
- Founded: 1996
- Headquarters location: Hyderabad
- Subsidiary: Chiron Behring Vaccines Private Limited

## Good Morning Times 2020

### IIT Madras Collaborates with Chengalpattu Government Hospital for Design & Rapid construction of Modular 'Doffing Unit' for safe removal of PPE

- Indian Institute of Technology Madras Civil Engineering Department has collaborated with Chengalpattu Medical College and Hospital (CMCH) in Tamil Nadu to design and develop 'Doffing Unit' to enable healthcare professionals to safely and effectively remove their Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- This project was undertaken with financial support from corporates under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- 'Donning' is the procedure of assembling PPE on the healthcare providers and 'doffing' is the procedure for removal of PPE.
- Such procedures will have to adhere to certain standard protocols to prevent of further spread of infections.

### IIT-G, Duke-NUS carry out data-driven assessment of COVID-19 situation in India

- Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT-Guwahati) and the Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore have partnered and used data science models to analyze and predict the total number of infected people for different States in India in the next 30 days. **Highlights:**
- The researchers used the Susceptible Infectious Susceptible (SIS) models, along with the model-free daily infection-rate and analyzed factors in the exponential, the logistic model.
- The report is based on the growth of recent active cases, along with the daily infection-rate (DIR) values for each State.
- A state is labelled as 'severe' if there is a non-decreasing trend in DIR values over the last two weeks along with a near exponential growth in active infected cases.
- A state is labelled 'moderate' if an almost decreasing trend in DIR values is observed over the last two weeks along with neither increasing nor decreasing growth in active infected cases.
- A state is labelled 'controlled' if a decreasing trend in the last two weeks' DIR values is observed along with a decreasing growth in active infected cases.
- The researchers recommended that this composite prediction will be used for assessment purposes for each State. States that are in a severe category are expected to take serious preventive measures immediately to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

### PT POINTERS:

#### Duke-NUS Medical School

- Dean: Thomas M. Coffman
- Founded: April 2005, Singapore
- Parent institutions: Duke University, National University of Singapore

## Good Morning Times 2020

### **Tribal Affairs Ministry, FB launched Goal programme for Digital Skilling of Tribal Youth across India**

- Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda launched the "Going Online As Leaders (GOAL) programme" of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) in partnership with Facebook at a Webinar in New Delhi on 15 May.
- The programme is in line with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

#### **GOAL programme:**

- The GOAL programme has been designed to provide mentorship to tribal youth through digital mode.
- The digitally-enabled program envisages acting as a catalyst to explore the hidden talents of the tribal youth, which will help in their personal development and contribute to all-round upliftment of their society.
- Digital literacy has gained importance in view of challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The program intends to upskill and empower 5,000 tribal youths in the current phase to harness the full potential of digital platforms and tools to learn new ways of doing business, explore and connect with domestic and international markets. The digital skilling and technology will integrate them into the mainstream.
- The programme has been designed with a long term vision to develop the potential of tribal youth and women to help them acquire skills and knowledge through mentorship in various sectors including horticulture, food processing, bee keeping, tribal art and culture, medicinal herbs, entrepreneurship among others.
- It will enable Scheduled Tribe (ST) youth in remote areas to use digital platforms for sharing their aspirations, dreams, and talent with their mentors.
- The programme also aims to create awareness amongst tribal beneficiaries about various schemes initiated by Central and State Governments for welfare of STs as well as their fundamental duties.

#### **PT POINTERS:**

The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**, a branch of Government of India, looks after the affairs of the tribal communities in India.

- Officeholder: Jasvantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor (Minister of State)
- Founded: October 1999
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Jurisdiction: India



## Good Morning Times 2020

### Federal bank, MoneyGram tie up for direct-to-bank deposits in India

- MoneyGram Payment System, a subsidiary of MoneyGram International, global leader in P2P payments tied up with Federal Bank Limited, a private bank in India to provide the customers a cost-effective way to receive deposits directly in their bank accounts in India.

### PT POINTERS:

#### Federal Bank:

- Founder: Kulangar Paulo Hormis
- Chairperson: Grace Elizabeth Koshie
- MD & CEO: Shyam Srinivasan
- Headquarters: Aluva, Kerala
- Formed on: April 23, 1931 MoneyGram Payment System:
- Chairman & CEO: Alex Holmes
- CFO: Larry Angelilli
- Founded in: 1988

### IIT Madras Collaborates with Industry Bodies to Study the Impact of COVID-19 on MSMEs in

Tamil Nadu □ Indian Institute of Technology Madras is collaborating with industry bodies to understand the impact of COVID-19 crisis on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Tamil Nadu.

- The study is expected to be completed within three to four weeks.
- Tamil Nadu accounts for one of the largest number of MSMEs in the country with more than 6.89 lakh registered enterprises.
- This, in turn, accounts for more than 15 per cent of the total MSMEs in India. Given the significance of MSMEs in Tamil Nadu, the disruption caused by the COVID-19 is a major concern.
- The study is being led by IIT Madras Department of Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty, Dr. Subash Sasidharan, Associate Professor of Economics, and Dr. Santosh Kumar Sahu, Assistant Professor of Economics.
- Based on the outcome of this study, the researchers plan to analyse the Adaptation and Coping Strategies to overcome the shock due to the pandemic, which could help in quick recovery of the MSMEs in Tamil Nadu. PT POINTERS:

#### Tamilnadu

- Capital: Chennai
- Chief Minister: Edappadi K.Palanisamy
- Governor: Banwarilal Purohit
- Chief Justice of Madras High Court: Vijaya Kamlesh Tahilramani

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- National Park: Guindy NP, Gulf of Mannar Marine NP, Indira Gandhi (Annamalai) NP, Mudumalai NP, Mukurthi NP.

### **AIIB sanctions 145 million USD loan for Major Irrigation Project of West Bengal**

- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank approves a loan of 145 million USD to improve irrigation facilities and flood management West Bengal.

#### **Highlights:**

- The project is to focus on the Damodar Valley of West Bengal. It will benefit more than 2.7 million farmers spread across five districts of West Bengal. The total value of the project is 413.8 million USD. Apart from the AIIB, the project is also co-financed by IBRD (International Bank of Reconstruction and Development).
- The IBRD and the IDA (International Development Association) together constitute the World Bank. Though there are other major partners of the world bank, these two have role in terms of decision making and approving grants.

#### **PT POINTERS:**

**AIIB:** The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank is a multilateral development bank that aims to support the building of infrastructure in the Indo-Pacific region. The bank currently has 78 members as well as 24 prospective members from around the world.

- Headquarters: Beijing, China
  - Region served: Asia and Oceania
  - Membership: 78 Members
  - Main organ: Board of Governors; Board of Directors
  - Purpose: Crediting
  - Legal status: Treaty
  - Formation: 16 January 2016 (Open for business); 25 December 2015 (Entry into force Articles of Agreement)
- West Bengal:**
- Established on: 26 January 1950
  - Capital: Kolkata
  - Governor: Jagdeep Dhankhar
  - Chief Minister: Mamata Banerjee

### **NRAI tie-up with DotPe to build tech platform**

- National Restaurants Association of India (NRAI) has partnered with fintech start-up DotPe to build its own tech platform.
- This platform enables them with online payments for digital ordering, bill settlements, and contactless dining. DotPe will provide us with a tech solution.

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- NRAI is the apex body of the Food and Beverage Industry in India. This partnership would directly take on existing food-tech aggregators, Zomato and Swiggy. NRAI represents over five lakh restaurant businesses.
- It is also looking for different delivery and logistics companies.
- It is also exploring synergies with social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, and Instagram to provide and ordering facilities and visibility for restaurant partners who could potentially be its members.

### **Godrej consumer products announced acquisition of balance 25% stake in Kenya's Canon Chemicals**

- Godrej East Africa Holdings Ltd, a subsidiary of FMCG (Fast-moving consumer goods) firm Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL), has acquired the balance 25% stake in Kenya-based Canon Chemicals Ltd for an undisclosed sum.

#### **Highlights:**

- Following the deal, Canon Chemicals would now be a wholly-owned subsidiary of the company & will help GCPL in further building its presence in the Sub Saharan Africa market.
- Earlier on February 04, 2016, the Godrej group has acquired 75 % stake in Canon for an undisclosed sum.
- In the past few years, GCPL has been acquiring brands, specially in the African continent with the aim to expand its presence.
- Its revenue from Africa (including Strength of Nature) market was at Rs 484.03 crore in the last quarter, January-March 2020.

#### **PT POINTERS:**

##### **Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL):**

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Managing Director: Vivek Gambhir

**Canon Chemicals Ltd:** It manufactures & distributes products in the personal and home categories. Its major brand is Valon, a petroleum jelly.

- Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya.

### **Flipkart ties up with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance for digital motor insurance policy**

- Flipkart partnered with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company (BAGIC) to offer digital motor insurance policy to customers of e-commerce major. **Highlights:**
- This enables consumers to purchase the motor-insurance policy using the Flipkart mobile application.
- This also offers customised insurance solutions to power its mobile protection programme to all leading phone brands.

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- This will enable Bajaj Allianz General Insurance to offer best in class service to the customers of Flipkart by providing pertinent solutions.
- Users can get access to seamless, accessible and flexible insurance solutions to ensure safety to the vehicles with the introduction of motor-insurance on the flipkart platform.
- The Moto OTS will allow the customers to inspect their four wheelers themselves to check for damages and also protects the cars from depreciation costs.
- This will provide 24X7 roadside assistance to policyholders who can claim their amount through cashless settlements.
- The assistance will be offered through SMS, phone calls or other digital platforms through applications like whatsapp or other chat with bot for the two wheelers.
- Customers are rewarded every year through No-Claim Bonus(NCB) a unique facility if they don't make a claim and they are allowed to transfer up to 50% of this NCB amount while they switch insurers.

### **PT POINTERS:**

**BAGIC:** Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company

- MD & CEO: Tapan Singhel
- Chief Financial Officer(CFO): Milind Choudhari
- Headquarters: Pune **Flipkart:**
- SVP and group CEO: Emily McNeal
- Chief Operating Officer(COO): Sriram Venkataraman

### **Defence ministry & eGov Foundation signs MoU through video conference for Online Management of Cantonment Boards**

- Directorate General Defence Estates(DGDE), Ministry of Defence & eGov Foundation has signed Memorandum of Understanding(MoU) on May 8 through video conference to implement a cloud-based platform to deliver various citizen services under the program e-Chhawani & to drive e-governance and improved citizen services across all 62 cantonment boards in the country.

### **Highlights:**

- The combination of technological intervention and administrative reform will be achieved through Digital Infrastructure for Governance, Impact & Transformation(DIGIT), India's Largest Open Source Platform for Urban Governance.
- The application suite include the following- Dashboards, Web Portals, Property Tax, Miscellaneous Collection, Trade License, Public Grievance Redressal System, Fire NoC system, Water & Sewerage Charges, Online Building Permission System & Finance & Accounting System.

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- Meeting the mandate of Cantonment Boards towards citizen-centric service delivery will tend the board's commitment to enhanced governance by improving delivery of services by multiple channels and make it easier to access all Board-related information online.
- This MoU will help DGDE to enhance the harmonious relationship between the cantonment boards and the public.

### **PT POINTERS:**

**DGDE:** It is the Headquarters of the Indian Defence Estates Service.

- Director General: Deepa Bajwa

### **eGov Foundation:**

- It was established in 2003 by Nandan Nilekani and Srikanth Nadhamuni to partner with city administrators in their drive to leverage the transformative power of technology for better quality of life in our cities and to make them sustainable
- **Mission:** To improve the quality of life in India's cities and towns by enabling responsive and reliable local services through DIGIT. Their mission is supported by Nilekani Philanthropies, Omidyar Network and Tata Trust as our long term benefactors.
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka
- CEO: Viraj Tyagi

### **Ircon signs MoU with RZD International for joint development of railways**

- State-owned Ircon International Limited (IRCON) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with RZD International L.L.C. (Limited Liability Company), a subsidiary of government-owned Russian Railways Company, to explore opportunities for joint development of railways and other infrastructure projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

### **Highlights:**

- The MoU was signed by Mr. Parag Verma, Chief General Manager (Business Development), Ircon International Limited and Mr. Sergey Stolyarov, Provisional Director General of RZD International LLC.
- According to the MoU, both parties have agreed to form a joint Indo-Russian working group.
- S. K. Chaudhary, Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), Ircon, added that Ircon has been constantly looking to establish a strong partnership with the companies for mutual benefit and this MOU is a step towards building a long term business relationship which will help them to enhance their presence in different geographies.
- This MoU will develop a strong partnership to coordinate, plan and subsequently implement projects in the field of railways and other infrastructure, not only in India but also in countries of mutual interest.

### **PT POINTERS:**

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**Ircon:** Ircon International Limited, formerly Indian Railway Construction Limited (IRCON), is an engineering and construction organisation, specialized in transport infrastructure.

- Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Chairman and Managing Director (CMD): S.K. Chaudhary **RZD International LLC:**
- Headquarters: Moscow, Russia.
- Director-General: Sergey Stolyarov

### **NTPC Ltd signs MoU with ONGC for Renewable Energy business**

- NTPC Ltd., the PSU under Ministry of Power, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Oil and

Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), the PSU under Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas on 22 May.

- The MoU aimed to set up a Joint Venture (JV) Company for the Renewable Energy business. MoU Provisions:
- The MoU will enable NTPC and ONGC to accelerate their footprint in Renewable Energy.
- As per the MoU, NTPC and ONGC will explore the setting up of offshore wind and other Renewable Energy (RE) Projects in India and overseas.
- The companies will explore opportunities in the fields of sustainability, storage, E-mobility and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) compliant projects.
- The tie-up will accelerate NTPC's RE capacity addition program and expand its footprint in offshore wind and overseas RE projects. At present, NTPC has 920 MW of installed Renewable power projects in its portfolio and about 2300 MW of RE projects under construction.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **NTPC:**

- Founded: 1975
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Owner: Government of India
- Organization type: State-owned enterprise
- Chairman & MD: Gurdeep Singh **ONGC:**
- Headquarters: Vasant Kunj, Delhi
- CEO: Shashi Shanker
- Owner: Government of India
- Chairman & MD: Shashi Shanker
- Founder: Government of India



## Good Morning Times 2020

### India, Bangladesh sign pact to operationalise 5 more ports of call & 2 new routes

- India & Bangladesh signed the 2nd Addendum to the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade in Dhaka.
- Under this pact- Increased 5 more ports of call from earlier 6(Total- 11) & extended 2 ports of call in each country; 2 new Indo Bangladesh Protocol(IBP) routes(from 8 to 10) & new locations are also added to the existing routes to facilitate the trade between two countries
- It was signed by the High Commissioner of India in Bangladesh, Riva Ganguly Das, and Bangladesh Shipping Secretary Mohammad Mezbah Uddin Chowdhury.
- **New Ports:** The new ports of call in India are Dhulian, Moya, Kolaghat, Sonamura and Jogigopha & in Bangladesh will be Rajshahi, Sultanganj, Chilmari, Daudkandi and Bahadurabad
- The new Ports of Call will enable the loading and unloading of cargo transported on the Indo Bangladesh Protocol Route and provide a stimulus to the economic development of the new locations and their hinterland. **Highlights:**

- Under this Protocol, Inland vessels of both the countries can play on the designated protocol route and dock at Ports of Call in each country, notified for loading/unloading of cargo.
- There is significant improvement in the movement of cargo vessels in an organized manner on the protocol route carrying both the transit cargo to the North East(NE) region of India and vice-versa and export-cargo to Bangladesh.
- The Indian transit cargo is- mainly coal, fly-ash, POL and ODC for power projects in NE region. Fertilizers, cement, food grains & agricultural products are among other potential cargo for movement
- The export cargo from India to Bangladesh is mainly fly-ash which is to the tune of 30 lakhs MT per annum.
- Around 638 inland vessels (including 600 Bangladeshi flag vessels) completed annually with about 4000 loaded voyages.
- The modifications will facilitate trade between two countries with improved reliability and cost effectiveness.

### **PT POINTERS:**

**Bangladesh (Capital/Currency):** Dhaka/ Bangladeshi Taka

- Prime Minister: Sheikh Hasina
- President: Abdul Hamid

## Good Morning Times 2020

### Airtel Africa with UNICEF extends e-learning support to students

- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) partnered with Bharti Airtel's Africa Arm to support the school children in the coronavirus affected areas and provide them access to remote learning and financial assistance to their families through mobile cash transfer. **Highlights:**
- Under this partnership, Airtel Africa will utilize mobile technology to support over 133 million school age children affected due to closure of schools in the Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia (13 countries in subSaharan Africa).
- Airtel Africa will provide the websites hosting educational content at zero-rate and will enable the children with remote access to the digital content at free of cost.
- The cash assistance will help the families to ensure the additional support for the current health and economic crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- This partnership will support UNICEF's Global Agenda for Action for children. The plan provides the outline of global actions of private and public sector partners to provide healthcare, safety and education to the children including the kids with disabilities and girls who are at risk of violence. **PT POINTERS:**

**UNICEF:** The United Nations Children's Fund formerly known as United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

- President: Rabab Fatima
- Secretary: Hai Kyung Jun
- Headquarters: New York **Airtel Africa:**
- CEO & MD: Raghunath Mandava
- CFO: Jaideep Paul
- Headquarters: Nairobi

### Hindustan Unilever extends partnership with UNICEF to support tea plantation workers in Assam

- Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) announced today, the extension of its collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to support the delivery of essential hygiene products to tea-plantation workers based in the state of Assam in India, in the response to COVID 19.
- The collaboration will benefit families residing in the tea-estates of the region and will facilitate the reach of key communication assets and the availability of essentials such as soaps and toilet cleaners for tea-plantation workers.

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- The initiative focuses on enhancing awareness related to COVID-19, amongst the tea-plantation workers and local communities and help them take necessary precautions to stay safe during the pandemic.
- Training modules and short videos created by HUL to train frontline healthcare workers in tea estates on response and containment measures related to COVID 19 will be developed. **PT**

### **POINTERS:**

**UNICEF:** The United Nations Children's Fund formerly known as United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

- President: Rabab Fatima
- Secretary: Hai Kyung Jun
- Headquarters: New York

### **Hindustan Unilever Limited**

- Parent organization: Unilever
- CEO: Sanjiv Mehta
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founders: Lever Brothers, Hindustan Vanaspati Mfg. Co. Ltd., United Traders Ltd.

### **IBM ties up with Intellect Design Arena to launch iTurmeric FinCloud platform for cloud services of banks, financial institutions**

- ☐ IBM (International Business Machines) ties up with the Intellect Design Arena Limited, a full spectrum banking and insurance products company, has launched iTurmeric FinCloud platform through IBM public cloud targeting financial institutions which are looking to switch to the latest tools and technologies.

### **i Turmeric FinCloud platform:**

- The cloud-ready, API(Application Programming Interface)- first, microservices-based platform will help new digital banks systems to be tested and run in isolation or in parallel with core legacy systems, which can, in turn, continue to run without interruption or compromise.
- i Turmeric FinCloud already has retail banking, lending, origination, and corporate banking API and the company will continue to add relevant APIs. The platform provides a unique way of modernising without the risk of rip and replacement using Turmeric tools.
- IBM is one of the first independent software vendors and Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) providers to on-board

Intellect's offerings to the IBM financial services-ready public cloud.

### **PT POINTERS:**

### **IBM:**

- Headquarters: Armonk, New York, United States (US).

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- President: Jim Whitehurst.
- Chief Executive Officers (CEO): Arvind Krishna.

### **Sports Authority Gujarat sign an MoU TCLL to train 2000 athletes**

- Sports Authority Gujarat signed an MoU with the Times Centre for Learning Limited (TCLL) to impart training for personality and skill development for aspiring athletes in the state.
- This will be the first-of-its-kind training in the State. **Highlights:**
- The MoU aims to train over 2000 young and aspiring athletes across Gujarat in areas such as Anand, Nadiad, Tapi, Porbandar, Surat, and Himmat Nagar.
- The participants will be selected using an enlisting process.
- The exercise aims to inculcate the idea of ownership and accomplishment about their respective sport among these athletes.
- It also aims to train psychologically preparing them for their challenging way ahead.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Gujarat:**

- Capital: Gandhinagar
- Chief Minister: Vijay Rupani
- Governor: Acharya Devvrat
- State formed on: 1 May 1960
- Literacy Rate: 79.31%
- National Park: Vansda NP, Blackbuck NP, Gir Forest NP, Marine NP, Gulf of Kutch

### **Fintech startup Zaggie Joins Hand with Visa for innovative payments solutions for SMEs and Startups**

- India-based Fintech startup Zaggie has partnered with payments technology major Visa to launch innovative payment solutions for SMEs and startups in the country.
- Under this partnership, both the companies will jointly create solutions for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and startups to improve productivity, efficiency, automate processes, and reduce costs, access to faster credit through a unique card, which would have both inbuilt forex and prepaid.
- Zaggie will leverage Visa's expertise in the payments space to co-create and build new solutions for SMEs.
- Visa will also support Zaggie for new technological innovations and ideas. **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Zaggie**

- Founded: 2011
- Headquarters location: Hyderabad
- Subsidiaries: SOFFICE Global Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Pennyful Online Pvt Ltd.

## Good Morning Times 2020

### **India Post & Bihar's Horticulture dept. partnered to supply "Shahi Litchi" & "Zardalu Mango" to the people at doorstep**

- The Department of Posts, Government of India and Department of Horticulture, Government of Bihar has partnered to supply "Shahi Litchi" of Muzaffarpur & "Zardalu Mango" of Bhagalpur at the doorstep of people. **Highlights:**

- Bihar Postal Circle has made an agreement with the Bihar's Horticulture department for its logistics & delivery. People can place orders on the website "horticulture.bihar.gov.in" online from May 25.
- The Litchi & Mangoes cultivators have been finding it difficult to carry/transport their fruits to the markets for sale due to lockdown to contain the spread of coronavirus.
- Initially this facility will be available to people of Muzaffarpur & Patna for Shahi Litchi and Patna & Bhagalpur for Zardalu Mango.
- Litchi will be booked minimum for 2 kgs and mangoes for 5 kgs. The postal department will ensure free delivery within 24 hours **PT POINTERS:**

### **Bihar**

- Capital: Patna
- Chief Minister: Nitish Kumar
- Governor: Phagu Chauhan
- Literacy Rate: 63.82%

### **REC partnered with TajSATS to distribute nutritious meal packets to medical staff**

- Central Public Sector Undertaking, REC Limited, is spearheading the mission to feed medical staff in key government hospitals as well as poor daily wage labourers across the nation. **Highlights:**

- The Power Finance Corporation through its Corporate Social Responsibility arm, REC Foundation, has partnered with TajSATS to distribute nutritious meal packets for medical staff in Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi.
- Every day, 300 food packets are being delivered to the front line health care warriors of New Delhi.
- REC in collaboration with various district authorities, NGOs and Electricity Distribution Companies (DISCOMS) is also providing cooked meals and ration to the needy across the nation.
- This initiative was started when the country went under a nation-wide lockdown and will continue till the imposition of nationwide lockdown.

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- The corporation has already distributed more than four lakh 50 thousand Kilograms of food grains, over one lakh 20 thousand meal packets, nine thousand 600 litres of sanitizers, three thousand 400 PPE kits and 83 thousand masks in the country.

### **PT POINTERS:**

**REC Limited**, formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited, is a public Infrastructure Finance Company in

India's power sector.

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Owner: Power Finance Corp (52.63%)
- Founded: 25 July 1969
- Formerly: Rural Electrification Corporation Limited

### **RITES signed pact to acquire 24% stake in Indian Railway Station Development Corporation**

- Infrastructure consultancy and engineering company RITES (Rail India Technical and Economic Service) has signed an agreement for acquiring 24% stake in Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation (IRSDC) for Rs 48 crore.
- IRSDC, a joint venture of Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) and IRCON International is tasked with redeveloping railway stations across the country.
- During the lockdown, the company delivered the 188 route kilometre Vijaypur-Pachore Road-Maksi section railway electrification project in Madhya Pradesh.
- Besides working from home on various reports, tenders and designing based projects, it continued its operations at most of the locomotive leasing sites and inspection office at Bhilai, Chattisgarh.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **RITES Ltd.**

- Chairman & Managing Director (CMD): Rajeev Mehrotra
- Headquarter: Gurugram, Haryana **IRSDC:**
- Chairman: Vishwesh Chaube
- Headquarter: New Delhi

#### **RLDA:**

- Chairman: Vishwesh Chaube
- Headquarter: New Delhi **IRCON International:**
- Chairman & Managing Director (CMD): SK Chaudhary
- Headquarter: New Delhi
- Parent organization: Ministry of Railways

## Good Morning Times 2020

### **PFC signs MoU with NBPCL to fund various projects in Madhya Pradesh**

- Power Finance Corporation (PFC), the central PSU under Ministry of Power has signed an MoU with Narmada Basin Projects Company Ltd. (NBPCL), a wholly-owned company of Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, to fund various power projects to be executed in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

#### **Highlights:**

- The funds of worth Rs 22,000 crore will be deployed by NBPCL for setting up hydroelectric projects of 225 MW along with power components of 12 other major multipurpose projects to be executed in Madhya Pradesh.
- Some of the major multipurpose projects for which PFC has signed MoU with NBPCL includes Chinki Boras Multipurpose Project Narsinghpur Raisen Hoshangabad, Dudhi Project Chhindwara Hoshangabad, Basaniya Multipurpose Project Dindori, Sakkar Pench Link Narsinghpur Chhindwara etc.

#### **PT POINTERS:**

**PFC:** Power Finance Corporation

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Owner: Government of India

### **CSIR-IIIM & Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) to develop RT-LAMP based test for Coronavirus**

- As part of COVID-19 mitigation mission of Country, CSIR has strategized its R&D to develop, integrate, scale-up, and deploy necessary technological interventions for combating Coronavirus pandemic in the country.

#### **Highlights:**

- Considering the multifarious problems created by coronavirus, which require interventions, the CSIR under the guidance of its Director General, Dr. Shekhar Mande has formed five verticals to coordinate various research activities into Digital and Molecular Surveillance, Drugs & Vaccines, Rapid and Economical Diagnostics, Hospital Assistive Devices & PPEs, and Supply Chain and Logistics.
- Since testing is vital component in COVID-19 mitigation, CSIR-IIIM, Jammu a constituent laboratory of CSIR has partnered with Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) to develop and scale-up a new Reverse Transcriptase-Loop Mediated Isothermal Amplification (RT-LAMP) based COVID-19 diagnostic kit for which a formal MOU has also been signed between CSIR-IIIM, Jammu and RIL.
- COVID-19 RT-LAMP test is a nucleic acid based test carried out from nasal/throat swab sample from patients. The test recipe has been developed and successfully demonstrated using synthetic templates.



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- The advantage of this test is that the RT-LAMP based COVID-19 kit components are easily available and these can be completely manufactured in India.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Reliance Industries Limited**

- CEO: Mukesh Ambani
- Founder: Dhirubhai Ambani
- Founded: 8 May 1973, Maharashtra
- Owner: Mukesh Ambani (47.35%)
- Subsidiaries: Jio, Radisys, Reliance Petroleum, Reliance Retail, etc

#### **Flipkart signs MoU with Karnataka Mango Board to support mango farmers**

- India's leading web-based business commercial centre Flipkart has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Karnataka State Mango Department and Marketing Corporation, to empower mango farmers to sell their produce online.

### **Highlights:**

- This association will give farmers the genuinely necessary market access to shoppers, making a potential income stream during these testing times of coronavirus.
- As a part of the MoU, Flipkart will give its marketplace platform to the Mango Board farmer producer associations/vendors, cultivators and dealers by selecting them on the platform.
- Flipkart has collaborated with different Fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) and retail organizations to welcome a more extensive scope of essentials on its platform.
- With this association, the organization invades into the farmer producer organisation's community further adding to supporting the jobs of mango producers and the farmer community.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Flipkart**

- Headquarter: Bangalore, Karnataka
- CEO: Kalyan Krishnamurthy

#### **Power Finance Corporation inks MoU with NBPCL to fund projects worth Rs 22,000 crore for 225 MW hydro-electric projects & Multipurpose projects in Madhya Pradesh**

- The Power Finance Corporation (PFC), a central PSU under Ministry of Power and India's leading NBFC has entered into an agreement with Narmada Basin Projects Company Ltd. (NBPCL), a wholly-owned company of Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, to fund projects worth Rs.22,000 crore for 225 MW hydro-electric projects & multipurpose projects in Madhya Pradesh.
- The funds will be used for setting up hydroelectric projects of 225 MW and power components of 12 major multipurpose projects in the state.

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- Some of the major multipurpose projects to be financed under the MoU are Basaniya Multipurpose Project Dindori, Chinki Boras Multipurpose Project Narsinghpur Raisen Hoshangabad, Sakkar Pench Link Narsinghpur Chhindwara, Dudhi Project Chhindwara Hoshangabad, etc.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Power Finance Corporation**

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Owner: Government of India
- CMD: Rajeev Sharma

#### **ADB, GoI sign 177 million loan to upgrade major roads, highways in Maharashtra**

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India today signed a 177 million dollar loan to upgrade 450 kilometers of state highways and major district roads in Maharashtra.
- Overall the project will upgrade two major district roads and 11 state highways, with combined length of 450 km, to two-lane standard across seven districts of Maharashtra, and improve connectivity to national highways, interstate roads, seaports, airports, rail hubs, district headquarters, industrial areas, enterprise clusters and agricultural areas.
- It will also focus on training the Maharashtra Public Works Department project staff to build their capacity in climate change adaptation and disaster resilient features in road design, road maintenance planning and road safety.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **ADB:**

- Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines
- President: Masatsugu Asakawa
- Founded: 19 December 1966
- Purpose: Economic development
- Motto: ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient and sustainable Asia & the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty.

#### **Coca-Cola partners with United Way Mumbai to provide PPE and hygiene aid kits to the frontline warriors**

- Coca-Cola in India has partnered with United Way Mumbai to augment healthcare initiatives in 48 public hospitals across eight states in the country.
- Apart from large-scale support to public hospitals and healthcare workers, the partnership has also committed to serving 65000+ public service personnel such as sanitation workers, police staff and community health workers across the nation.

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- This initiative is a part of Coca-Cola's commitment of INR 100 crores towards helping the healthcare system and communities to combat the crisis and contain the spread of the pandemic.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Coca-Cola:**

- CEO: James Quincey
- Founder: Asa Griggs Candler
- Founded: 29 January 1892, Atlanta, Georgia, United States
- Headquarters: Atlanta, Georgia, United States

### **ITC to acquire 100% equity of Sunrise Foods by share purchase agreement**

- ITC Limited entered into a Share Purchase Agreement(SPA) to acquire 100% of the equity share capital of Sunrise Foods Private Ltd(SFPL), which is primarily engaged in spices under the trademark 'Sunrise'. □The value of the deal is not disclosed but expects to be around Rs 1,800 crores to Rs 2,000 crores. **Highlights:**

- The acquisition will help increase penetration of the Sunrise brand across the country & leverage ITC's position in the country's Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) market.
- The acquisition is subject to fulfilment of various terms and conditions as specified in the SPA.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **SFPL(Sunrise):**

- Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal **ITC:**
- Registered Office: Kolkata, West Bengal
- CMD: Sanjiv Puri

### **Ola Electric acquires AppScooter maker Etergo, to launch 2-wheeler EV in 2021**

- Ola Electric acquired the Netherlands-based Etergo BV, an innovative electric scooter company for an undisclosed sum, as the former has planned to set its own line of premium electric two-wheelers, both globally and nationally.

### **Highlights:**

- Ola electric will launch its global electric two-wheeler in India in 2021.
- It aims to build a suite of electric and smart urban mobility solutions for citizens with a focus on two and three wheelers.
- Etergo BV has developed an all-electric state-of-the-art AppScooter, which has won multiple awards across the world for its innovative design and engineering.
- It uses a swappable, high energy battery that delivers a range of up to 240 km (149 miles).

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- Ola Electric is working with India's leading power distribution companies for developing a conducive Electric Vehicle (EV) ecosystem through the establishment of battery swapping and charging stations in New Delhi which will further extend across the country.
- It should be noted that in 2019, Ola electric gained the unicorn status. A unicorn is a privately held startup company valued at over \$1 billion.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Ola Electric:**

- Chairman: Bhavish Aggarwal
- Headquarter: Bengaluru, Karnataka **Etergo BV:**
- Co-founder and CEO: Bart Jacobsz Rosier
- Headquarter: Amsterdam, Netherlands

### **Tech firm Vakrangee joins hands with LIC to distribute micro insurance products**

- Vakrangee Limited (VL), a technology company based in Mumbai (Maharashtra), has entered into the

Corporate Agency (Registration Code CA0249) partnership with Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) . **Purpose:**

- To distribute latter's micro insurance products in unserved and underserved areas through its Nextgen Vakrangee Kendra network spread across India. Vakrangee kendras will also act as a renewal premium collection point for all micro insurance policies of LIC irrespective of whether these policies have been procured at the kendra or not. □ In addition, Follow up for Collection and remittance of renewal premium of LIC's micro insurance policies will be enabled at the kendras.

#### **Benefit:**

- With this tie-up, Citizens across the country will be able to access Micro Insurance products and services offered by LIC through the 23,000 kendras (10,000 operational and 13,000 under on-boarding process), which spread across 30 states and union territories (UTs).

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Vakrangee Limited:**

- Managing Director & CEO: Mr. Dinesh Nandwana **LIC:**
- Chairman: M R Kumar
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Owner: Government of India (100%)
- Founder: Government of India
- Founded: 1 September 1956

## Good Morning Times 2020

### **India, Sri Lanka reaffirmed commitment to further strengthen bilateral relations**

- India and Sri Lanka have reaffirmed commitment to further strengthen bilateral relations exploring new avenues of cooperation.

### **Highlights of the Meeting:**

- During a meeting between new Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay in Colombo and Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Mr. President stressed the need to expedite the implementation of already agreed joint projects for the benefit of both countries.
- Areas such as tertiary education, tourism, information and communication technology, agriculture and agribased products were mentioned for enhancing bilateral cooperation.
- Indian companies are ready to invest in the priority sectors identified by Government of Sri Lanka.
- President Rajapaksa pointed out the need to develop people to people relations in addition to economic and trade cooperation.
- Both sides further noted that the shared heritage of Buddhism and the civilizational links between India and Sri Lanka provide a robust platform for bringing the two peoples even closer.
- The Indian High Commissioner said that India is ready to provide more opportunities for Sri Lankan scholars to study in India in their chosen fields.

### **PT POINTERS:**

**Sri Lanka(Capital/Currency):** Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte/ Sri Lankan rupee

- President: Gotabaya Rajapaksa
- Official Languages: Sinhala and Tamil.

### **IIT Alumni Council to join hands with Mumbai University for MegaLab initiative**

- IIT Alumni Council announced that it will partner Mumbai University in the MegaLab Mumbai initiative that will have a capacity of 10 million tests per month. **Highlights:**
- MegaLab Mumbai would be one of the largest test facilities in the world for Covid19 & other infectious diseases.
- A global competition is being launched to identify appropriate equipment sources, consummable manufacturers and operating partners.
- In order to enable the creation of an entire ecosystem to support the path breaking initiative, Mega Lab Mumbai had proposed to partner with research oriented institutions of national importance in Mumbai and the National Capital Region.
- The students, faculty and research infrastructure of Mumbai University will act as the research backbone of the MegaLab project .

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- MegaLab will be based on the end-to-end Kodoy indigenous technology stack and will have adequate capacity for testing the entire population of Mumbai for infectious diseases, each month

### **Infosys ties-up with Zurich-based Avaloq for digital wealth management services**

- Infosys Limited, a global leader in next-generation digital services and consulting, has entered into the partnership with Avaloq, a Swiss company that develops and provides software for core banking, to offer end-to-end (e2e) products and services as Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) across the world to its clients.
- This tie-up will not only help Infosys to leverage its Global Delivery Model and a standardized perspective to implement Avaloq's solutions but also help latter's unique knowledge and experience in providing e2e wealth management solutions combined with Infosys' global presence and digital transformation capabilities will help create a one-stop-shop for wealth management clients.
- Infosys will also get the benefit to expand its market beyond Switzerland with an initial focus on EMEA (Europe, the Middle East and Africa) and APAC (Asia-Pacific) regions.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Infosys Limited:**

- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka
- President: Mohit Joshi **Avaloq:**
- Headquarters: Freienbach, Switzerland
- Chief Executive Officer(CEO): Juerg Hunziker

### **June 2020 – Important MoUs & Agreements**

#### **Tata Sons, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute partner for production of COVID-19 test kits**

- The Tata Sons, holding company of the Tata Group, has entered into an agreement with the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), Thiruvananthapuram, for commercial production of COVID-19 testing kits.
- The SCTIMST is an Institute of National Importance under the Department of Sciences and Technology (DST), Government of India.

#### **Highlights:**

- The kits will be based on RT-LAMP (Reverse Transcriptase Loop-Mediated Amplification) technology which can produce results in significantly less time thereby increasing the throughput of labs in India, a statement issued by the Tata Sons

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- The tie-up follows the Tata Sons' partnership with the CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology to produce CRISPR-based test kits.
- These two partnerships will significantly boost the Tata Sons efforts to cater to the growing demand for testing

### **Yes Bank acquires 24.19% stake in Dish TV via pledged shares**

- Private sector lender YES Bank has acquired 24.19 percent stake in Dish TV India Ltd, making it the secondlargest shareholder in the direct-to-home (DTH) company.
- Yes Bank Ltd has acquired the stakes by invoking pledges against 44.53 equity shares kept as collateral with the private lender for a loan.
- This is the fifth instance in the past one year that Yes Bank has acquired majority stake in a non-banking businesses simply due to invocation of pledge against shares of a company that had availed loans from the bank and later failed to repay the dues.

### **PT POINTERS:**

**Yes Bank:** Yes Bank Limited is an Indian private sector bank, founded by Rana Kapoor and Ashok Kapur in 2004. It primarily operated as a corporate bank, with retail banking and also asset management as subsidiary function. □CEO: Ravneet Gill

- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Tagline: Experience our Expertise

### **Board of BEML approved signing of MoU with MELCO as a part of Expression of Interest (EoI)**

- The Board of BEML (formerly Bharat Earth Movers Limited) in its 362nd meeting has given its approval for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with MELCO to study and planning for initiating a joint venture (JV) company between BEML and MELCO.
- This approval is on the lines of invitation of BEML regarding Expression of Interest (EoI) for Manufacturing, Partnerships under "Make in India" policy.
- The JV will be for manufacturing of certain propulsion systems and other railway electrical equipment utilised for electric multiple units for Indian Metro Rail Projects, Indian Railway Projects and other products. **PT POINTERS:**

### **Melco**

- President & Chief Executive Officer (CEO): Takeshi Sugiyama □Headquarter: Tokyo, Japan **BEML:**
- Headquarter: Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Chairman and Managing Director (CMD): Deepak Kumar Hota



## Good Morning Times 2020

### IRCON signs MoU with NIIFL & AYANA to explore and collaborate in the solar energy sector

- Ircon International Ltd(IRCON), a Miniratna(Category-I) Schedule, public sector enterprise has signed a

Memorandum of Understanding(MoU) with National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited(NIIFL) and

Ayana Renewable Power Private Limited(AYANA), NIIF platform company to explore and collaborate on opportunities in the solar energy sector. **Highlights:**

- As per the MoU, NIIFL and IRCON have agreed in-principle to identify, bid and execute solar energy projects through joint ventures/consortium arrangements & will evaluate strategic partnerships across infrastructure projects
- The partnership also considers suitable opportunities for solar energy production for Indian Railways as they seek to increase the share of renewables in their overall energy mix.
- By utilizing the complementary strengths of all partners the collaboration will enable the execution of renewable energy projects at scale .

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **IRCON:**

- Registered Office: New Delhi, India
- Chairman & Managing Director(MD): S.K. Chaudhary **NIIFL:**
- Headquarters: Mumbai , Maharashtra
- Registered Office: New Delhi, India
- MD & Chief Executive Officer(CEO): Sujoy Bose **AYANA:**
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka
- Chairman: S. S. Mundra
- MD & CEO: Shivanand Nimbargi

### **Union Cabinet approves MoU between India and Bhutan on Cooperation in the areas of Environment**

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for signing the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Royal Government of Bhutan on Cooperation in the areas of Environment. **Details:**
- The Memorandum of Understanding will enable establishment and promotion of closer and long-term cooperation between the two countries in the field of environment protection and management of natural resources on the basis of equity, reciprocity and mutual benefits, taking into account the applicable laws and legal provisions in each country.

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- Keeping in view the bilateral interest of both sides and mutually agreed priorities, a Memorandum of Understanding covering the following areas of environment has been considered:
- Air;
- Waste;
- Chemical Management;
- Climate Change; **PT POINTERS:**

**Bhutan (Capital/Currency):** Thimphu / Bhutanese ngultrum, Indian rupee

- Prime Minister: Lotay Tshering
- Official Language: Dzongkha

**Tata Power acquires 51% stake in Odisha's TPCODL for Rs 178.5 cr**

- Tata Power Limited, an Indian electric utility company, has acquired 51% stake in TP Central Odisha Distribution Ltd (TPCODL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Grid Corporation of Odisha (GRIDCO), for a consideration of Rs 178.5 crore.
- The remaining 49 % stake in TPCODL will be held by GRIDCO.
- Tata Power to take over the business of Central Electricity Supply Utility of Odisha (CESU) carried out in 5 cities (Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Puri, Paradeep and Dhenkanal) in Odisha from TPCODL for a period of 25 years.
- Tata Power will have a priority to improve reliability, reduce AT&C (Aggregated technical and commercial) losses and offer excellent customer service & will retain all the current employees of CESU and will govern them by their existing policy structure.

**PT POINTERS:**

**Tata Power Limited:**

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- CEO & MD: Praveer Sinha

**Grid Corporation of Odisha (GRIDCO):**

- Headquarters: Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- Chairman-cum-Managing Director: Dr. Saurabh Garg

**Facebook Signs Global Licensing Deal with Indian Music Label Saregama**

- Facebook has entered into a global deal with Saregama, one of India's oldest and largest music labels, to license its music for video and other social experiences across Facebook and Instagram.
- That means users can now add Saregama-owned music to their posts and stories on both Facebook and Instagram.

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- Users can choose from over 1,00,000 songs across different genres including film songs, devotional music, ghazals and indipop in more than 25 languages, to add to their social experiences such as videos, stories via music stickers and other creative content.
- People will also be able to add songs to their Facebook Profile.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Facebook:**

- Founded: February 2004, Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States
- CEO: Mark Zuckerberg
- Headquarters: Menlo Park, California, United States
- CFO: David Wehner
- Founders: Mark Zuckerberg, Andrew McCollum, Eduardo Saverin, Dustin Moskovitz, Chris Hughes

### **DBS Bank India partners with TCIL to facilitate real time payments for truck drivers by DBS RAPID solution**

- DBS Bank India partnered with Transport Corporation of India Limited (TCIL) to facilitate real time payments for truck drivers by DBS RAPID (Real Time Application Program Interface-APIs by DBS) solution to enable them to receive payments instantly.
- The bank has proposed to set up a Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-based real-time payments solution which is available 24x7x365, considering the large volumes of transactions & round-the-clock nature of the operations.
- The solution has been set up under the support of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- DBS RAPID and UPI payments provide an ideal integration with the company's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system.
- By this solution, TCIL truck drivers will receive an instant credit into their bank account, which they can then swipe at terminals or withdraw cash using ATMs.

**PT**  
**POI**  
**NTE**  
**RS:**  
**DBS**  
**Grou**  
**p:**

- Headquarters: Singapore
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Director: Piyush Gupta **DBS Bank India Limited:**

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- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Managing Director (MD) and CEO: Surojit Shome **TCIL:**
- Corporate Office: Gurgaon, Haryana
- Chairman and MD: D P Agarwal

### **India-Australia sign landmark Defence Agreements**

- Indian PM Modi and the Australian PM Scott Morrison held India's first virtual bilateral summit.
- The leaders signed several agreements during their meet and also discussed about the COVID-19 measures being implemented in their respective countries.

### **Highlights:**

#### **India and Australia signed the following agreements:**

- Framework Arrangement on Cyber Enabled critical Technology
- MoU on cooperation in processing of Critical and Strategic minerals
- Implementing arrangement related to cooperation in Defence
- MoU on cooperation of training and vocational education
- MoU on understanding water resource management
- MoU in the field of Governance Reforms and Public Administration □ MoU on cooperation in mining and processing of strategic minerals.
- The Mutual Logistics Support Agreement signed will allow the countries to have access to each other's military bases.
- The countries also decided to enhance their 2+2 foreign affairs and defence dialogues.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Australia (Capital/Currency):** Canberra/ Australian dollar

- Prime Minister: Scott Morrison
- Official Language: English

### **Facebook to acquire 9.9% stake in Jio Platforms via Jaadhu Holdings**

- Facebook has announced in April 2020 to acquire 9.9 per cent stake in Jio Platforms, at an investment of USD 5.7 billion (Rs 43,574 crore).
- As per a notification, Facebook will acquire this stake in Jio Platforms via a new entity named Jaadhu Holdings LLC.
- According to a submission made to the Competition Commission of India, Jaadhu Holdings, LLC is an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Facebook, Inc.
- Jaadhu is a newly incorporated company formed in March 2020 under the laws of the State of Delaware. **PT POINTERS:**

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### Facebook:

- Founded: February 2004, Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States
- CEO: Mark Zuckerberg
- Headquarters: Menlo Park, California, United States
- CFO: David Wehner
- Founders: Mark Zuckerberg, Andrew McCollum, Eduardo Saverin, Dustin Moskovitz, Chris Hughes **Jio:**
- Parent organization: Reliance Industries Limited
- Members: 388 million; (31 December 2019)
- Founder: Mukesh Ambani
- Founded: 2007
- Subsidiaries: LYF, Reliance Jio Infocomm Pte. Ltd

### HCL and Google Cloud Expand Partnership to Digitally Transform Commerce

- HCL Technologies (HCL), a leading global technology company, and Google Cloud announced the expansion of their strategic partnership to bring HCL's software offerings, starting with HCL Commerce, to Google Cloud.

### Highlights:

- Google Cloud will be the preferred cloud platform for HCL Commerce, providing global, secure and elastic infrastructure to power businesses' eCommerce strategies.
- Under this partnership, HCL also intends to leverage Anthos to enable multi-cloud and hybrid-cloud deployments of HCL Commerce. □Bringing HCL Commerce to Google Cloud will enable businesses to maintain their investments in HCL's trusted Commerce platform while also taking advantage of the global reach, security, and elasticity of Google Cloud.
- In addition, businesses across industries will be able to develop positive, data-driven customer experiences online by leveraging Google Cloud's capabilities in artificial intelligence, machine learning and analytics.
- The collaboration between Google Cloud and HCL Commerce is helping customers rapidly execute their digital transformation strategy that is rooted in the new normal.

### PT POINTERS:

#### HCL:

- CEO: C Vijayakumar
- Founded: 11 August 1976
- Headquarters: Noida

## Good Morning Times 2020

- Founders: Shiv Nadar, Arjun Malhotra
- Parent organization: HCL Enterprise

**Google Cloud Platform**, offered by Google, is a suite of cloud computing services that runs on the same infrastructure that Google uses internally for its end-user products, such as Google Search, Gmail and YouTube. □ Launched: April 7, 2008; 12 years ago

- Written in: Java, C++, Python, Go, Ruby

### **Abu Dhabi based Mubadala to invest USD 1.2 billion in Jio for 1.85 per cent stake**

- Abu Dhabi's second-largest investor group, Mubadala will invest \$1.2 billion (Rs 9,093.6 crore) in Reliance's Jio platforms for a 1.85% stake taking the total investments to Rs 87655.35 crore for a combined 19% stake in the digital unit.
- The latest deal is the sixth since April which values Jio platforms at an equity value of Rs 4.91 lakh crore and an enterprise value of Rs 5.16 lakh crore.

### **Another five deals are:**

1. Tech giant, Facebook which bought a 9.99% stake in Jio for \$5.7 billion (Rs 43,574 crores) was the first investor in Jio platforms
2. Silver Lake Partners (Rs 5,655.75 crore) investment for 1.15 per cent stake,
3. Vista Equity Partners' Rs 11,367 crore investments for a 2.32 per cent stake,
4. General Atlantic Rs 6,598.38 crore for 1.34 per cent stake,
5. KKR investment worth Rs 11,367 crore for a 2.32 per cent stake. **PT POINTERS:**

### **JIO:**

- Parent organization: Reliance Industries Limited
- Members: 388 million; (31 December 2019)
- Founder: Mukesh Ambani
- Founded: 2007
- Subsidiaries: LYF, Reliance Jio Infocomm Pte. Ltd

### **Mubadala Development Company**

- CEO: Khaldoon Al Mubarak
- Headquarters: Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- Founded: October 2002
- Parent organization: Mubadala Investment Company

### **CSIR and Atal Innovation Mission partnered together to promote culture of innovation and entrepreneurship**

- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Atal Innovation Mission came together to promote culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in area of mutual interest.

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- The CSIR will contribute its strong knowledge base and provide world class researchers to make the project success.
- The Atal Innovative Mission in the other hand will foster innovation in different sectors to strengthen innovative ecosystem in the country.
- The CSIR incubators will work under Atal Innovative Mission to support world class start ups in this new project
- They will work together to bring up new models of innovation and set up CSIR innovation parks.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **AIM:**

The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is a flagship initiative set up by the NITI Aayog to promote innovation and entrepreneurship across the length and breadth of the country, based on a detailed study and deliberations on innovation and entrepreneurial needs of India in the years ahead.

### **MoU between ISRO and ARIES for cooperation in Space Situational Awareness, Astrophysics**

- For the cooperation in the Field of Space Situational Awareness(SSA) and Astrophysic, The Indian Space Research Organization(ISRO), Bengaluru signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Aryabhata Research institute of Observational Science(ARIES),Nainital.
- R.Umamaheswaran, Scientific Secretary of ISRO from ISRO headquarters and Prof. Dipankar Banerjee, Director of ARIES from ARIES headquarters signed the MoU on the virtual platform.
- **Objective:** to protect the Indian Space assets from the space debris's conjunction threats.
- R&D of Astrophysics, solar sciences and space environment are the base for future space exploration projects and the key to progress in the Indian Space sector.
- This MoU will allow the collaboration between ISRO and ARIES in the future such as, Establishing optical telescope observation facilities for space object tracking Studies on Space Weather, Astrophysics Near Earth Objects.
- Similar MoU between ISRO and University of Texas, Austin, USA was signed on 5th March 2020 for Scientific Collaboration in the area of Space Situational Awareness (SSA)".

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **ISRO:**

- Headquarters: Bengaluru
- Founder: Vikram Sarabhai
- Founded: 15 August 1969
- Director: Kailasavadivoo Sivan
- Subsidiary: Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre **ARIES:**



## Good Morning Times 2020

- The observatory was established on 20th April 1954 and reincarnated as Aryabhata Research institute of Observational Science (ARIES) 22nd March 2004.
- Located: Nainital

### **Wipro partners with IBM to offer Cloud solutions**

- Wipro Limited on Monday announced a collaboration with IBM through which the Bengaluru-headquartered company would develop hybrid cloud offerings to help businesses migrate, manage and transform missioncritical workloads and applications, with security across public or private cloud and on-premises IT environments.
- It will offer a comprehensive suite of solutions leveraging Cloud, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Internet of Things capabilities to foster innovation for enterprises, developers and start-ups.
- "Customers will have remote access to IBM and Red Hat solutions, designed to help them scale their technology investments for improved experience and business agility with connected insights.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **IBM:**

- CEO: Arvind Krishna
- Founder: Charles Ranlett Flint
- Founded: 16 June 1911, Endicott, New York, United States
- Headquarters: Armonk, New York, United States **Wipro:**
- CEO: Abidali Neemuchwala
- Owner: Azim Premji
- Founded: 29 December 1945, India
- Headquarters: Bengaluru
- Founders: M.H. Hasham Premji, Sudipto Halder

### **India, Denmark sign MOU to develop cooperation in the power sector**

- India and Denmark signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Indo-Denmark Energy Cooperation to develop cooperation in the power sector.
- The MoU was signed between the Ministry of Power, India, and the Ministry for Energy, Utilities, and Climate, Denmark.
- The MoU was signed by Mr. Sanjiv Nandan Sahai, Secretary (Power) from India and Mr. Freddy Svane, Ambassador of Denmark to India from Denmark. **MoU Highlights:**
- Under the MoU, a strong, deep, and long-term co-operation between two countries in the power sector will be developed on the basis of equality, reciprocity, and mutual benefit.

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- The MoU will establish collaboration in areas like offshore wind, long term energy planning, forecasting, flexibility in the grid, consolidation of grid codes to integrate and operate efficiently variable generation options, flexibility in the power purchase agreements, incentivize power plant flexibility, variability in renewable energy production, etc.
- The Indian electricity market would benefit from cooperation with Denmark in all the aspects of power.
- To implement the agreement, a Joint Working Group (JWG) will be established under the MoU.
- The JWG will be co-chaired by Joint Secretary level officials.
- JWG will report to a Steering Committee, jointly chaired by the Secretary level officer from both sides.
- GoI aims to take the necessary steps to encourage and promote strategic and technical co-operation in the power sector for mutual benefit.

### **PT POINTERS:**

**Denmark (Capital/Currency):** Copenhagen/ Danish krone

- Prime Minister: Mette Frederiksen
- Official Language: Danish

### **JNCASR signs MoU with Breathe Applied Sciences for Conversion of Carbon dioxide to clean fuels**

- Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) has entered into an MoU with Breathe Applied Sciences for Conversion of Carbon dioxide to clean fuels such as methanol and other useful chemicals on large scale.
- Under the agreed terms 300 kilogram of Carbon dioxide will be converted to useful chemicals per day.
- This will be scaled up to 500 tons after one year. Companies like Tata Steel, and Coal India Limited are in discussion with the Institute for potential to develop the developed technology.
- The transfer of technology from the Institute to Breathe Applied Sciences and its further application on Industrial level will add to the remedial solutions to address environmental issues due to global warming.

### **Tech Mahindra signs UN Global Compact Initiative to curtail emissions**

- Tech Mahindra has signed a joint declaration with UN Global Compact and hence joined 155 global companies in calling for policies to build resilience against future shocks by supporting the activities targeted to hold global temperature rise to within 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, in order to reach net-zero emissions before 2050.
- Tech Mahindra seeks to reduce carbon footprint and emissions by moving towards a zero-carbon resilient economy.

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- It will achieve its objective with the use of new-age technologies such as internet of things, artificial intelligence and blockchain.
- These 155 global companies from across 34 sectors have a combined market capitalization of more than \$2.4 trillion, representing five million employees.
- The business voices of the above signatories will be convened by the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) and its business ambition for 1.5°C campaign partners, the UN Global Compact and the We Mean Business coalition.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Tech Mahindra:**

- CEO: C. P. Gurnani
- Headquarters: Pune
- Parent organization: Mahindra Group
- Founder: Anand Mahindra

The **United Nations Global Compact** is a non-binding United Nations pact to encourage businesses worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies, and to report on their implementation. □ Headquarters location: New York, New York, United States

- Founded: 26 July 2000
- Head: Lise Kingo
- Type of business: Framework and Mechanism
- Subsidiaries: Nilfisk, UN Global Compact Network Korea

### **Maruti partners with NBFCs to push sales in rural markets**

- Maruti Suzuki India Ltd, the country's largest passenger vehicle manufacturer, has collaborated with nonbanking financial companies (NBFCs) to push sales in the rural areas where demand recovery is expected to be quicker than urban areas.
- More than 35% of Maruti's total sales come from rural markets.
- The New Delhi-based vehicle maker has tied up with Chola Mandalam Vehicle Finance Ltd, Mahindra Finance Ltd and others to offer lucrative schemes to prospective customers in the rural markets.
- Most NBFCs operate in the rural areas where banks are either not present or too cautious to extend credit.
- Under the schemes offered as part of the tie-up with NBFCs, a customer may not have to make monthly payments in the first two to three months or pay monthly instalments of less than Rs1,000 per lakh of credit extended, for the first year, which may increase progressively with each passing year.

### **PT POINTERS:**

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### Maruti Suzuki India Ltd

- Parent organization: Suzuki
- CEO: Kenichi Ayukawa
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Founder: Government of India

### NCERT & Rotary India signs MoU to telecast e-content

- National Council Of Educational Research And Training (NCERT) has digitally signed an MoU with Rotary India Humanity Foundation under the guidance and support of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD).
- The MoU has been signed for e-learning content telecast for class I to XII over all NCERT TV channels.
- This partnership aims to make e-learning more constructive and will ensure that e-learning reaches children across the nation with NCERT approved content.
- According to the MoU, Rotary International will provide the e-content in Hindi language to NCERT for classes I to XII for all subjects under Vidya Daan 2.0.
- It will also provide the Teacher Training (including professional development) content.

### The details of the tie-up is as follows:

**NCERT TV Tie-up:** The telecast of curriculum modules for classes 1-12 would take place through twelve national Television channels of NCERT.

**DIKSHA App tie-up:** The e-Learning modules would also be made available on GOI's national mobile app "DIKSHA".

### PT POINTERS:

#### NCERT:

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Director: Hrushikesh Senapaty
- Founder: Government of India
- Founded: 1961
- President: Ramesh Pokhriyal
- Subsidiary: Central Institute of Educational Technology NCERT

### NFL inks MoU with ITI Nangal for training of youth in 12 trades for employment

- With a view to give thrust to the Skill India initiative, National Fertilizers Limited, NFL, a Central Public Sector Enterprise Under Department Of Fertilizers, has started tying up with Industrial Training Institutes located near to its plants to train youth in various trades and to enhance the chances of their employability in heavy and process industry.

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- The Nangal plant of the company in Punjab has signed an MoU with ITI, Nangal to train youth in 12 trades.
- The students will be skilled under Dual System of Training Scheme under which they will learn theoretical skills in the institute and on-the-job training in NFL Nangal plant.
- The MoU was exchanged between Deputy General Manager (HR), NFL Nangal unit Renu R P Singh and Principal of ITI Nangal Lalit Mohan.
- With the signing of this MoU with ITI, NFL becomes first CPSE to take this initiative in the state of Punjab.
- The company plans to explore more such options in future to give impetus to Skill India by training more youth from institutes.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **NFL:**

- Headquarters: Noida
- Owner: Government of India
- Founder: Government of India
- Subsidiary: Urvarak Videsh Ltd

### **NSDC partners with TCS to promote skill development**

- National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has partnered with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to provide its training partners access to the TCS iON Digital Glass Room.
- The digital platform will enable NSDC in moving classroom vocational skills training to online mode for millions of students across the country.
- Over 500 training partners of NSDC network across the country will be able to access the TCS iON Digital Glass Room.
- The students and the trainers will be able to share posts, vote, like, and can chat with each other, ensuring a seamless education.

### **Significance:**

- The new partnership between NSDC and TCS will help in strengthening NSDC's online aggregation platform eSkill India.
- Through this, NSDC enables e-learning among skill seekers as well as contributes towards strengthening the Skill India Mission.
- NSDC's network of over 500 training partners can access the TCS iON Digital Glass Room.
- It will help in the transition to the virtual teaching and learning environment and will also be able to continue their skilling programmes at the time of lockdown and thereafter.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **NSDC:**

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- CEO: Manish Kumar
- Headquarters location: New Delhi
- Founded: 2008
- Type of business: Non-profit organization **TCS:**
- CEO: Rajesh Gopinathan (21 Feb 2017–)
- Founded: 1 April 1968
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founders: Faquir Chand Kohli, Tata Sons, J. R. D. Tata

### US private equity firm Silver lake to invest in Jio Platforms

add 4546.80 crore for 0.93% stake

- Following the investment of Abu Dhabi's Mubadala Investment Company in Reliance's Jio Platforms, US(United States) private equity company Silver Lake partners announced an investment of Rs 4,546.80 crore for an additional 0.93 % stake in Jio Platforms, a subsidiary of Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani-controlled Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL).
- It is to be noted that, earlier on May 04, 2020, Silver Lake had invested Rs 5,655.75 crore (\$750 million) for a 1.15 % stake. Thus, Silver Lake's total investment in Jio platforms will increase to Rs 10,202.55 crore for 2.08 %.
- With this investment, the equity value of Jio platform is Rs 4.91 lakh crore and the enterprise value is 5.16 lakh crore & also represents an important component of the revival of the Indian economy as severe economic crisis caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
- With this investment, Jio platform has raised a total of Rs 92,202.12 crore so far, from Facebook, Silver Lake, Vista Equity Partners, General Atlantic, KKR and Mubadala in the past nearly six weeks.

### PT POINTERS:

#### Silver Lake partners:

- Headquarters: California, United States
- Co-CEO and Managing Partner: Egon Durban

#### Reliance Industries Ltd:

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman and MD: Mukesh Ambani

### IL&FS sells 50% stake in GIFT city to Gujarat government

- Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited (IL&FS) has completed the sale of its 50% stake in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).

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- These stakes were bought by the Gujarat Urban Development Company Ltd (GUDCL), on behalf of the Gujarat government, at an amount of Rs 32.71 crore.
- The stake sale took place after the approval from the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).
- IL&FS has received Rs 32.71 crore as equity value for shares. Selling of stakes to Gujarat government has helped the IL&FS group in reducing its debt by Rs 1,230 crore.
- Its current outstanding debt is around Rs 94,000 crore.
- Gujarat International Finance Tec-City Company Ltd (GIFTCL) is active in the business of real estate development.

### **Tata AutoComp joins hands with US firm to set up charging stations for electric vehicles**

- Tata AutoComp Systems announced that it has tied up with US-based Tellus Power Green to set up electric vehicle charging stations in the country.
- The auto component firm said it has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Tellus Power to supply AC and DC fast chargers for two-wheelers, three-wheelers, passenger and commercial vehicles.
- As part of Tata Group initiative, the company has been planning a significant play in providing systems and components for electric vehicles, as well as provide enabling systems for establishing charging infrastructure
- Tata AutoComp and Tellus will now provide various AC chargers from 3 kW to 11 kW size for home and residential complexes as well as DC fast chargers from 20 kW to 300 kW to meet the needs to charge various types of vehicles in public places such as office and commercial parking lots.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Tata AutoComp**

- A part of Tata Group, Tata AutoComp provides products and services to Indian and global automotive original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) as well as tier 1 suppliers.
- The company has 36 manufacturing facilities spread across India and nine facilities spread across North America, Latin America, Europe and China.

### **Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) has partnered with the Common Service Centre**

- Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) has partnered with the Common Service Centre to provide the facility to submit Digital Jeevan Pramaan for EPS pensioners.
- 65 lakh pensioners can submit Digital Jeevan Pramaan closer to their residence.
- EPS pensioners are required to submit Jeevan Pramaan or Life certificate each year to continue to draw pension.



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- In addition to Common Service Centres, EPS pensioners can also submit life certificate through 135 Regional Offices and 117 District Offices and Pension Disbursing Banks.
- EPS pensioners can submit Digital Jeevan Pramaan at any time during the year as per their convenience.
- The life certificate will remain valid for one year from date of submission.
- Earlier, the pensioners were required to submit the Jeevan Pramaan in the month of November.
- This pro- pensioner step has been taken to provide hassle free social security cover to EPS pensioners.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **EPFO:** Employees' Provident Fund Organisation

- Founded: 4 March 1952, New Delhi
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Jurisdiction: India
- Type of business: Central-Owned

#### **Bharti International (Singapore) buys additional 6.3% stake in Robi Axiata from NTT Docomo**

- Bharti Airtel's wholly-owned subsidiary, Bharti International (Singapore) Pte. Ltd.,(BISPL) directly and through its affiliate entities, has acquired an additional 6.3% stake in Robi Axiata Limited, Bangladesh from Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation (NTT) Do Communications over the Mobile network(Docomo) Inc and its group entities for an undisclosed sum.
- This all-cash deal will raise the BISPL's stake in Robi Axiata to 31.3% from 25% & has been approved by Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission.
- The acquisition of Robi Axiata's ordinary shares from Docomo is done at mutually-agreed valuation which is non-material and is not disclosed due to privacy reasons.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Bharti Airtel**

- CEO: Gopal Vittal
- Founder: Sunil Bharti Mittal
- Founded: 7 July 1995, India
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Parent organizations: Bharti Enterprises (64%), Singapore Telecommunications Limited (36%)

#### **Facebook partnered with tech gains to Fight online against child sexual abuse**

- Facebook has joined hands with Microsoft, Google, Twitter and 14 other tech giants for a new initiative called 'Project Protect' to help combat child sexual abuse and exploitation online.

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- Facebook will lead this initiative.
- These tech giants have been working together under Technology Coalition since past 14 years, since its formation way back in 2006.
- Project Protect is a renewed commitment from the Technology Coalition for the next 15 years to protect kids online and guide its work.
- Project Protect will focus on five key areas: tech innovation, collective action, independent research, information and knowledge sharing, and transparency and accountability.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Facebook:**

- Founded: February 2004, Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States
- CEO: Mark Zuckerberg
- Headquarters: Menlo Park, California, United States
- CFO: David Wehner
- Founders: Mark Zuckerberg, Andrew McCollum, Eduardo Saverin, Dustin Moskovitz, Chris Hughes

#### **India joins Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) as a founding member**

- India joined the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI or Gee-Pay) as a founding member to support responsible and human-centric development and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- With this, India has joined the group of leading nations and economies like USA, the UK, EU, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, and Singapore for launch of GPAI.
- GPAI will be supported by a Secretariat, to be hosted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris, as well as by two Centers of Expertise — one each in Montreal and Paris.
- GPAI is an international and multi-stakeholder initiative to guide the responsible development and use of AI, with focus on human rights, inclusion, diversity, innovation, and economic growth.
- It is a first of its type initiative for better understanding of the challenges and opportunities around AI using the experience and diversity of participating countries.

#### **Maharashtra govt signs MoUs worth Rs 16,000 Cr with companies**

- Desperate to restart the economy which has taken a hit by Coronavirus pandemic, the Maharashtra

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Government has signed Memorandum of Undertaking worth 16,000 crore rupees with companies spanning various industries, including two Chinese units, under its Magnetic Maharashtra 2.0 initiative.

- The companies are from diverse sectors like automobile, logistics, banking, engineering and mobile production.
- The business pacts were mostly signed by MIDC Chief Executive Officer P. Ambalgan on behalf of the State Government and representatives of 12 countries including the USA, China, Singapore and South Korea among others.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Maharashtra:**

- Capital: Mumbai
- Chief Minister: Uddhav Thackeray □ Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- National Parks: Chandoli National Park, Nawegaon National Park, Gugamal National Park, Pench National Park, Sanjay Gandhi (Borivilli) National Park, Tadoba National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Amba Barwa WLS, Bor WLS, Great Indian Bustard WLS, Lonar WLS, Melghat WLS, Gangewadi New Great Indian Bustard WLS, etc.

#### **India-Nepal sign MoU**

- India and Nepal signed a Memorandum of Understanding to improve infrastructure of the Pashupatinath temple complex.
- The Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Federal Affairs ministry of Nepal and Indian Embassy.
- Under the agreement, India has pledged to extend financial assistance of Rs 2.33 crores. □ The project is to be implemented by Kathmandu Metropolitan city.
- India's assistance comes amidst a raging border row between the two countries.

#### **Pashupatinath Temple**

- The Pashupatinath temple is the largest temple complex in Nepal. It is located on the Bagmati river of Nepal. The temple is one of the UNESCO World Heritage site.

#### **Bagmati river**

- The river is considered holy by both Hindus and Buddhists. The river flows in India and Nepal. It is a tributary of Kosi river. **India-Nepal Issue**
- The Nepal Parliament recently passed an amendment bill to redraw its political map. □ The new map is to include Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura.
- These regions are disputed and are claimed by both India and Nepal **PT POINTERS:**

**Nepal (Capital/Currency):** Kathmandu/ Nepalese rupee

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- President: Bidhya Devi Bhandari

### Maharashtra govt inks MoUs worth Rs 5,000 crore with three Chinese firms

- Three Chinese firms are among the 12 companies from different countries with which the Maharashtra government has signed MoUs collectively worth Rs 16,000 crore.
- The investment of the three Chinese companies is collectively worth over Rs 5,000 crore.
- All the three Chinese companies- Hengli Engineering, PMI Electro Mobility Solutions JV with Photon and Great Wall Motors will invest in Talegaon in Pune district
- Hengli Engineering will invest Rs 250 crore, PMI will invest Rs 1,000 crore in the auto sector
- MoUs were also signed with companies from other countries like the USA, Singapore and South Korea.
- They are from diverse sectors like automobile, logistics, banking, engineering and mobile production **PT POINTERS:**

### Maharashtra:

- Capital: Mumbai
- Chief Minister: Uddhav Thackeray □ Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- National Parks: Chandoli National Park, Nawegaon National Park, Gugamal National Park, Pench National Park, Sanjay Gandhi (Borivilli) National Park, Tadoba National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Amba Barwa WLS, Bor WLS, Great Indian Bustard WLS, □ Lonar WLS, Melghat WLS, Gangewadi New Great Indian Bustard WLS, etc.

### Maruti partners with Karur Vysya Bank for flexible financing schemes

- Car market leader Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) has partnered with Karur Vysya Bank to offer simpler and flexible financing schemes for new customers.
- Through the partnership with the bank, the company is seeking to offer prospective buyers special scheme of up to 100 per cent on road funding with six months holiday period on all models, except van (Eeco), loans for both salaried and self-employed customers and repayment period up to 84 months
- Apart from "attractive rates of interest", the partnership will offer loans to customers with non-income proof as well
- Karur Vysya Bank offers customers in-principle loan sanction in 15 minutes and existing customer of the bank can get their loans disbursed on the same day with the entire process from application to disbursement of the loan being digitalised with no manual intervention.
- The schemes through the partnership will be available across Maruti Suzuki's network of 3,086 new car retail outlets across 1,964 cities and towns, along with with 780 branches of Karur Vysya Bank across 22 states across India.

### PT POINTERS:

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### Karur Vysya Bank:

- Headquarters: Karur
- Founded: 1916
- CEO: P. R. Seshadri K Venkataraman
- Founders: M. A. Venkatarama Chettiar, Athi Krishna Chettiar
- Tagline: Smart Way to Bank

### Maruti Suzuki partners IndusInd Bank for vehicle financing

- Maruti Suzuki India Ltd (MSIL) has partnered IndusInd Bank for vehicle financing to help spur sales after resumption of operations following lockdown relaxations. **Highlights:**
- Through the partnership, consumers can avail of low EMI scheme for the first three months starting at Rs 899 per lakh; step-up scheme with EMI starting with Rs 1,800 per lakh; up to 100 per cent on-road funding for customers with valid income proof
- Moreover, customers who do not have valid income proof can avail of up to 100 per cent ex-showroom funding, the statement added. The offers are valid for all Maruti Suzuki models
- IndusInd Bank has offered a variety of finance options including low EMI scheme, step-up and balloon payment options and funding 100 per cent on-road price for the vehicles.
- These special structured schemes like low EMI scheme, balloon and step-up EMI schemes will ease the pressure on immediate cash-flow of consumers.

### PT POINTERS:

#### IndusInd Bank

- CEO: Sumant Kathpalia
- Headquarters: Pune
- Owner: Hinduja Group
- Founder: S. P. Hinduja
- Subsidiaries: Indusind Bank Ltd, Asset Management Arm, IndusInd Financial Inclusion, Indusind Bank Limited
- Tagline: We Make You Feel Richer

### Infosys Signs Climate Pledge with Amazon and Global Optimism to Become Net-Zero Carbon

- Infosys partnered with Amazon and Global Optimism and signed the Climate Pledge, an initiative by Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon and Christiana Figueres, founder of Global Optimism and former United Nations Climate chief to become net-zero carbon by 2040, ten years ahead of the Paris Agreement.

### Climate Pledge:

Under the Climate Pledge the companies agreed to:

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- Measure and report the emission of greenhouse gases on a regular basis.
- Implement decarbonization strategies through changes in business and innovations through renewable energy, materials reductions etc.
- Neutralize the remaining emissions with additional, real, permanent and socially beneficial offsets to achieve zero carbon emission by 2040.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Infosys:**

- CEO: Salil Parekh
- Founded: 7 July 1981, Pune
- Headquarters: Bengaluru **Amazon:**
- CEO: Jeff Bezos
- Founder: Jeff Bezos
- Founded: 5 July 1994, Bellevue, Washington, United States
- Headquarters: Seattle, Washington, United States

#### **Coca-Cola partners with CARE India to provide food, other essentials to vulnerable groups**

- Beverages major Coca-Cola has partnered with CARE India to provide food and other essentials to underprivileged and vulnerable groups as part of its commitment of Rs 100 crore towards various COVID-19 relief programmes in India.
- Under the initiative, Coca-Cola and CARE India will provide dry-ration kits with curated food items to meet specific nutritional needs of various marginalised groups such as migrant workers, daily wage earners and people living with HIV/AIDS across various parts of the country.
- The three-month-long programme starting June aims to benefit over 1.
- 5 lakh people and will be rolled out across Delhi-NCR, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar and West Bengal.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Coca-Cola**

- CEO: James Quincey
- Founder: Asa Griggs Candler
- Founded: 29 January 1892, Atlanta, Georgia, United States
- Headquarters: Atlanta, Georgia, United States **Care India:**
- Headquarters location: New Delhi
- Founded: 2008

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### **Tata AIA Life Insurance Partners with East Consultancy Services**

- Tata AIA Life Insurance partnered with East Consultancy Services to offer Aadhaar-based paperless offline eKnow Your Customer(KYC) service. This tie up helps to service the customer during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.
- The e-KYC service will offer uninterrupted service to customers during the online application process for the company's life insurance solutions.
- It will create Tata AIA Life's End-to-End Digital Sales System, enabling remote purchase of its life insurance solutions.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Tata AIA Life Insurance:**

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO: Rishi Srivastava
- Chairman: Saurabh Agrawal

#### **East Consultancy Services**

- Head Office : Bengaluru, Karnataka

### **Karnataka Bank Launches Health Insurance Policy to Cover COVID-19 in Partnership with Universal Sampo General Insurance Company**

- Karnataka Bank in partnership with Universal Sampo General Insurance Company has launched a health insurance policy. The policy aims to cover the individuals' COVID-19 pandemic related health expenses.
- The health cover can be availed at a nominal premium(current price without taking inflation or other factors into account) of Rs 399, inclusive of all taxes.
- It will cover in-patient hospital expenses up to Rs 3 lakh, outpatient treatment expenses of Rs 3000.
- The policy will provide Rs 1000 per day against the expenses incurred towards 14 days of quarantine in a government or military hospital.
- The validity period of the policy is 120 days.
- The policy is available to all customers of the bank, between the ages of 18-65.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Karnataka Bank:**

- Headquarters: Mangaluru(Mangalore), Karnataka
- MD & CEO: Mahabaleshwara M.S

#### **Universal Sampo General Insurance Company:**

- Headquarters: Mumbai



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- MD & CEO: Sharad Mathur

### **Saudi Arabia's PIF to invest Rs. 11,367 crore in Jio Platforms**

- Jio Platforms and Reliance Industries on June 18 announced an investment of Rs. 11,367 crore by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund.
- The announced investment now values Jio Platforms at an enterprise value of Rs. 5.16 lakh crore and an equity value of Rs. 4.91 lakh crore.
- Saudi Arabia's PIF investment will translate into a 2.32% equity stake in Jio Platforms on a fully diluted basis.
- This is the eleventh investment in Jio Platforms within the time of nine weeks since April 22, 2020.
- With Saudi Arabia's investment, Jio Platforms has raised Rs. 1,15,693.95 crore from the leading global investors that include Silver Lake, Facebook, General Atlantic, Vista Equity Partners, KKR, Mubadala, ADIA, L Catterton, and TPG.

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- According to PIF's governor, Yasir Al-Rumayyan, the investment will enable them to generate significant long term commercial return's for the benefit of Saudi Arabia's economy, in line with the mandate which is to safeguard and grow the wealth of the Kingdom.
- He expresses his delight at an investment in an innovative business which is the symbol of the transformation of the technology sector in India.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Public Investment Fund**

- Assets under management: 32,000 crores USD
- Headquarters: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- Founded: 1971
- Key people: Mohammad bin Salman, (Chairman); Yasir bin Othman Al-Rumayyan, (Governor)
- Subsidiaries: Sanabil Investments, Saudi Arabian Military Industries, Qiddiya Investment Company

#### **Jio**

- Founder: Mukesh Ambani
- Founded: 2007
- Subsidiaries: LYF, Reliance Jio Infocomm Pte. Ltd
- Parent organizations: Reliance Industries Limited, Jio Platforms

#### **AIM partners with CIL to boost its Innovation and Entrepreneurship initiatives**

- Coal India Limited (CIL) has agreed to partner with Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog to support proactively the flagship mission's innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives across the country.
- A strategic Statement of Intent (SoI) partnership between AIM and Coal India Limited was signed and exchanged in a virtual e-summit for the 19 June. **Highlights:**
- AIM has various innovation programs and entrepreneurial ecosystem building initiatives such as:
  1. Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) at a school level
  2. Atal Incubation Centres (AIC) at institutional levels
  3. Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACIC) for Tier-2, Tier3 cities, and rural India
  4. Atal New India Challenges (ANIC) at an industry level
- Applied Research and Innovation (ARISE) for stimulating innovations in the MSME industry
- The partnership intends to conduct various activities/programs to support greater awareness and promotion of the innovation ecosystem through the above-mentioned AIM programmes and newer initiatives.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **CIL:**

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CEO: Anil Kumar Jha

- Headquarters: Kolkata
- Owner: Government of India (70.96%) ☐ Director: Pramod Agrawal

### Hyundai Motor India Ltd Partners with HDFC Bank Offers Industry 1st Online Auto Retail Financing : 'Click to Buy' platform

- Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL) partnered with HDFC Bank to offer industry 1st online auto retail financing on its end-to-end online automotive retail platform, 'Click to Buy' to the customers.
- Under this collaboration, HMIL will provide customised car financing solutions to its customers from HDFC bank through its online car buying platform.
- This partnership enables the customers to choose loans and get the funds they need to buy their favorite Hyundai car without visiting HDFC Bank branch
- HMIL launched 'Click to Buy', an upgraded version of end-to-end online automotive retail platform to provide a safe, contactless & convenient purchasing experience to its consumers after the COVID times.

### PT POINTERS:

#### HMIL:

- It is a wholly owned subsidiary of Hyundai Motor Company (HMC)
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Managing Director(MD) & Chief Executive Officer(CEO): Seon Seob Kim

### Reliance JioTV & Haryana Government Signs Agreement to benefit 5.2 Million School Children

- The Education Minister of Haryana has announced that the Haryana State Government has signed an agreement under the Chief Minister's Distance Learning Programme with Reliance Industries Limited's subsidiary company Jio.
- The agreement signed is to provide education to school children in the rural areas of the state.
- Schools across the state were closed in the month of March 2020 following a nationwide lockdown to combat COVID-19, after 3 months, today it's still uncertain on when the schools will re-open.
- The agreement is signed with the aim to impart education to every school student in the state without jeopardizing social distancing norms.
- The four channels of EDUSAT will be available free of cost on the live television streaming application of Jio- JioTV.
- The content that will be live broadcasted on the channels of EDUSAT will also be available in recorded mode on the JioTV platform that will enable students to watch and study as per their convenience.

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- The agreement will benefit a combined 52 lakh (5.2 million) students of both government and private schools in the state of Haryana.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Jio:**

- Founder: Mukesh Ambani
- Founded: 2007
- Subsidiaries: LYF, Reliance Jio Infocomm Pte. Ltd
- Parent organizations: Reliance Industries Limited, Jio Platforms **Haryana Education Minister: Mr Ram Bilas Sharma**

### **MSDE & IBM partners to launch “Skills Build Reignite” Platform**

- Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and IBM partners to unveil free Digital Learning Platform “Skills Build Reignite”.
- The platform has been launched to reach more job seekers & provide new resources to Business Owners in India. Along with “Skills Build Reignite”, IBM has also launched the Skills Build Innovation Camp. □The two initiatives have been created to bridge the current skills gap in the country.

### **Skills Build Reignite:**

- The Skills Build Reignite has been launched to facilitate job seekers and entrepreneurs an access to free online coursework and mentoring support.
- This will help them in transforming their careers as well as businesses.
- Some of its key features are: personalized coaching for entrepreneurs, imparting advice to help establish or restart their small businesses as they start to focus on recovery to arise out of the COVID 19 pandemic.

### **About the Program**

- The SkillsBuild Innovation camp is a 10 week program.
- The programme will provide 100 hours of structured learning to learners interested in gaining hands-on project experience to improve learning and are dedicated in building their network as well as enhancing their employability.
- With the guidelines of expert facilitators including IBM volunteers and coaches, these students will undergo the design thinking process.
- After going through this learning process, the students will use strategic methods to craft their problem statement, ideate creatively, solve complex problems more quickly and design an innovative user experience.

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### **PT POINTERS:**

The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** is a Ministry of Government of India set up on 9 November 2014 to coordinate all skill development efforts across the country.

- Officeholder: Mahendra Nath Pandey (Minister)
- Founder: Government of India
- Founded: 9 November 2014, India
- Jurisdiction: India
- Headquarters: New Delhi

Annual budget: 3,400 crores INR (2018-19 est., US\$480 million)

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### **IBM**

- CEO: Arvind Krishna
- Founder: Charles Ranlett Flint
- Founded: 16 June 1911, Endicott, New York, United States
- Headquarters: Armonk, New York, United States

### **CCI approves acquisition of stake in Jio Platforms by Jaadhu**

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of stake in Jio Platforms Limited by Jaadhu Holdings LLC.
- Jaadhu Holdings LLC will acquire approximately 9.99% stake in Jio Platforms.
- Jaadhu Holdings LLC (Jaadhu) is a newly incorporated company and an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Facebook, which is a publicly traded company listed on NASDAQ, with headquarters in California, United States of America.
- Jio Platforms Limited is a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited and runs digital applications and holds controlling investments in technology related units.
- It exists under the laws of the Republic of India and aims to provide high-quality and affordable digital services across India.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Jio:**

- Founder: Mukesh Ambani
- Founded: 2007
- Subsidiaries: LYF, Reliance Jio Infocomm Pte. Ltd
- Parent organizations: Reliance Industries Limited, Jio Platforms

### **India, Germany resolve to boost cooperation in combating COVID-19 pandemic**

- India and Germany held virtual Foreign Secretary level consultations yesterday. Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla and State Secretary of the German Federal Foreign Office Miguel Berger discussed bilateral cooperation in various areas and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest.
- The two sides took stock of the extensive cooperation in addressing the challenges of COVID-19, including supply of medicines, equipment and technology.
- They agreed to advance the various areas of bilateral cooperation and initiate consultations in the context of India's upcoming membership of the UN Security Council (2021-22) and G20 Presidency (2022) and Germany's present membership of the UN Security Council and forthcoming Presidency of the European Union.

### **PT POINTERS:**

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**Germany (Capital/Currency):** Berlin/Euro  
Chancellor: Angela Merkel

### **SOLV partnered with Standard Chartered Bank to Launch Credit Card for MSMEs**

- SOLV, a B2B (business to business) digital platform for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), has launched a tailor-made credit card in partnership with Standard Chartered Bank, India.
- SOLV MSME Credit Card provides MSME clients with a ready means to meet ongoing business expenses including supplier payments, fuel, logistics, purchase of raw material, utility payments and working capital outlays.
- Importantly, SOLV, registered as Standard Chartered Research & Technology India Pvt. Ltd., is a fully owned entity of the London-headquartered Standard Chartered Group.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Standard Chartered Bank**

- Headquarters location: London, United Kingdom
- CEO: Bill Winters
- Founded: 1969, London, United Kingdom
- Founders: Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, Standard Bank

### **GoI, World Bank signed agreements to increase access to affordable Housing for Urban Poor in TN**

- Government of India, Government of Tamil Nadu and the World Bank signed an agreement to help low-income groups in Tamil Nadu State to get access to affordable housing.

### **Highlights:**

#### **The agreement was signed for two projects:**

- First Tamil Nadu Housing Sector Strengthening Program for \$200 million
- Tamil Nadu Housing and Habitat Development Project for \$50 million
- The project aims to strengthen the state's housing sector policies, institutions, and regulations. □  
The first operation will support the government's ongoing efforts to increase the availability of affordable housing by gradually shifting the role of the state from being the main provider to an enabler.
- It will aim to unlock regulatory barriers and incentivize private sector participation in affordable housing for low-income families.
- The second operation aims to deepen these measures to make the affordable housing sector more efficient and inclusive.

### **PT POINTERS:**



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### World Bank:

- Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
- Parent organization: World Bank Group
- Membership: 189 countries (IBRD); 173 countries (IDA) Founded: July 1944
- Founders: John Maynard Keynes, Harry Dexter White

### India Bhutan signs agreement for joint venture hydroelectric project

- India and Bhutan signed the first Indo-Bhutan joint venture hydroelectric project on 29 June 2020.
- The agreement will pave the way for the commencement of its construction and other related works.
- The agreement was signed by the Bhutanese government and the Kholongchhu Hydro Energy Limited in the virtual presence of the Union Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar and his Bhutanese counterpart Tandi Dorji.

### Highlights:

- The concession agreement is for the 600 MW Kholongchhu project.
- The agreement will lead to the commencement of construction and other works of this first Joint Venture (JV) Hydroelectric Project between India and Bhutan.
- The project will be completed in the second half of the year 2025.
- The 600 MW run-of-the-river project is located on the Kholongchhu River in the Trashiyangtse district in eastern Bhutan.
- The main objective of the project to build an underground powerhouse of four 150 MW turbines with water impounded by a concrete gravity dam of 95 metres height.
- It will be implemented by Kholongchhu Hydro Energy Limited, a JV company formed between Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) of Bhutan and Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVN) of India.

### PT POINTERS:

Bhutan (Capital/Currency): Thimphu/ Bhutanese ngultrum, Indian rupee

- President: Lotay Tshering

### July 2020 – Important MoUs & Agreements

#### Indian Oil, NTPC Ltd, and SDMC signed MoU for Waste to Energy plant in Delhi

- A Memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed on Waste to Energy plant at Okhla, Delhi, between Indian Oil, NTPC Ltd and South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on 30 June 2020.

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### MoU Provisions:

- Under the MoU, Indian Oil, SDMC, and NTPC will jointly develop a demonstration Waste-to-energy Plant at Okhla landfill site in Delhi, using Gasification technology.
- The Plant will process 17,500 tons per annum of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) produced from combustible components of Municipal Waste to generate syngas which shall in turn be used to generate electricity.
- This Energy plant is expected to bring solutions to the management of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) in Delhi.

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- The gas generation from waste will also help in cutting imports of petroleum products and saving foreign exchange.
- The technology that is used in the Delhi plant will result in less emission and also provide usable residues. **PT POINTERS:**

### **Indian Oil**

- Chairperson: Sanjiv Singh
- Headquarters: New Delhi

### **NTPC**

- Founded: 1975
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Owner: Government of India
- Organization type: State-owned enterprise
- Purpose: Electricity generation and distribution natural gas exploration, production, transportation and distribution

### **India-Bangladesh sets up 50:50 Joint Venture Company for LPG business in Bangladesh**

- The State-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC) and Bangladesh's Beximco LPG have entered into an agreement for the formation of a 50:50 Joint Venture Company (JVC) for importing liquefied petroleum gas in Bangladesh.
- The agreement was signed in this regard on 30 June 2020 between IOC Middle East FZE, Dubai, a whollyowned subsidiary of IOC, and RR Holdings Ltd, UAE, the holding company of Beximco LPG of Bangladesh.
- The Joint Venture Company will help reduce the cost of import of LPG in Bangladesh and make it more affordable for the consumers of the country.

### **PT POINTERS:**

### **Bangladesh (Capital/Currency):** Dhaka/Taka

- Prime Minister: Sheikh Hasina ☐ Official Language: Bengali

### **ICICI bank Launched a Facility, 'Insta Loans against Mutual Funds', in Partnership with Computer Age Management Services**

- ICICI Bank in partnership with Computer Age Management Services(CAMS) launched 'Insta Loans against Mutual Funds', a facility for retail customers to avail loans upto Rs 1 crore instantly by pledging their holdings in both debt and equity Mutual Funds(MFs).

### **Highlights:**

- The facility is an extension of the Insta Loan Against Shares(LAS).

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- It is a full digital and paperless facility.
- It empowers customers to get this loan as an overdraft (OD) within a few minutes without having to visit a branch and submit physical documents.
- It paves way for the customers to get access to instant liquidity by leveraging their existing mutual fund portfolio, without selling them.
- Customers can avail the loan against a vast range of debt and equity schemes of mutual funds serviced by CAMS and approved by the Bank
- Minimum loan amount for debt and equity schemes of MFs is Rs. 50,000. Maximum loan amount for debt schemes of MFs is Rs 1 crore and for equity schemes of MFs is Rs. 20 lakh.

### **Maharashtra Government and UKIBC signs MoU**

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed virtually on 4th July 2020 between the non-profit organization UKIBC- UK India Business Council and the MIDC-Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation. MIDC is the Maharashtra Government's premier agency for industrial infrastructure development.
- The MoU will help in strengthening the collaboration of Maharashtra Government with the businesses in the United Kingdom (UK), also it will proactively improve the business environment in the state.
- A virtual roundtable discussion was also conducted in which the future investment plans in Maharashtra by UK based businesses, post COVID-19 plans to re-grow the economy in the state, for achieving Atma Nirbhar Bharat the importance of international trade, etc were discussed.
- Maharashtra was found as a top destination for Improved Business Environment in its annual Doing Business in India report by the UKIBC.

### **PT POINTERS:**

The **UK India Business Council** is a membership-based, non-profit organisation founded in 2007 to foster trade and business relations between the United Kingdom and India. The organisation works with businesses in both countries, as well as the UK and Indian governments, to promote and increase bilateral trade. □ Founder: Karan Bilimoria, Baron Bilimoria

- Founded: 1993
- Key person: Patricia Hewitt
- Headquarters: London, United Kingdom
- Type of business: Non-profit organisation

### **NLC and Coal India to form JVC for Developing Solar and Thermal Power Assets**

- A Navratna Company of Government of India- NLC India Limited has signed an agreement with a Maharatna Company- Coal India Limited to form a Joint Venture Company (JVC) for developing Solar and Thermal power assets.

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- In the Joint Venture Company, both NLC and Coal India will have equal 50:50 equity.
- This was informed on 3rd July 2020 by NLC India.
- Solar and Thermal power assets of 5000 megawatts (5 GW) will be developed by the joint venture company.
- The Joint Venture Company will be set up under the Ministry of Coal.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Coal India Limited**

- CEO: Anil Kumar Jha
- Headquarters: Kolkata
- Owner: Government of India (70.96%)
- Number of employees: 2,72,445 (1 April 2020)
- Director: Pramod Agrawal

#### **NLC India Limited**

- Founded: 1956
- Headquarters: Chennai, India
- Owner: Government of India
- Organization type: State-owned enterprise
- Purpose: Lignite mining and power generation
- Power stations: Neyveli New Thermal Power Station, Barsingsar Thermal Power Station

#### **KKR to buy 54% Stake in JB Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals**

- The United States-based global investment firm- Kohlberg Kravis Roberts (KKR) & Co. Inc. will buy the majority of 54 percent stake in JB Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals.
- 54 percent stake of Mumbai based JB Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals is worth Rs 3,109 crore. □ In India, this will be the second investment by KKR in a space of two months. Earlier in May.
- KKR has invested Rs 11,367 crore for a 2.32 percent stake in Reliance Industries Limited's Jio Platforms. □ The investment in Jio Platforms was the largest Investment of KKR in Asia to date.
- For the deal, investments will be made by KKR through its 3 subsidiary companies.
- The companies are Tau Investments Holdings Pte. Ltd, Tau Holdco Pte.
- For the 54 percent stake deal, KKR will be acquiring 41.7 million equity shares of JB Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **JB Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals**

- Headquarters: India
- Founded: 1976

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Kohlberg Kravis

Roberts (KKR) ☐

Founded: 1976

- Parent organization: KKR Group Partnership L.P.
- CEO: Henry Kravis (1 May 1976–), George R. Roberts
- Founders: Henry Kravis, George R. Roberts, Jerome Kohlberg Jr.

### **CBSE partners with Facebook to launch free virtual training program for teachers and students**

- The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has partnered with social media giant Facebook to launch free and comprehensive training program in virtual mode for teachers and students of its affiliated schools.
- The first phase of the training program is scheduled from August 2020 to November 2020.
- The registration process for the first phase of the training program will be held from 6th to 20th July 2020.
- Schools have to online nominate their teachers and students for the training programs.
- The participants will also receive a joint e- certificate from CBSE and Facebook on successful completion of the course.

### **Details about the teachers training program**

- Topic for teachers training program – Augmented Reality
- Total teachers to participate – 10,000
- Date of launch of Teachers training program – 10th August 2020

### **Details about the students training program**

- Topic for students – Digital Safety and online well- being.
- Total students to participate – 10,000
- Date of launch of Teachers training program – 6th August 2020

### **Phase II**

- In the second phase, CBSE will introduce the training program on digital safety and augmented reality for 30 thousand students in each category.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **CBSE:**

- Headquarters location: Delhi
- Founded: 1962
- Parent organisation: Ministry of Human Resource Development
- Affiliations: 21,499 schools (2019)
- Chairperson: Manoj Ahuja, IAS

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- Type of business: Government

### **Indian railways and RailTel signs MoU to provide video surveillance at 6,049 stations across country**

- The Indian Railways and RailTel signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for installation of an IPbased video surveillance system at 6,049 railway stations across the country.
- This is a part of Digital India initiative.

### **Highlights:**

- The Video Surveillance System (VSS) will be provided by RailTel, a public sector undertaking.
- The VSS will work in 6,049 stations under A1, A, B, C, D and E of Indian Railways.
- The Scope includes integration of existing standalone CCTV networks of the railways into VSS systems for centralised monitoring.
- Railtel has provided CCTV cameras at the entry and exit points of 54 railway stations to facilitate the running of Shramik trains.
- The video recorded from the CCTV cameras will be stored for 30 days for analysis and investigation purposes.
- The cameras are covered with inclusion analytics and facial recognition systems.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Indian Railways:**

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Minister of Railways: Piyush Goyal **RailTel:**
- Head Office: New Delhi
- Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) : Puneet Chawla

### **5 MoUs Signed between India and Afghanistan for Developing Educational Infrastructure**

- In Afghanistan's Capital City Kabul, on 5th July 2020, 5 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) were signed under the High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP) programme.
- The 5 MoUs consisted of Tripartite Agreements that were signed between the Government of India, Afghanistan's Ministry of Economy and Afghanistan's Ministry of Education.
- The MoUs are as per the commitments of the Government of India in taking forward the bilateral relationship with Afghanistan.
- In the last 2 decades, development projects worth USD 3 billion has been undertaken by India at Afghanistan.



## Good Morning Times 2020

- The 5 MoUs signed on 5th July 2020 is worth USD 2.6 million.
- These funds will be used towards the development of educational infrastructure in 5 provinces of Afghanistan.
- The provinces are Kapisa, Farah, Nuristan, Parwan and Badakhshan.

### **HICDP Programme**

- This programme was signed in the year 2005 under which the Government of India has committed to providing financial support to more than 550 HICDP across Afghanistan. The financial support extended under HICDP was of USD 200 million.
- To date, under the support of the programme, 587 HICDP have been completed across various provinces of Afghanistan.

### **Railways, BHEL tie up for solar power generation**

- Indian Railway in collaboration with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has set up a 1.7 Megawatt solar power plant at Bina, Madhya Pradesh.
- The project involves the adoption of innovative technology for converting Direct Current to single-phase Alternating Current for feeding directly to Railway's overhead traction system.
- The solar power plant has been established near the Bina Traction Sub Station (TSS).
- It can produce approximately 25 lakh units of energy annually and will save around Rs1.37 crore for Railways every year.
- The project was undertaken by BHEL under its Corporate social responsibility (CSR) scheme. **PT**

### **POINTERS:**

### **BHEL:**

- CEO: Nalin Singhal
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Founder: Government of India
- Founded: 1964

### **Payments Platform Paytm to Acquire Raheja QBE General Insurance For \$76 million**

- Indian e-commerce payment system Paytm & QorQI Pvt. Ltd, a Healthcare startup company with majority shareholding of Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma, is set to acquire Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based private sector general insurer Raheja QBE General Insurance Company Limited in a deal worth around \$76 million (or Rs 570 crore).
- Raheja QBE is a joint venture of India's Prism Johnson (51%) and QBE Australia (49%).
- Following the acquisition, Sharma, who owns 51% stake in QorQI, will hold the same stake in Raheja QBE, with the remaining 49% owned by Paytm.

## Good Morning Times 2020

- The acquisition will require further approvals other than the approval of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Raheja QBE General Insurance:**

- Location: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- CEO: Pankaj Arora **Paytm:**
- Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- President: Amit Nayyar

#### **NMPB signs MoU with ICAR-NBPGR to conserve Germplasm on long-term basis**

- National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) under the AYUSH Ministry signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) - National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) under Department of Agricultural Research and Education on 6 July 2020.
- The agreement aims to conserve the Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Genetic Resources (MAPGRs).
- It will be preserved at ICAR-NBPGR's designated space in the long-term storage module in the National Gene bank and Regional Station for a medium-term storage module, as per the availability.

### **Highlights:**

- The MoU aims to acquire hands-on training on the conservation techniques of plant germplasm to the NMPB working group.
- NMPB and ICAR-NBPGR will serve the National interests through conservation of germplasm on a longterm basis, safely and cost-effectively for present and future generations.
- The move also aims to ensure social and economic security.
- Under the MoU, NMPB and the ICAR-NBPGR will develop modalities for seed storage of MAPGRs in detail and submit a periodic progress report to their respective organizations.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **AYUSH Ministry**

- Founded: 9 November 2014, India
- Officeholder: Shripad Naik (MOS independent charge)
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Jurisdiction: India

## Good Morning Times 2020

### India, Indonesia Coast Guards sign MoU to boost maritime relations

- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Bakamla RI (Indonesian Coast Guard) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on 'Maritime Safety and Security' to boost maritime relations.
- India and Indonesia are historically connected through the Indian Ocean and it has been the resolve of both nations to ensure safe and secure sea passage for all seafarers in the region.
- This MoU will strengthen cooperation by augmenting information exchange mechanisms.
- This real-time Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) will then be the foundation for controlling and responding to incidents of piracy, smuggling, drug trafficking, illegal migration and other such maritime crimes which will bring safety and security to the region and also result in protection of our precious marine environment.
- The MoU will also provide avenues to improve our interoperability and carry out joint search and rescue when required.

### PT POINTERS:

Indonesia (Capital/Currency): Jakarta/ Indonesian rupiah

- President: Joko Widodo

### Microsoft partners NSDC to provide digital skills

- Microsoft has partnered with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to offer digital skills to India's youth in the next 12 months amid the COVID-19 crisis.
- Microsoft will provide free access to learning resources and conduct digital skilling awareness drives by collaborating with eSkill India portal of NSDC.
- This partnership will help in creating a digital skills ecosystem which will prepare India's workforce for jobs of the future. □ As a part of the partnership, "Microsoft Learn" a learning resource center of Microsoft will be integrated with the eSkill India digital platform and offer access to personalized learning paths and resources that are required in today's economy and expected to continue to grow in the future. e-skilling events, webinars and virtual sessions would be co-hosted across the country by eSkill India and Microsoft in order to support students, training partners and higher-education trainees enrolled under NSDC's skill training programs.

### PT POINTERS:

#### Microsoft

- CEO: Satya Nadella
- Founded: 4 April 1975, Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States
- Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States
- Founders: Bill Gates, Paul Allen

## Good Morning Times 2020

### Ola partners with PhonePe for digital payments

- Mobility platform Ola has entered into a partnership with digital payments platform PhonePe to expand payment options for riders.
- The partnership will help the mobility platform enable better digital payments experience on its Ola app.
- Ola customers across the country can now pay for their ride using PhonePe.
- It will also benefit the digital payments platform in order to help it expand its user base.
- Ola's customers can use all of PhonePe's payment options, including the PhonePe wallet, to make payments in addition to UPI.
- Ola had recently launched its Ride Safe India encouraging customers to opt for digital payment channels amid Covid-19 to minimise the risk of exposure and avoid physical contact.

### PT POINTERS:

#### Ola:

- Founded: 3 December 2010, Mumbai
- CEO: Bhavish Aggarwal
- Headquarters location: Bengaluru
- Founders: Bhavish Aggarwal, Ankit Bhati

#### PhonePe

- Parent organization: Flipkart
- Founded: December 2015
- CEO: Sameer Nigam
- Headquarters location: Bengaluru
- Founders: Sameer Nigam, Burzin Engineer, Rahul Chari

### CBDT, SEBI signs MoU for data exchange between the organizations

- Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for data exchange between the two organizations.
- The MoU was signed by Smt. Anu J. Singh, Pr. DGIT (Systems), CBDT, and Smt. Madhabi Puri Buch, Whole Time Member, SEBI in the presence of senior officers from both the organizations via video conference.

### Highlights:

- The MoU marks the initiation of cooperation and synergy between SEBI and CBDT.
- The MoU will facilitate data sharing and information sharing between SEBI and CBDT on an automatic & regular basis.

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- It will facilitate regular exchange of data between the two organizations for the purpose of carrying out their functions under various laws. The data will be shared on request and suo moto basis.
- The MoU came into effect from the date it was signed and is an ongoing initiative of CBDT and SEBI, who are already collaborating through various existing mechanisms.
- Under this, a Data Exchange Steering Group has been constituted for the initiative.
- The group will meet periodically to review the data exchange status and take steps to further improve the effectiveness of the data-sharing mechanism.

### **PT POINTERS:**

**CBDT:** The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is the authority vested with the responsibility of the administration of laws related to direct taxes through the Department of Income Tax. ☐Chairman: Pramod Chandra Mody **SEBI:**

- Founded: 12 April 1992
- Sector: Securities market
- Jurisdiction: India
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Type: Statutory corporation
- Chairperson: Ajay Tyagi

### **USAID & MNRE announce new partnership to develop clean energy**

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and US Agency for International Development (USAID) have partnered on 7th July 2020 to increase India- US collaboration for clean energy development.
- Under the partnership, the USAID-supported South Asia Group for Energy (SAGE), a US government consortium, will provide advanced technical knowledge on clean energy development from America's national laboratories to MNRE's National Technical Institutions and other public institutes.
- SAGE will provide a formal platform for collaboration on clean energy development to make MNRE National Institutions act as a powerhouse of science, engineering, and technology for India and the entire South Asia region.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **USAID**

- Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
- Employees: 3,893 career U.S. employees (FY 2016)

## Good Morning Times 2020

- Agency executives: John Barsa, Acting Administrator; Bonnie Glick, Deputy Administrator; □ Founder: John F. Kennedy
- Founded: 3 November 1961
- Subsidiaries: Office of Transition Initiatives, Food for Peace, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Agency for International Development

### IIT Alumni Council signs Agreement with CSIR-IGIB

- On 8th July 2020, an agreement has been signed between the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research- Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB) and IIT Alumni Council.
- As per the Agreement Signed, joint research work on COVID-19 will be conducted and data of COVID-19 positive patients will also be analyzed jointly by the CSIR-IGIB and the IIT Alumni Council.
- The imaging data of 8500 patients are from the temporary COVID Care Facility at the National Sports Club of India Dome (NSCI Dome) at Southern Mumbai's Worli.
- The imaging data will be provided in the de-identified form by the CSIR-IGIB.

### IIT-H, NVIDIA tie-up to establish joint AI research centre

- Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) is tie-up with a multinational technology company, NVIDIA to establish India's 1st 'NVIDIA AI Technology Centre' (NVAITC).

### Highlights:

- This centre is established to accelerate research on Artificial Intelligence and its commercial adoption.
- The projects to be taken up include, Increasing crop yields using AI algorithms and applying AI-based solutions to support safe transportation systems and better ways to manage traffic among others.
- The collaboration focuses on improvising AI research in the aspects of agriculture, smart cities and language understanding.
- The NVAITC will accelerate research for the 220 faculty at IITH, which is already among India's foremost research institutions.
- This will build on the strong AI capabilities IITH has built, including the country's first B.Tech in AI programme."

### ADB renewed MoU with IEA for Energy Sector Sustainability and Resilience

- Manila based Asian Development Bank (ADB) has renewed its 3-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2017 with the Paris based International Energy Agency (IEA).
- The renewed MoU was signed on 9th July 2020 for a period of 3 years.

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- The regional development bank-ADB signed the MoU with International Organization-IEA back in March 2017 for promoting advance clean energy development in the developing member countries under the ADB.

### Renewed 2020 MoU

- The 2020 MoU signed for a period of 3 years will focus on developing resilience in the sustainable energy sector in the developing countries under the ADB.
- This will be achieved through sharing knowledge and best practices in the energy sector by analyzing the data from ground engagement, technology, capacity building, etc.

### PT POINTERS:

#### ADB:

- Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines
- President: Masatsugu Asakawa
- Founded: 19 December 1966
- Purpose: Economic development
- Membership: 68 countries

### Flipkart Signs MoU with Government of Karnataka to Promote Local Arts, Crafts And Handlooms

- Flipkart and the Department of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) and Mines of Government of Karnataka signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- **Objective:** to promote the arts, crafts and handloom sector of Karnataka by providing market access through e-commerce platform and to increase the local business.
- The MoU focuses on increasing the business and trade inclusion opportunities by creating avenues for these underserved sectors like crafts, arts and handloom, contributing towards the efforts of Made in India.
- This MoU will unite the Flipkart Samarth Programme with the brands based in Karnataka like Cauvery and Priyadarshini Handlooms, part of Karnataka Handlooms Development Corporations.
- This will promote the local handlooms and handicrafts to the consumers across the nation.

### Samarth Programme of Flipkart:

- The programme benefits the artisans with extended time bound incubation support.
- The benefits of the programme includes onboarding, free cataloguing, ,marketing, account management and business insights and warehouse support.

### PT POINTERS:

#### Flipkart:

- Chief Executive Officer: Kalyan Krishnamurthy
- Chief Operating Officer: Sriram Venkataraman



## Good Morning Times 2020

- Head Office: Bengaluru, Karnataka **Karnataka:**
- Statehood Day: 1<sup>st</sup> November 1956
- Chief Minister: B. S. Yediyurappa
- Governor: Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala
- Capital: Bengaluru
- National Park: Anshi NP, Bandipur NP, Bannerghatta NP, Kudremukh NP, Rajiv Gandhi (Nagarahole) NP.

### **EESL Inked Agreement with NOIDA authority to Install EV Charging Units and Related Infrastructure**

- Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) inked an agreement with the New Okhla Industrial Development Authority (NOIDA) to install public Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations & related infrastructure in order to promote the usage of electric vehicles.
- The objective of this partnership is to create an infrastructural ecosystem to accelerate e-mobility post COVID-19 pandemic.
- NOIDA is responsible for the provision of space for the charging infrastructure while EESL for deployment of public charging stations in NOIDA City.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **EESL:**

- Chairman: Rajeev Sharma
- Managing Director: Saurabh Kumar
- Headquarter: New Delhi

#### **New Okhla Industrial Development Authority (NOIDA)**

- Chairman: Alok Tandon
- Headquarter: Noida, Uttar Pradesh (UP)

### **Karur Vysya Bank partners with Tata Motors to offer car loans**

- Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) entered into an arrangement with Tata Motors to fund buyers of Tata passenger vehicles.
- Both existing and new customers will be eligible to avail loans from KVB, which seeks to leverage the vast new car retail network of Tata Motors across India.
- KVB is offering a special product for buyers of Tata Motor passenger vehicles under which 100 per cent onroad finance with a six-month holiday period is provided at attractive interest rates
- The scheme is applicable only for three models - Tata Tiago, Tata Nexon and Tata Altroz and the loans are available to both the salaried and self-employed.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Karur Vysya Bank**

## Good Morning Times 2020

- Headquarters: Karur, Tamil Nadu.
- Tagline: Smart Way to Bank.
- Chairman: N. S. Srinath

### **Jharkhand Govt signs MoU with HDFC to Offer Digital Payment Solutions to its Traffic Dept**

- Jharkhand government signed Memorandum of Understanding(MoU) with HDFC Bank to provide digital payment solutions to the state's transport department.
- The MoU was signed in the presence of Transport Secretary K Ravi and the bank's Circle Head, Abhishek Kumar.
- The Digital solution will enable the traffic police to equip themselves with Point of Sale (POS) machines to collect traffic-related penalties.
- The traffic rules violators can also use this online payment facility to pay a fine.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Jharkhand:**

- Capital: Ranchi
- Chief Minister: Hemant Soren.
- Governor: Draupadi Murmu

#### **HDFC Bank**

- CEO: Aditya Puri
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: August 1994, India
- Parent organization: Housing Development Finance Corporation

### **Qualcomm becomes 12th Foreign Investor in Jio Platforms in Last Three Months**

- The United States-based Multinational Corporation-Qualcomm has informed on 12th July 2020 that it has invested Rs 730 crore in Reliance Industries' subsidiary company- Jio Platforms.
- Rs 730 crore of investment will translate to 0.15 percent of an equity stake for Qualcomm in Jio Platforms. **Complete list of Investors of Jio Platforms**

S.No	Investor	Investment Amount (in crores)	Stake Bought
1	Facebook, Inc.	Rs 43,573.62	9.99%
2	Silver Lake Partners	Rs 5,655.75	1.15%
3	Vista Equity Partners	Rs 11,367.00	2.32%
4	General Atlantic	Rs 6,598.38	1.34%
5	KKR	Rs 11,367.00	2.32%

6	Mubadala	Rs 9,093.60	1.85%
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7	Silver Lake Partners (additional investment)	Rs 4,546.80	0.93%
8	Abu Dhabi Investment Authority	Rs 5,683.50	1.16%
9	TPG	Rs 4,546.80	0.93%
10	L Catterton	Rs 1,894.50	0.39%
11	PIF	Rs 11,367.00	2.32%
12	Qualcomm	Rs 730	0.15%

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **RIL**

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman & Managing Director: Mukesh D. Ambani
- Founder: Dhirubhai Ambani
- Founded: 8 May 1973, Maharashtra

#### **Qualcomm**

- Headquarters: San Diego, California, United States
- CEO: Steven Mollenkopf
- Founded: July 1985, San Diego, California, United States
- Founders: Irwin M. Jacobs, Andrew Viterbi, Adelia A Coffman, Klein Gilhousen, Andrew Cohen, Harvey White, Franklin Antonio

### **MoU Signed between National Medicinal Plants Board and ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources**

- National Medicinal Plants Board, NMPB and ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources signed an MoU to to conserve the Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Genetic Resources,
- Medicinal Plants are regarded as rich resources of traditional medicines and are being used for thousands of years in the health care system. India has rich diversity of medicinal Plants.
- The conservation will be done at designated space of ICAR-NBPGR in long-term storage module in the National Gene bank and or at Regional Station for medium term storage module and acquire hands-on training on plant germplasm conservation techniques to the working group of NMPB.

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### UNICEF India tied up with FICCI for its #Reimagine Campaign

- UNICEF INDIA has tied-up with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry's (FICCI), Socio-Economic Development Foundation (SEDF) to jointly develop UNICEF's #Reimagine Campaign.
- The campaign aims to support the most vulnerable populations and children during the COVID-19 response and its after-math in India.
- It will also help in avoiding the potential long-term damage to business operations as well as employment pipeline.

### PT POINTERS:

#### UNICEF

- Headquarters: New York, New York, United States
- Head: Henrietta H. Fore
- Founded: 11 December 1946, New York, New York, United States
- Founders: United Nations General Assembly, Ludwik Rajchman
- Parent organizations: United Nations General Assembly, United Nations Economic and Social Council

#### FICCI

- Headquarters location: New Delhi
- Founded: 1927
- Members: over 250,000 companies
- Founders: Ghanshyam Das Birla, Purshottamdas Thakurdas
- Type of business: Trade Association

### BSE signs MoU with IIT Alumni Council to encourage listing of startups

- The BSE has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with IIT Alumni Council to encourage listing culture for startups and develop a 'high investor depth' startups platform.
- The newly-formed partnership will ensure a complete end-to-end ecosystem for the proposed social stock exchange.
- This alliance between BSE and IIT Alumni Council will ensure entity transparency, governance improvement and market discovery of share price, provide liquidity for PE investors and enable retail participation. PT POINTERS:

#### BSE

- Location: Mumbai, India
- Founded: 9 July 1875

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- Chairman: Just. Vikramajit Sen
- MD & CEO: Ashishkumar Chauhan
- Indices: BSE SENSEX; S&P BSE SmallCap; S&P BSE MidCap; S&P BSE LargeCap; BSE 500

**Google partners with CBSE to help 1 mn teachers run online classes**

## Good Morning Times 2020

- Google has announced its partnership with CBSE to help 1 million teachers conduct classes online by the end of the year.
- Google will help teachers from 22,000 schools across India to run classes via YouTube, Google Classrooms, and GSuite.
- G Suite for Education includes Google's usual tools, like Google Docs, Sheets and more. It also includes ways for teachers to give assignments to students and use Google Forms.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **CBSE**

- Headquarters location: Delhi
- Founded: 1962
- Parent organisation: Ministry of Human Resource Development
- Chairperson: Manoj Ahuja, IAS
- Type of business: Government

#### **AAI & BEL signs MoU for co-operation in civil aviation sector**

- The Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Defence Public Sector Unit (PSU) Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) has signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- The MoU aims to tap the emerging global markets in the airport business, including the ones in the AsiaPacific region.
- The partnership between the two companies will support each other in addressing the emerging global opportunities in the airport business.
- The MoU will also provide a common platform for both the companies to work together and hence, will give a major lift to the civil aviation industry in the future.
- AAI will help BEL in its domain of expertise while playing the role of a development partner.
- This will enable BEL in execution of the MEA projects outside India.
- Hence, the partnership will help BEL in tapping the domestic civil aviation market as well into the South-East Asian, African and Latin American civil aviation markets.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Airports Authority of India (AAI)**

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Parent organization: Directorate General of Civil Aviation
- Founded: 1 April 1995
- Chairman: Arvind Singh

#### **Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL)**

- Headquarters: Bengaluru
- Owner: Government of India

## Good Morning Times 2020

- Founded: 1954, Bengaluru
- CMD: M V Gowtama

### **UNICEF India and SAP India partner to improve employability of young people**

- On World Youth Skills Day, UNICEF India today announced its partnership with SAP India to provide career counselling to young people in the country that will improve their employability skills in a COVID and post COVID era.
- UNICEF is collaborating with the initiative named 'YuWaah' (Generation Unlimited).
- Under this initiative they decided to provide digital education and occupational skillset to the underserved young people of the country.

### **Under the collaboration UNICEF – YuWaah – SAP will strengthen**

**the following:** ☐ Improve digital skills and life skills for young people ☐ Provide young people with career options.

- Reimagine the model in other states with the Government of India
- Impacting one million young people by the end of 2022 **PT POINTERS:**

### **UNICEF**

- Headquarters: New York, New York, United States
- Head: Henrietta H. Fore
- Founded: 11 December 1946, New York, New York, United States
- Founders: United Nations General Assembly, Ludwik Rajchman
- Parent organizations: United Nations General Assembly, United Nations Economic and Social Council **SAP India Pvt. Ltd.**
- Founded: 1996
- Parent organization: SAP

### **Google to pick 7.7 per cent stake in Jio for Rs 33,737 crore**

- Reliance Jio has raised \$4.5 billion (Rs 33,737 crore) from the search giant, Google for a 7.77% stake.
- This marks the end of the successful \$20.6 billion (Rs 1,52,056 crore) funds raise cycle from 13 investors by Reliance Jio- India's largest digital company for a 33% stake in the firm.
- The Reliance-Google partnership is stated to be making cheap data, affordable smartphones beyond the current 500 million internet customers across India.
- Google has also entered into a commercial agreement with Reliance to build entry level-affordable 4G/ 5G smartphones.



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### Complete list of Investors of Jio Platforms

S.No	Investor	Investment Amount	Stake Bought
		(in crores)	
1	Facebook, Inc.	Rs 43,573.62	9.99%
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10	L Catterton	Rs 1,894.50	0.39%
11	PIF	Rs 11,367.00	2.32%
12	Qualcomm	Rs 730	0.15%
13	Google	Rs 33,737	7.7%

### PT POINTERS:

#### Google

- CEO: Sundar Pichai
- Founded: 4 September 1998, Menlo Park, California, United States ☐ Parent organization: Alphabet Inc.
- Headquarters: Mountain View, California, United States
- Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin **RIL:**
- CEO: Mukesh Ambani
- Owner: Mukesh Ambani (47.35%)
- Founder: Dhirubhai Ambani
- Founded: 8 May 1973, Maharashtra

## Good Morning Times 2020

### **CCI approves acquisition by Aceso Company Pte. Ltd. in HCG**

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved acquisition by Aceso Company Pte. Ltd. (Aceso) in HealthCare Global Enterprises Limited (HCG).  
CCI has approved acquisition under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002.
- Aceso Company Pte. Ltd. (Aceso) is an entity which forms part of the CVC Network.
- The CVC Network consists of three entities which are privately owned and offers investment advice to and / or managing investments on behalf of certain investment funds as well as platforms.
- HealthCare Global Enterprises Limited (HCG) is engaged in the business of offering services via cancer treatment clinics, multi-specialty hospitals, and fertility treatment centres.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Competition Commission of India (CCI)**

- Website: cci.gov.in
- Founded: 14 October 2003
- Jurisdiction: India
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- First executive: Dhanendra Kumar

#### **HealthCare Global Enterprises Limited (HCG)**

- Headquarters: India
- Founded: 1989
- CEO: B S Ajai Kumar

#### **Aceso Company Pte. Ltd. (Aceso)**

- Founded: 2009

### **NTPC partnered with NIIF to explore business opportunities in India**

- NTPC Ltd, a central PSU under the Ministry of Power and Country's largest power generation company, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) on 16 July 2020.
- The aim of the MoU is to explore opportunities for investments in areas like renewable energy, power distribution among other areas of mutual interest in India.

### **Highlights:**

- With this MoU, NTPC and NIIF will collaborate to further help India's vision of building sustainable and robust energy infrastructure in the country.
- The agreement will bring together NTPC's technical expertise and NIIF's ability to raise capital and bring in global best practices by leveraging its existing relationships with leading players.

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- NTPC targets to have nearly 30 GW of its overall power generation capacity from renewable energy sources by 2032.
- As of now, NTPC has a total installed capacity of 62110 MW, 70 Power stations comprising of 24 Coal, 7 combined cycle Gas/Liquid Fuel, 1 Hydro, 13 Renewables along with 25 Subsidiary & JV Power Stations.
- Also, NIIF Limited manages over \$4.3 billion of equity capital commitments across its three funds namely Master Fund, Fund of Funds, and Strategic Opportunities Fund, each with its distinct investment strategy.
- NIIFL is a collaborative investment platform for the international and Indian investors, anchored by the Government of India.
- It is the largest infrastructure fund in the country and invests in core infrastructure sectors such as transportation and energy.

### **Recent News related to NTPC:**

- NTPC Limited wins prestigious CII-ITC Sustainability Award 2019
- NTPC rating: Retain 'outperform' on strong growth visibility
- NTPC to Provide Consultancy Services for a 500 MW Solar Park in Africa's Mali
- SDMC, NTPC Ltd. and Indian Oil sign MoU for Waste to Energy Plant in Delhi
- NTPC and Indian Oil to Set Up a Waste-to-Energy Project in Delhi **PT POINTERS:**

### **NTPC**

- Founded: 1975
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- CMD: Gurdeep Singh
- Owner: Government of India
- Organization type: State-owned enterprise
- Purpose: Electricity generation and distribution natural gas exploration, production, transportation and distribution

### **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)**

- Headquarters: Mumbai, India
- Founded: February 2015
- Type of business: Sovereign Wealth Fund
- Key people: Sujoy Bose, CEO

### **India inks agreement with Israel to collaborate in dealing with cyber threats**

- India and Israel signed an agreement on July 15 to expand collaboration in dealing with cyber threats.

## Good Morning Times 2020

- The agreement was signed between Sanjiv Singla, India's ambassador to Israel, and Yigal Unna, Director General of Israel's National Cyber Directorate (INCD).
- The MoU has been signed between the INCD and Indian Computer Emergency Response Team. It is a unit of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- The agreement will further deepen the operational cooperation between two sides and will also expand the scope of exchange of information on cyber threats to raise the level of protection in the field.

### **PT POINTERS:**

**Israel (Capital/Currency):** Jerusalem/ Israeli

Shekel Prime Minister: Benjamin Netanyahu

### **Cochin Shipyard signs contract to build autonomous electric ferries for Norway**

- Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) has signed a contract with ASKO Maritime AS, Norway for the construction and supply of the two autonomous electric ferries along with an option to build two more identical vessels.
- the project will put the company into a league of premier shipbuilding yards in the world, which will be known capable of handling high tech vessel construction.
- The project aims at emission-free transport of goods across the Oslofjord.

### **PT POINTERS:**

**Norway (Capital/Currency):** Oslo/ Norwegian Krone

- Prime Minister: Erna Solberg

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

- On July, 17, 2020, India and United States signed Memorandum of Understanding to begin discussions on storing petroleum reserves in the US soil.
- A virtual US-India Strategic Energy Partnership Ministerial was held between the Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Energy Secretary of US Dan Brouillette.
- The countries signed Memorandum of Understanding to begin discussions on cooperation and maintenance of strategic petroleum reserves.
- This includes exchange of information and best practices as well.
- US-India Strategic Energy Partnership works to support sustainable energy development. Under this, the countries collaborate on smart grids, renewable energy, clean energy and unconventional sources of energy.
- Under the partnership, India-US has increased their hydrocarbon trade in the last three years.
- The bilateral hydrocarbon trade was 9.2 billion USD between 2019-20.

## Good Morning Times 2020

- India and US are currently working on carbon capture, utilization and storage.

### **Indo-US Strategic Energy Partnership meeting**

- The Virtual Ministerial meeting of Indo-US Strategic Energy Partnership was held on July 17, 2020.
- India and the United States have announced new areas of research on transformational power generation based on supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> (sCO<sub>2</sub>) power cycles and advanced coal technologies, including carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS).

### **Highlights:**

- During the meeting, the Ministers discussed new areas of research on transformational power generation based on supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> (sCO<sub>2</sub>) power cycles and advanced coal technologies, including CCUS.
- They discussed the implementation of Smart grids and energy storage by a consortium comprising of 30 Indian and US entities
- They also discussed the common priorities for collaboration evolved in Clean Coal Technologies, sCO<sub>2</sub> Power Cycles, and CCUS technologies.
- They also discussed the policy directions for the societal acceptance of smart grid concepts, Distributed Energy Resources, impact and value of the integrative solutions and the emerging role of utilities as Distributed System Operators.

### **CBSE ties up with IBM to integrate AI curriculum**

- The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has integrated a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) course for class XI and XII in the current academic year (2020-2021).
- The curriculum was developed in collaboration with IBM (International Business Machines Corporation).
- The IBM AI curriculum is a part of CBSE's Social Empowerment through Work Education and Action (SEWA) program.
- This curriculum will be launched in around 200 schools across Delhi-NCR, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Kerala, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Punjab (13 states of India).
- The AI curriculum was co-developed by the Macquarie University of Australia and Learning Links Foundation and IIMB of India to fulfil the requirements of CBSE. **PT POINTERS:**

### **CBSE:**

- Headquarters location: Delhi
- Founded: 1962
- Parent organization: Ministry of Human Resource Development
- Chairperson: Manoj Ahuja, IAS **IBM:**

## Good Morning Times 2020

- CEO: Arvind Krishna
- Founder: Charles Ranlett Flint
- Founded: 16 June 1911, Endicott, New York, United States
- Headquarters: Armonk, New York, United States **Defence Ministry signed contract with BEML**
- Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) for procurement of 1,512 Mine Plough (MP) for Tank T-90 S/SK.
- The move comes as a major boost to the Make in India initiative of the Government of India. The contract was approved by the Acquisition Wing of MoD.

### **Highlights:**

- The contract was signed at an approximate cost of Rs.557 crore.
  - The contract has Buy and Make (Indian) categorization with a minimum of 50% indigenous content in making a portion of the contract.
- Under this contract, the mine ploughs will be fitted on T-90 Tanks of the Indian

## Good Morning Times 2020

- The contract will enhance the combat capability of the Indian Army.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **BEML**

- Headquarters: Bengaluru
- Founded: May 1964, Bengaluru
- Subsidiaries: Vignyan Industries Limited, BEML (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd

### **CBDT signed MoU with MoMSME for data sharing**

- The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India (MoMSME) and the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 20 July 2020.
- The MoU is aimed at the sharing of data by CBDT to MoMSME.
- The MoU comes into force from 20 July 2020, the date it was signed.

### **Highlights:**

- The MoU will facilitate the seamless sharing of certain Income-tax Return (ITR) related information by the Income Tax Department to MoMSME.
- The shared data will enable MoMSME to check and classify enterprises in Micro, Small, and Medium categories.
- Under the MoU, both the organizations will appoint Nodal Officer and Alternate Nodal Officers to facilitate the process of data exchange.
- It is expected that the MoU will mark the beginning of a new era of cooperation and synergy between the CBDT and MoMSME.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**

- Chairman: Pramod Chandra Mody

### **GoI partners with UNICEF to achieve Atma Nirbhar Bharat**

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports have partnered with UNICEF to strengthen the youth volunteers in the country to achieve Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- The GoI has signed a statement with YuWaah of UNICEF.
- It is a multi-stake holder platform formed by UNICEF.





## Good Morning Times 2020

### The partnership is to work on the following:

- Collaboration on supporting young people in entrepreneurship
  - Upskilling young people
  - Promoting change making
  - Creating linkages with aspirational socio-economic opportunities
  - To provide career guidance support to young people
- To establish a feedback mechanism between young people and policy stakeholders.

### PT POINTERS:

#### UNICEF

- Headquarters: New York, New York, United States
- Head: Henrietta H. Fore
- Founded: 11 December 1946, New York, New York, United States
- Founders: United Nations General Assembly, Ludwik Rajchman
- Parent organizations: United Nations General Assembly, United Nations Economic and Social Council

### India-Maldives sign agreement to establish “Emergency Medical Services”

- India and Maldives have signed an agreement for the establishment of ‘Emergency Medical Services’ in Male, Maldives.
- The Emergency Medical Service is financed by India under grant assistance of 20 million USD for neighbouring countries.
- This will help to increase the collaboration between the countries, especially in the areas of health care facilities, disaster responses during critical times, etc.

### PT POINTERS:

#### Maldives (Capital/Currency): Male/Maldivian Rufiyaa.

- President: Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.

### CBIC signed MoU with CBDT to facilitate smoother bilateral exchange of data

- Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 21 July 2020 with immediate effect. ☐ The MoU aims for data exchange between the two organizations.

### Highlights:



## Good Morning Times 2020

- The MoU aims to facilitate data sharing and information between CBDT and CBIC on an automatic and regular basis.
- Apart from this, CBDT and CBIC will exchange with each other, on request and spontaneous basis, any information available in their respective databases which may have utility for the other organization.
- The MoU is an ongoing initiative of CBDT and CBIC, who are already collaborating through various existing mechanisms.
- Under the MoU, a Data Exchange Steering Group has been constituted for the initiative.
- The group will meet periodically to review the data exchange status and take steps to further improve the effectiveness of the data-sharing mechanism.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)**

- Chairperson: M. Ajit Kumar  
Elected officer responsible: Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister of India
- Founded: 1 January 1964
- Governing body: Government of India
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Subsidiary: Directorate of Revenue Intelligence

#### **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**

- Chairman: Pramod Chandra Mody

#### **Punjab Govt tie-up with IIT-Ropar for skill development**

- The Punjab government has signed an agreement with the Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar, in the area of skill development.
- The institute will help the state in developing a model ITI and a model polytechnic.
- The IIT to help the state in the manufacture of small devices for controlling water wastage in irrigation.
- Punjab Government helps to resolve the IIT's land acquisition-related issues, while urging the institute to develop its campus as a green campus, with extensive landscaping and afforestation.



## Good Morning Times 2020

### Flipkart acquires Walmart India's

wholesale business ☐ Flipkart announced the acquisition of Walmart India.

- It will launch 'Flipkart Wholesale' next month, as the homegrown e-commerce major looks to tap into the USD 650 billion B2B retail market in India.
- Walmart India runs 28 Best Price wholesale stores in the country. Flipkart Wholesale is a new digital marketplace focusing on addressing the business-to-business (B2B) segment in India.
- The acquisition will help strengthen the capabilities to address the requirements of kirana and MSMEs. **PT POINTERS:**

### Flipkart

- Founded: October 2007
- CEO: Kalyan Krishnamurthy
- Founders: Sachin Bansal, Binny Bansal
- Parent organization: Walmart

### LIC signs agreement with UBI to distribute latter's policies

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and Union Bank of India, after its amalgamation with Corporation Bank and Andhra Bank, have announced a corporate agency agreement to distribute LIC policies.
- The bank will market LIC products of term insurance, pension, plan, children plan, ULIPs, and endowment schemes.

### **PT POINTERS:**

### **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)**

- Chairperson: M R Kumar  
Headquarters: Mumbai



## Good Morning Times 2020

- Founder: Government of India
- Founded: 1 September 1956

### Airtel Payments Bank partners NSDC to train rural youth

- Airtel Payments Bank Ltd and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) have collaborated in order to train and skill young people in rural areas on financial services and helping them in finding jobs and become entrepreneurs in the sector.
- The collaboration has an objective to design & conduct focused skill development programs for rural youth and enabling them to adopt the tools to boost online banking and digital financial services.

### PT POINTERS:

#### Airtel Payments Bank Ltd

- Headquarters location: New Delhi
- CEO: Anubrata Biswas
- Founded: January 2017
- Subsidiary: YTS Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
- Parent organizations: Bharti Airtel, Kotak Mahindra Bank

#### National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)

- CEO: Manish Kumar
- Headquarters location: New Delhi
- Founded: 2008
- Type of business: Non-profit organisation

### Amazon Pay ties up with Acko to sell auto insurance

- Digital payments major, Amazon Pay has launched vehicle insurance in partnership with Bengaluru-based startup Acko General Insurance.
- Amazon Pay, which is the payments unit of Amazon India, will help customers purchase insurance effortlessly and Amazon Prime members will get extra benefits including additional discounts.

### PT POINTERS:

#### Amazon

- CEO: Jeff Bezos
- Founder: Jeff Bezos
- Founded: 5 July 1994, Bellevue, Washington, United States
- Headquarters: Seattle, Washington, United States

### India, Israel jointly develop ultra-rapid testing kit for COVID-19

- India and Israel have jointly developed an ultra-rapid testing kit for COVID-19.
- The testing kit which has proven its efficacy in lab results will now be subjected to broader trials.

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- Indian DRDO scientists along with Defence Research Wing of Israel have been conjointly working on the COVID testing kit.
- The rapid testing kit can generate preliminary COVID results within 30 seconds.

### **PT POINTERS:**

**Israel (Capital/Currency):** Jerusalem/ Israeli Shekel

- Prime Minister: Benjamin Netanyahu

### **TRIFED partnered with IIT-Delhi for Unnat Bharat Abhiyan**

- Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) has entered into a partnership with IIT-Delhi (on behalf of the UBA, as the National Coordinating Institute) and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA, a Swadeshi Science Movement) at IIT, Delhi for the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), a flagship national programme of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) , Government of India (GoI).
- The MoU will Introduce Tribals to Newer Processing Technologies, Product Innovation, Mentorship and Transformational Digital Systems.
- Over 2600 Institutions will partner with TRIFED for Skilling Tribals for Livelihoods
- The partnership can help promote enhancing livelihoods through the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras established under the Van Dhan Yojana.
- Under the Mou, the tribal forest dwellers who are engaged in Minor Forest Produces will get an exposure to newer processing technologies, product innovation, mentorship, transformational digital systems and handholding.
- The MoU will pave ways for the best of brains in the country to attend to the problems of sustainable tribal livelihoods.

### **Adani Ports signs up for Science-Based Targets initiative**

- Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) has signed up for the Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi) becoming the first Indian port to commit to set science-based emissions reduction targets across their entire value chain that are consistent with keeping global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
- The Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi) is a collaboration between CDP, the United Nations Global Compact, World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).
- It encourages the best practices in science-based target setting and independently evaluates the companies' targets.
- APSEZ has join the group of 43 Indian companies who have signed a commitment letter to SBTi.

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### India and EU renew Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation

- India & the European Union have renewed its Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the next five years, 2020-2025, at the 15th India-EU Summit, held on 15 July 2020.
- The Agreement was initially signed in on 23 November 2001 and renewed two times in past in 2007 and 2015.
- The agreement will help both the sides to expand the cooperation in scientific and technological research, strengthen the conduct of cooperative activities in areas of common interest and application of the results of such cooperation to their economic and social benefit.

### PT POINTERS:

#### European Union:

- Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium
- Founded: 1 November 1993, Maastricht, Netherlands
- Unemployment rate: 6.2% (Jan 2020) Eurostat
- Founders: Germany, Italy, France, Netherlands, Belgium,

#### Luxembourg DST launches Rs. 15 crore funds to support India-Russia collaboration

- The Department of Science and Technology has launched 'India-Russia Joint Technology Assessment and Accelerated Commercialisation Programme'.
- The objective of this program is to connect the Indian and Russian science and technology (S&T) led SMEs and start-ups for joint R&D for technology development and for cross-country technology adaptation
- The programme has been jointly launched in partnership with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Foundation for Assistance to Small Innovative Enterprises (FASIE) of the Russian Federation.
- FICCI will implement the programme in India, on behalf of DST and same will be done by FASIE in Russia.
- The programme will run over a period of two years and up to five projects will be funded each year.
- DST will fund up to Rs 15 crores to 10 Indian SMEs/start-ups and FASIE will provide similar funding to the Russian projects.

### PT POINTERS:

#### FICCI:

## Good Morning Times 2020

- Headquarters location: New Delhi
- Founded: 1927
- Members: over 250,000 companies
- Founders: Ghanshyam Das Birla, Purshottamdas Thakurdas
- Type of business: Trade Association

### **India and Maldives sign contract for development of Geydosu Mas Plant in Maradhoo and Hulhudhoo**

- India and the Maldives signed a contract to set up Geydosu Mas Plant (Neighborhood Fish Processing Plants) at two of the islands – Maradhoo and Hulhudhoo in the Maldives.
- These projects are undertaken under the MoU signed on 17 March 2019 for “Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of High Impact Community Development Projects through local bodies” and will cost a total of \$5.5 million.

### **IRCTC & SBI Card launches Co-branded Contactless Credit Card**

- Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and SBI Card has launched a new Co-branded Contactless Credit Card on RuPay Platform.
- The card was revealed by Union Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal.
- The newly launched card aims to ensure a safe, convenient and improved travel experience for the rail passengers.
- The new RuPay credit card is empowered with Near Field Communication (NFC) technology which will enable users to expedite their transactions at the POS machines by just tapping the card on the machines instead of swiping.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **IRCTC:**

- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- CMD: Mahendra Pratap Mall **SBI Card:**
- Headquarters: Gurgaon, Haryana.
- MD& CEO: Hardayal Prasad(will retire on July 31, 2020 and Ashwini Kumar Tewari to take charge from August 1, 2020)

### **GAIL tied up with CCSL to partner in Compressed BioGas projects in India**

- GAIL(India) limited and Carbon Clean Solutions Limited (CCSL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore the project development opportunities in the Compressed Biogas (CBG) value chain in India to build a closer strategic partnership by jointly working on the CBG projects in India.



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- The partnership promotes the technological advancements in the production of CBG from organic waste.
- The CBG projects will support India's future energy access, efficiency, sustainability and security. **PT POINTERS:**

### **GAIL (India) Ltd:**

- Chairman & Managing Director: Manoj Jain
- Head Office: New Delhi

### **Carbon Clean Solutions**

**Limited (CCSL):** ☐ CEO:

Aniruddha Sharma

- Headquarters: London, United Kingdom

### **KKR to merge NBFC with InCred's retail franchise**

- Global private equity firm KKR is set to back Mumbai-based InCred Finance, a retail and MSME-focused non-banking finance company (NBFC).
- The equity infusion is understood to be effectively a merger of KKR's NBFC with InCred's retail franchise. ☐ KKR will pick up a large minority stake in InCred

### **PT POINTERS:**

### **InCred Finance**

- Founder: Bhupinder Singh
- Founded: 2016
- Headquarters: Mumbai

### **A tripartite MoU signed between CSIR, UBA-IIT Delhi & Vijnana Bharati**

- A tripartite MoU signed between CSIR, UBA-IIT Delhi & Vijnana Bharati to offer access to CSIR rural technologies for UBA.
- It will also lay the foundation for cooperation as well as joint action in the area of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) for rural development of India.
- Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) is Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD)'s flagship national program which aims to bring the transformational change in rural development processes by enabling knowledge institutions to help build the architecture of an inclusive India.

### **PFC signs agreement with IIT-Kanpur in smart grid technology**

- Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has signed an agreement with the Indian Institute of Technology- Kanpur for Training, Research, and Entrepreneurship Development in Smart Grid Technology.
- The agreement was on a virtual platform.

## Good Morning Times 2020

- The objective of the pact is to provide support to IIT-Kanpur in developing infrastructure for research and development on smart grid technology.
- Under the agreement, PFC will provide financial assistance of worth Rs 2,38,97,000 to IIT-Kanpur.
- As part of the project, IIT-K will also provide training on smart grid technology to 90 participants and provide fellowship to 9 selected candidates.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)**

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Founded: July 1986
- CMD: Ravinder Singh Dhillon

#### **Cabinet approves MoU signed between India & Zimbabwe on Traditional Systems of Medicine**

- The Union Cabinet today gave ex-post facto approval to Memorandum of Understanding signed between India and Zimbabwe on Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy.
- The MoU was signed on 3rd November, 2018.
- It will provide a frame work for the cooperation between the two countries for the promotion of traditional systems of medicine and homeopathy.
- The main objective of the MoU is to strengthen, promote and develop co-operation in the field of traditional systems of medicine between the two countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

### **PT POINTERS:**

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**Zimbabwe (Capital/Currency):** Harare/ United States Dollar, RTGS dollar

- President: Emmerson Mnangagwa

**Andhra Pradesh government and Amazon partner to train, assist women entrepreneurs**

- Andhra Pradesh government and Amazon partner to train, assist women entrepreneurs to make toys and other items, and help them market the products.
- This initiative will come under Amazon's 'Saheli' programme to empower women by making them entrepreneurs.
- Under this initiative women in Andhra Pradesh will be trained in making toys and other products, and will be given marketing facilities to sell the products.
- An Amazon Centre of Excellence will be set up in one of the 30 skill development college (SDCs).

**PT POINTERS:**

**Andhra Pradesh:**

- Capital: Amravati
- Chief Minister: Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy
- Governor: Biswabhusan Harichandan
- Literacy rate: 67.4%
- National Park: Sri Venkateswara National Park, Sri Venkateswara National Park, Papikonda National Park **Amazon:**
- CEO: Jeff Bezos
- Founder: Jeff Bezos
- Founded: 5 July 1994, Bellevue, Washington, United States

**CCI clears Adani Power's 49% stake buy in Odisha Power Generation Corporation**

- The Competition Commission it has approved Adani Power's proposed purchase of 49 percent stake in Odisha Power Generation Corporation Ltd (OPGC).
- Adani Power announced acquiring US-based The AES Corporation's 49 percent stake in OPGC for USD 135 million (around Rs 1,019 crore).
- OPGC operates a 1,740 MW thermal power plant at Banharpalli in Jharsuguda district, Odisha.
- Odisha government holds 51 per cent stake in OPGC.

**PT POINTERS:**

**Odisha Power Generation Corporation Ltd (OPGC)**

- Founded: 1984
- Headquarters: Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India
- Owner: Government of Odisha

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- Organization type: State-owned enterprise
- Purpose: Electricity generation
- Power stations: Ib Thermal Power Station

## **August 2020 – Important MoUs & Agreements**

### **Reliance Power partnered with JERA set to Build Power Plant in Bangladesh**

- Reliance Bangladesh LNG and Power a joint venture between India's Reliance Power and Japan's JERA are all set to develop a new gas-fired power generation project in Bangladesh through their project company. A total of \$642 million with a group of banks which includes the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) has been allocated.
- The project company will be building and operating a 745 MW natural gas combined-cycle power project in Meghnaghat, Naranganj, which is located approximately 40 km southeast of Dhaka the capital city of Bangladesh.
- The power plant will supply electricity to more than 8,50,000 homes in Bangladesh by utilising re-gasified liquified natural gas (LNG).

### **KVIC and ITBP sign MoU to supply Khadi Mustard Oil now**

- The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) to supply mustard oil on 31st July 2020. The move is in line with "Aatmanirbh

#### ar." **Highlights:**

- The MoU was signed by Shri VK Nagar, Director, KVIC and Shri Rama Kant Sharma, DIG, ITBP in presence of KVIC Chairman, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena.
- The KVIC and ITBP have signed the MoU for a period of one year and it will be renewed further.
- The move By GoI is to encourage local products in a bid to support the "Aatmanirbhara Bharat Abhiyan" initiated by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- GoI also made it mandatory to sell only "Swadeshi" products through the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) canteens across India.
- ITBP is the nodal agency appointed by MHA for the procurement of provisions on behalf of all paramilitary forces.
- The ITBP is expected to place an order for a supply of 1200 quintals of high quality kacchi ghani mustard oil which will be supplied by KVIC through its Prime Ministers Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) units in a month's time.

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- The MoU aims to provide the best quality oil to the jawans guarding our borders, that too, on time will be our top priority.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **KVIC**

- Founded: 1956
- Purpose: To plan, promote, facilitate, organise and assist in the establishment and development of khadi and village industries
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Chairperson: Vinai Kumar Saxena
- Parent agency: Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- Type: Statutory corporation

### **ITBP**

- General nature: Federal law enforcement
- Headquarters location: New Delhi
- Motto: Shaurya – Dridhata – Karm Nishtha
- Operations jurisdiction: IN
- Governing body: Ministry of Home Affairs (India)
- Founder: Government of India

### **ICMR and AIIMS to keep track of hospitalized patients of COVID-19**

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) with a joint effort of the health ministry and the AIIMS is planning to set up the National Clinical Registry (NCR) which will help country's researchers and policymakers understand the efficacy of investigational therapies, adverse effects taking place and generate evidence for improving the treatment of Covid-19 patients.
- The main idea behind this establishment is to generate and collect a piece of logical evidence for improving the treatment of COVID-19 patients.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **ICMR**

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Secretary & Director General: Dr. Shriram Bhargava
- Leader: Balram Bhargava
- Founder: Government of India
- Founded: 1911
- Subsidiary: RMRIMS Agamkuan, Patna, Bihar

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## IIT Kanpur, DARPG, DoD signs tripartite MoU to conduct predictive analysis of public grievances

- Department of Defence (DoD) Ministry of Defence (MoD), Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG), and Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IITK) signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 4th August 2020.
- The MoU aims to conduct predictive analysis of public grievances.
- The project is aimed to help the MoD to identify the cause and nature of grievances and bring about systemic changes and policy interventions wherever required.
- Under the MoU, IIT-Kanpur will develop Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) Techniques to conduct exploratory and predictive analysis of Public Grievances received on the web-based Centralized Public Grievances Redress & Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) pertaining to the MoD.

## Airtel inks strategic pact with Amazon Web Services to offer cloud solutions to businesses

- Telecom company Bharti Airtel announced a multi-year strategic collaboration with Amazon Web Services to offer a suite of cloud solutions to businesses in India.
- The collaboration brings the strength of Amazon Web Services (AWS), leading cloud platform, together with Airtel's reach and expertise in handling network, data centres, security, and cloud as an integrated solution. **PT POINTERS:**

### Airtel

- CEO: Gopal Vittal
- Founder: Sunil Bharti Mittal
- Founded: 7 July 1995, India
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Parent organizations: Bharti Enterprises (64%), Singapore Telecommunications Limited (36%)

## Maharashtra govt announces partnership with Google for introducing digital education tools in schools across state

- The Maharashtra government has announced a partnership with Google for introducing digital education tools in schools across the state.
- It will enable 2.3 crore students and teachers to access the technology giant's blended learning programmes that combine classroom approach with online learning. Google will deploy free tools like G Suite for Education, Google Classroom and Google Meet to facilitate remote learning. **PT POINTERS:**

### Google

- CEO: Sundar Pichai

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# UPPSC- CURRENT AFFAIRS SPECIAL

- Founded: 4 September 1998, Menlo Park, California, United States ☐ Parent organization: Alphabet Inc.
- Headquarters: Mountain View, California, United States
- Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin **Maharashtra:**
- Capital: Mumbai
- Chief Minister: Uddhav Thackeray
- Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshiyari
- National Parks: Chandoli National Park, Nawegaon National Park, Gugamal National Park, Pench National Park, Sanjay Gandhi (Borivilli) National Park, Tadoba National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Amba Barwa WLS, Bor WLS, Great Indian Bustard WLS, Lonar WLS, Melghat WLS, Gangewadi New Great Indian Bustard WLS, etc.

## **ISB Hyderabad signs MoU with Andhra govt to work on post-COVID economic recovery**

- The Indian School of Business (ISB) and Andhra's Economic Development Board (EDB) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in a move to focus on growth monitoring and economic development in the state after the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The ISB will work with Andhra government's EDB and other departments of the state for economic recovery and job creation.
- The AP Economic Development Board said the MoU will nurture a think-tank by setting up 'GoAP-ISB Policy Lab', a public policy laboratory to drive evidence-based policy

decisions. **PT POINTERS:**

### **EDB**

- Parent agency: Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Founded: 1 August 1961
- Managing Director: Beh Swan Gin, Chairman; Chng Kai Fong

## **AP govt ties up with ITC, HUL and P&G for womens economic empowerment**

- The Andhra Pradesh government signed a pact with three FMCG companies — Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL), ITC and Procter and Gamble (P&G) — for marketing and technology support for economic empowerment of women under two new schemes to be launched soon.
- The companies will give handholding to women under the YSR Cheyutha scheme, to be launched on August 12, that aims to provide annual financial assistance of Rs 18,750 for next four years to women of 45-60 years age group belonging to SC, ST, backward class and minorities communities.

### **PT POINTERS:**

### **Andhra Pradesh:**

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- Capital: Amravati
- Chief Minister: Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy
- Governor: Biswabhusan Harichandan
- Literacy rate: 67.4%
- National Park: Sri Venkateswara National Park, Sri Venkateswara National Park, Papikonda National Park

## Serum Institute of India signs agreement with Novavax

- Serum Institute of India, Pune, and United States-based Novavax have signed an agreement for the development and commercialization of Novavax COVID-19 vaccine candidates in India and other low and middle- income countries.
- The agreement signed between both the firms is expected to support a minimum of 1 billion doses of NVXCoV2373 for India and other low and middle- income countries. **PT**

### POINTERS:

#### Novavax

- CEO: Stanley C. Erck
- Headquarters: Gaithersburg, Maryland, United States
- Founded: 1987

## Serum Institute signs landmark deal to manufacture up to 100 million doses of COVID vaccine for India

- The Serum Institute of India (SII) has entered into a partnership with Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to accelerate the manufacture and delivery of COVID vaccine for India and the middle and low-income countries.
- Under the new partnership, the institute plans to get up to 100 million doses of the COVID vaccine ready for delivery.

## NIDM in collaboration with IMD organises webinar series on “Hydro-Meteorological Hazards Risk Reduction”

National Institute of Disaster Management in collaboration with India Meteorological Department organised a webinar series on “Hydro-Meteorological Hazards Risk Reduction”.

- The webinar series include four webinars focusing on Thunderstorms and Lightning, Cloudburst and Floods, Cyclones and Storm Surges and Climate Change and Extreme Weather Events.
- Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai inaugurated the first webinar on “Thunderstorms and Lightning”.
- He highlighted the major interventions carried out by the Government departments and agencies for reducing the adverse risks of Hydro-Meteorological disasters.

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- National Institute of Disaster Management is a premier institute for training and capacity development programs for managing natural disasters in India.
- NIDM works under the aegis of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

## **Flipkart partners with the U.P. Government**

- Flipkart has signed an MoU with One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme of the Government of Uttar Pradesh.
- The MoU will bring the artisans, weavers and craftsmen under the ODOP scheme into the scope of the “Flipkart Samarth” initiative.
- This will provide artisans, weavers and craftsmen under the ODOP scheme a momentum to expand their business online as they face social and economic challenges.
- The Flipkart Samarth initiative will offer various services to artisans, weavers and craftsmen such as training, dedicated space in Flipkart’s fulfilment centres, constant seller support along with cataloguing guidance and visibility on the platform.
- With help of this, these under-served communities from UP will get a push to showcase their specialized products and crafts to millions of customers across the country. **PT POINTERS:**

## **Flipkart**

- Founded: October 2007, Bengaluru
- CEO: Kalyan Krishnamurthy
- Founders: Sachin Bansal, Binny Bansal
- Parent organization: Walmart

## **IndusInd Bank acquires 7.82% stake in Eveready by invoking pledged shares**

- Private sector lender IndusInd Bank has acquired 7.82 percent stake in battery maker Eveready Industries by invoking pledged shares following loan default.
- The bank invoked pledge on 56,83,320 shares which constituted 7.82 percent of paid-up equity share capital of Eveready Industries.

## **PT POINTERS:**

## **IndusInd Bank**

- CEO: Sumant Kathpalia
- Headquarters: Pune
- Owner: Hinduja Group
- Founder: S. P. Hinduja
- Subsidiaries: IndusInd Fin

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## **Bharti Airtel inks multi-year strategic pact with Amazon for AWS solutions**

Bharti Airtel announced a multi-year strategic pact with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to deliver Cloud solutions to large as well as small and medium enterprise (SME) customers in India.

- The products linked to artificial intelligence and Edge among others will be offered to the SMBs.
- Bharti Airtel will act as a channel partner for AWS to tap startups and SMBs and sell the products of AWS and bundle them with its public cloud offerings.
- Airtel Cloud will build an AWS CloudPractice, supported by AWS Professional Services, as well as develop differentiated Cloud products and capabilities leveraging AWS services, Airtel's data centre capabilities and network and telecoms offerings.

## **CSIR, FSSAI sign MoU for collaborative research on food and nutrition**

- An agreement was signed between CSIR (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research) and FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) for collaborative research and information dissemination in the area of food and nutrition.
- The two organisations will collaborate towards strengthening the quality assurance of laboratory networks across the country aimed at development and validation of methods for reliable reporting on quality and safety of food products.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **FASSAI:**

- Founded: August 2011
- Sector: Food safety
- Jurisdiction: India
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairperson: Rita Teatonia
- Parent agency: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India

## **IT Guwahati, in collaboration with Imperial College London, develops nanoparticle 'meta-grid'**

- Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, India, and Imperial College London, UK, have developed a tailored 'meta-grid' of nanoparticles that could make light-emitting diodes (LEDs) brighter, energy-efficient and durable.
- Meta-grid' or 'metamaterial grid' is a specifically patterned array (grid) of nanoparticles acting as metamaterials, capable of exhibiting extraordinary optical properties.

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## **Bihar Pollution Control Board signs MoA with IIT Delhi for air quality management**

- The Bihar State Pollution Control Board has signed a 'Memorandum of Agreement' (MoA) with IIT Delhi to set up geographical information system (GIS) based platform to check air quality management in the state.
- IIT Delhi will help the state to set up a comprehensive architecture for scientific analysis of air pollution and monitoring and provide know-how to develop in-house capacity for data analysis.
- The project will help in identifying sources and transport (local hot spot) of particulate matter PM 2.5 in the non-attainment cities like Patna, Gaya and Muzaffarpur and help the board to identify effective mitigation measures.
- The project will not only identify geographical areas with poor air quality based on statistical and spatial data, but will also enable to locate the source of air pollutants in those areas.

## **A.P. government signs MoU with US Based IT Firm "Boston Group"**

- The Boston Group has signed an MoU with the Andhra Pradesh government to set up an IT company in Visakhapatnam.
- The new IT company stated to be installed in the state according to the MoU is expected to create 250+ jobs in the IT sector.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Boston Consulting Group**

- CEO: Rich Lesser
- Headquarters: Boston, Massachusetts, United States
- Founder: Bruce Henderson
- Founded: 1963, Boston, Massachusetts, United States

## **India, Maldives ink contract for development of five eco-tourism zones in Addu atoll of island nation**

- India and Maldives signed a contract for development of five eco-tourism zones in Addu atoll of the island nation.
- These eco-tourism zones are part of grant projects being implemented under the High-Impact Community Development project (HICDP) scheme which involves a total grant assistance of 5.5 million US dollars to the Maldives.
- Currently, there are 9 such high-impact projects being implemented in the Maldives.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Maldives (Capital/Currency):** Male/ Maldivian rufiyaa

- President: Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

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## Rajasthan government, SIDBI to ink MoU for cluster-based development of MSMEs

- The Rajasthan government and the Small Industrial Development Bank of India (SIDBI) will soon ink an agreement to create newer avenues and growth opportunities for MSME units in the State.
- For upcoming and existing MSME units in the State, SIDBI will identify clusters and create a plan to reach out to small entrepreneurs and provide consultation, business solutions and guidance for availing benefits under current schemes.
- A project management unit (PMU) will be set up by SIDBI in Rajasthan to provide assistance to certain sectors which are cluster-based such as textiles in Bhilwara and handicrafts in Jodhpur.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **SIDBI:**

- Headquarters location: Lucknow
- Founded: 2 April 1990
- Formed: 2 April 1990
- Chairman and Managing Director:

Mohammad Mustafa **BSE signs MoU with Akola-based bullion associations**

- The Bombay Stock Exchange has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Akola, Maharashtra-based bullion trade and industry associations, Akola Sarafa Association and Akola Sarafa Va Suvarnakar Yuva Sangh.
- The associations represent members engaged in the retail sale and trade of bullion.
- The MoU aims to facilitate cooperation between the BSE and physical markets represented by the two trade bodies in areas such as knowledge sharing, education and training, events and explore areas of mutual interests.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **BSE:**

The BSE SENSEX is a free-float market-weighted stock market index of 30 well-established and financially sound companies listed on Bombay Stock Exchange. **BSE partners with Gujarat Govt**

- Bombay Stock Exchange, has entered into an agreement with i-Hub, an incubation set up started by the Gujarat Government, in order to encourage and support the startup companies in raising capital.
- BSE will provide a favourable ecosystem for the startups in the state to get funding and succeed in the venture.

#### **i-Hub**

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- This is vibrant incubation setup established under student startup innovation policy by the Gujarat Government Education Department and it is mainly focused on developing the startups as the catalyzers for economic growth in the state, thereby providing a conducive ecosystem for the promotion of their growth.
- This setup is meant to solve one of the major challenges of the startups – Finance.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **Gujarat:**

- Capital: Gandhinagar
- Chief Minister: Vijay Rupani
- Governor: Acharya Devvrat
- State formed on: 1 May 1960
- Literacy Rate: 79.31%
- National Park: Vansda NP, Blackbuck NP, Gir Forest NP, Marine NP, Gulf of Kutch

### **Google joins hands with Central Water Commission for flood forecasting initiative**

- The search engine giant Google has joined hands with the Central Water Commission in order to make the flood forecasting in the country more advanced and more effective.
- The alerts provided by Google are timely and updated.
- They also provide critical information that can help users make informed decisions regarding their safety and that of their families and friends.
- Any user in the affected region with an android smartphone with location services will be able to access these alerts.
- The users can also enter a query in the search field regarding a flood-affected area to see key information on the current situation in the region.
- This has been very useful in areas affected by floods such as Assam and Bihar. **PT**

### **POINTERS: Google**

- Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin Trending
- Founded: 4 September 1998, Menlo Park, California, United States
- CEO: Sundar Pichai
- Parent organization: Alphabet Inc.
- Headquarters: Mountain View, California, United States

### **NSE, IIM-Bangalore join hands to offer platform for investor education**

- The National Stock Exchange (NSE) announced the launch of a digital learning platform for investor education.

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- The platform, an online investor education resource centre, has been developed jointly by NSE Investor Protection Fund Trust and IIM Bangalore.
- The platform has four learning modules each comprising number of videos, audios, podcasts, deep-dives and blog posts presenting the content using the latest animation and data visualization technology to actively engage different cohorts of potential investors.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **NSE**

- No. of listings: 1,952
- Location: Mumbai, India
- Owner: National Stock Exchange of India Limited
- Founded: 1992
- Indices: NIFTY 50; NIFTY Next 50; NIFTY 500

### **Delhi govt inked MoU with Bloomberg Philanthropies to enhance road safety**

- The Delhi government, in a bid to enhance road safety in the national capital signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bloomberg Philanthropies, joining 30 world cities in the initiative for global road safety. □ Under this initiative the Delhi government will be supported by the world's leading experts in road safety and will receive technical assistance to conduct various periodic road user behaviour surveys and training for staff.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **Bloomberg Philanthropies**

- Location: New York City, United States of America
- Founder: Michael Bloomberg
- Founded: 2006
- Headquarters: New York, New York, United States

### **Niti Aayog partners Nasscom to launch AI-based module for school students**

- Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) in collaboration with IT industry body Nasscom launched an artificial intelligence-based module for school students to empower youngest minds and drive innovations in the country to the next level.
- This module is the next step in bringing artificial intelligence (AI) to Indian classrooms and is a successor to the AI base module launched in February this year.
- The 'AI Step-up Module' provides a comprehensive set of 'learn it yourself' advanced modules to those who wish to expand their knowledge base after becoming familiar with the basics of the AI discipline through the AI base module. **PT POINTERS:**

### **NITI Aayog**

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- Formed: 1 January 2015
- Objectives: Foster involvement and participation in the economic policy-making process by the State Governments of India
- Jurisdiction: Government of India
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairperson: Narendra Modi

## NASSCOM

- Chairperson: Keshav R Muruges
- Headquarters location: New Delhi
- Members: over 2,800 companies
- Founded: 1 March 1988
- Founders: Dewang Mehta, Nandan Nilekani
- Affiliations: NASSCOM Foundation, National Institute for Smart Government, Data Security Council of India

## **IHCL joins hands with Tata Power for supply of solar energy**

- Indian Hotels Company Ltd (IHCL) has joined hands with Tata Power for supply of solar energy for its Mumbai hotels as part of strategy to focus on sustainable and cost-efficient business practices.
- The company has signed a solar energy power purchase agreement (PPA) with TP Kirnali Solar Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Power Company Ltd.
- IHCL hotels in Mumbai, namely The Taj Mahal Palace, Taj Lands End and Taj Wellington Mews, will get approximately 60 per cent energy from green source and will reduce nearly 22.9 million kg of carbon dioxide emissions on an annual basis.
- This agreement is valid for a period of 25 years.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **Indian Hotels Company Ltd (IHCL)**

- Parent organization: Tata Group
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founder: Jamsetji Tata

## **India and Nepal to speed up implementation of projects in the Himalayan nation**

- A virtual meeting was held between the Senior diplomats of India and Nepal to review the progress made on various India-aided developmental projects being implemented in the Himalayan nation.
- The meeting was held virtually due to the covid-19 pandemic.
- The meeting was the 8th round of talks under the aegis of the India-Nepal Oversight Mechanism.

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## Highlights:

- The Nepalese side was lead by the Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi and the Indian side was led by the Ambassador to Nepal Vinay Mohan Kwatra.
- The delegations represented their respective countries during the oversight mechanism meeting.
- The officials assessed the progress made on various India aided development projects being implemented in Nepal.
- India and Nepal officials have reviewed the status of various development projects supported by New Delhi in the Himalayan nation.
- Both nations has decided to speed up their implementation against the backdrop of consistent efforts by China to draw Nepal into its sphere of influence with cheap loans and infrastructure projects.
- The meeting also included the ongoing projects including the cross-border railway connectivity, construction of roads in Nepa's Terai region, the Arun-III hydropower project, and petroleum product pipelines.

## PT POINTERS:

**Nepal (Capital/Currency):** Kathmandu/ Nepalese rupee

- President: Bidhya Devi Bhandari

## **Standard Chartered bank partners Airtel Africa for financial services in Africa**

- Standard Chartered Bank has partnered Airtel Africa to drive financial inclusion across key markets in Africa by providing customers with increased access to mobile financial services.
- The duo will work together to co-create new, innovative products aimed at enhancing the accessibility of financial services and, ultimately, better serve people across Africa.
- In line with this, Airtel Money's customers will be able to make real-time online deposits and withdrawals from Standard Chartered bank accounts, receive international money transfers directly to their wallets and access savings products amongst other services.

## PT POINTERS:

### **Standard Chartered Bank**

- Headquarters location: London, United Kingdom □ CEO: Bill Winters
- Founded: 1969, London, United Kingdom
- Owner: Temasek Holdings
- Founders: Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, Standard Bank

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## **Bharti AXA Life, SBM Bank India enter into bancassurance partnership**

- Bharti AXA Life Insurance has entered into bancassurance partnership with SBM Bank India for distribution of life insurance products through the latter's network.
- Under this agreement, Bharti AXA Life Insurance will offer its entire suite of life insurance products, including protection, health, savings and investment plans, to the customers of SBM Private Wealth, the retail banking arm of SBM Bank India.

## **Muthoot Finance, Kotak Mahindra General Insurance tie up to offer COVID-19 cover**

- Muthoot Finance has tied up with Kotak Mahindra General Insurance to offer COVID-19 insurance cover of up to Rs 1 lakh against gold loan.
- Muthoot Finance Ayush Gold Loan is an exclusive initiative of Muthoot Group through which they will provide complimentary COVID-19 insurance cover to their eligible customers.
- This cover however will be available only for the customers availing gold loan under the Super Loan scheme.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Muthoot Finance**

- Headquarters: Kochi
- Founder: M George Muthoot
- Founded: 1939, Kerala

#### **Kotak Mahindra General Insurance**

- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: 2015
- MD & CEO: Mahesh Balasubramanian
- Parent organization: Kotak Mahindra Bank

## **Reliance Retail acquires majority stake in online pharmacy Netmeds for Rs 620 crore**

- Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL), the subsidiary company of Mukesh Ambani owned Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has acquired a majority equity stake in online pharmacy Vitalic Health Pvt Ltd and its subsidiaries (commonly known as Netmeds) for a cash consideration of around Rs 620 crore (\$83.08 million).
- This investment represents 60 percent holding in the equity share capital of Vitalic and 100 percent direct equity ownership of its subsidiaries namely Tresara Health Private Ltd, Netmeds Market Place Ltd and Dadha Pharma Distribution Pvt Ltd.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **RIL**

- CEO: Mukesh Ambani

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- Founder: Dhirubhai Ambani
- Founded: 8 May 1973, Maharashtra
- Owner: Mukesh Ambani (47.35%)

## **Airtel Payments Bank, Bharti AXA partner to offer 'shop insurance' for retailers**

Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with Bharti AXA General Insurance to offer "Smart Plan Shop Package Policy" for the financial protection of the bank's retailers and merchants.

- The policy will provide financial protection in case of damage to assets inside the shop due to fire and allied perils and burglary, among others, as covered in the product.
- This policy covers assets inside the shop against burglary, fire and allied perils such as flood, earthquake, landslide, rockslide, riots, strike and malicious damage, among others.
- It also covers the loss of money in safety because of an accident. The policy has a flexible sum insured option, starting from Rs 2 lakh up to Rs 25 lakh.

## **Andhra Pradesh teams up with NPCI for digital payments in hinterlands**

- Andhra Pradesh government has announced teaming up with the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) and Canara Bank to empower over 15,000 village and ward secretariats with digital payments in the rural areas.
- The initiative, aimed at providing impetus to digital payments among last-mile customers towards financial inclusion was launched by the chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, introducing UPI QR code in 15,004 village and ward secretariats.
- The government has also designated a Digital Assistant, who will facilitate UPI payments for rural customers in the villages and transfer money to a common pool account where it is supposed to be credited. **PT POINTERS:**

### **NPCI**

- Headquarters location: Mumbai
- Founded: 2008
- Number of employees: 1,000
- Type of business: Section 8 Company
- Founders: Reserve Bank of India, Indian Banks' Association

## **Edelweiss Tokio Life partners with Element AI for AI transformation journey**

- Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance has partnered with Element AI, a global developer of artificial intelligencepowered (AI) solutions and products, to develop a strategic AI roadmap for the new-age insurer and prioritise investments.
- The Element AI Advisory and Enablement team will work closely with Edelweiss Tokio Life to create an actionable roadmap for strategic AI deployment for the company, which will ultimately support a detailed AI transformation plan.

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- This work will utilize unique learnings and insights from Element AI to establish technical feasibility and identify AI use cases.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance**

- CEO: Sumit Rai
- Founded: 2009
- Parent organization: Edelweiss Financial Services Limited

### **AIFF signs MoU with IPSO to conduct online scouting workshops in India**

- All India Football Federation (AIFF) has signed a two-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Professional Scouting Organisation (IPSO) to deliver a number of courses and webinars with regards to scouting in India.
- The first of these online workshops are set to take place from September 7 to 11, which will include a twohour session each of the four days starting at 7 pm IST every day.
- Ministry of Skill Development, Ministry of Shipping ink MoU for skill development in port & maritime sector.
- A Memorandum of Understanding, MoU was signed between Ministry of Skill Development and Ministry of Shipping today for skill development in port and maritime sector.
- The MoU is aimed at skilling, re-skilling and up-skilling manpower for the growing maritime industry and development of coastal community.
- this MoU will reinforce the commitment of Coastal Community Development under Sagar Mala programme of Ministry of Shipping and nurture the skilled manpower for the development of ports and maritime sector of India and globally.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **All India Football Federation**

- President: Praful Patel
- Founded: 23 June 1937
- Headquarters: Dwarka, Delhi

### **India, Israel sign cultural agreement to further boost people-to-people ties**

- India and Israel signed a cultural agreement that outlines a three-year programme of cooperation to further strengthen their strategic bilateral relations today. It aims to promote greater people-to-people exchanges.
- The agreement was signed by Israel's Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi and India's Ambassador to Israel, Sanjeev Singla, at the foreign ministry in Jerusalem.
- The programme of cooperation between the two countries for the years 2020-23 is based on the cultural agreement signed between them on May 18, 1993.

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- The major areas of cooperation identified to promote cultural ties include the exchange of culture and art experts, encouraging cooperation in the protection of cultural heritage and archaeology.
- It also includes student exchanges through scholarships, encouraging the participation of films and filmmakers in each other's international film festivals, devising youth exchange programmes and encouraging sports-related interaction among youth.

## **PT POINTERS:**

**Israel (Capital/Currency):** Jerusalem/ Israeli Shekel

- President: Reuven Rivlin

## **Ministry of Tourism signed MoU with TAAI and FLO to promote tourism as sustainable livelihood model**

□ The Union Minister of State for Tourism (IC), Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was virtually signed today by the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) and FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) with the Ministry of Tourism for women empowerment.

## **Highlights:**

- The MoU gives us an opportunity to increase participation of women in the tourism sector.
- It will make them an integral part of the tourism workforce of the country.
- The MoU provision will create awareness, along with state tourism departments and state tourism corporations.

## **Uttar Pradesh Govt Inks Deal with Israel for Bundelkhand water crisis solution**

- The Government of Uttar Pradesh has signed a 'plan of cooperation' with the Government of Israel for the management of water resources in Bundelkhand region of the state, which faces potable water shortage in summers.
- The plan of cooperation for the 'India –Israel – Bundelkhand Water Project' was signed by the Israeli ambassador to India, Ron Malka, and UP's Agriculture Production Commissioner Alok Sinha on 20 August, the day on which 'India Day' is celebrated in Israel.
- The agreement has been signed for a period of two years and will be extended later.
- The Bundelkhand Water Project comprises of three key components – water conservation, water efficient transportation and advanced water practices for agriculture.
- Under this project 28 districts across the country, including two in Uttar Pradesh, have been selected.
- In the first phase, 25 villages in Babina block of Jhansi district had been selected.
- The project will provide farmers of the Bundelkhand region with latest farming technologies, including drip irrigation.
- The water reservoir of Pahuj dam in Jhansi will be enabled with integrated drip irrigation.

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# UPPSC- CURRENT AFFAIRS SPECIAL

## Uttar Pradesh:

- Statehood Day: January 26, 1950
- Capital: Lucknow
- Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath
- Governor: Anandiben Patel
- Literacy Rate: 67.68%
- Nation Park: Dudhwa National Park

## IIT Roorkee signs MoU with BIS to work on standardisation and conformity assessment activities

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to carry out activities in the field of standardisation and conformity assessment.
- As part of the collaboration, both bodies will work on civil, electrical, mechanical, chemical, earthquake engineering, development and management of water resources and renewable energy projects, infrastructure development, medical biotechnology and nanotechnology, and biomaterials, among others.

## Atal Innovation Mission partners with India-Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre to expand startup ecosystem

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and Business Sweden on behalf of India Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre are collaborating to promote the disruptive potential of Indian entrepreneurs, and boost the vibrant start-up ecosystem across the country.
- A virtual Statement of Intent (SoI) was signed between AIM and India-Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre in New Delhi.
- The Innovation Centre aims to create an ecosystem of open innovation and is built under strategic guidance from Government of India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Government of Sweden's Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and Embassy of Sweden in India.

## IIM Kozhikode signs MoU with Switzerland-based HELP Logistics

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed by the Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIM-K) with the Switzerland-based HELP Logistics.
- The partnership between the two entities seeks to produce humanitarian logistics in India and the region by offering consulting services as well as logistics training for the humanitarian community such as United Nations bodies, government institutions and non-governmental organisations.

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## Flipkart Enters Into 'Strategic Partnership' With Nepal's Sastodeal

- Walmart-owned Flipkart said it has entered into a strategic partnership with Nepal's Sastodeal, a move that will help lakhs of Flipkart sellers get access to the neighbouring country's e-commerce market.
- Under the partnership, Sastodeal will host over 5,000 products from Flipkart marketplace sellers operating across the categories of baby care and kids, audio devices, men's clothing, women's ethnic wear, and sports and fitness, among others, in turn opening access to Nepalese customers. **PT POINTERS:**

### Flipkart

- Founded: October 2007, Bengaluru
- CEO: Kalyan Krishnamurthy
- Founders: Sachin Bansal, Binny Bansal
- Parent organization: Walmart

## KVG Bank inks pact with SBI General Insurance

- The Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank (KVGB) and SBI General Insurance Co Ltd have signed an MoU to sell general insurance products through the branches of KVGB.
- The customers of KVGB will get access to bouquet of products that can cover their health, home, motor, property through the range of solutions that the company offers.
- The bank is committed to rural development and to bring an improvement of the social fabric of rural people, apart from undertaking its usual business.

### **PT POINTERS:**

### Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank

- Headquarters: Dharwad
- Founded: 12 September 2005
- Sponsored by: Canara Bank

## India and AIIB sign agreement for \$500 million for Mumbai Urban Transport Project-III

- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has signed a loan agreement (with Government of India, the Government of Maharashtra and Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation) for a \$500 million Mumbai Urban Transport Project-III.
- The aim is to improve the network capacity, service quality and safety of the suburban railway system in Mumbai.
- With a population of 22.8 million (2011), Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) is the most populous metropolitan region in India and is expected to reach 29.3 million by 2031 and 32.1 million by 2041. **PT POINTERS:**

### AIIB

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- Headquarters: Beijing, China
- Region served: Asia and Oceania
- Membership: 102 Members
- Main organ: Board of Governors; Board of Directors
- Purpose: Crediting
- President: Jin Lique

## **RBL Bank partners Accenture to accelerate its Digital Journey**

- Private lender, RBL Bank has selected Accenture to enhance its IT systems and processes to support its objective of becoming a truly digital bank.
- Accenture will provide managed services enabling RBL Bank to modernize and consolidate its large and disparate environment and help in streamlining and automate key business processes like finance and compliance, human resources and sales.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **RBL**

- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: August 1943
- Subsidiaries: RBL FinServe Ltd., RBL Bank Ltd., Asset Management Arm

## **CCI approves Siemens' acquisition of C&S Electric**

- Fair trade regulator Competition Commission of India (CCI) said it approved the proposed acquisition of C&S Electric by Siemens.
- As per a statement issued by Siemens in January, it had inked an agreement to acquire 99 per cent equity in New Delhi-based C&S Electric for around Rs 2,100 crore.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **Competition Commission of India**

- Website: cci.gov.in
- Founded: 14 October 2003
- Objectives: Enforce The Competition Act, 2002 throughout India, MORE
- Jurisdiction: India
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- First executive: Dhanendra Kumar

## **TVS Automobile Solutions selects Google Cloud as technology partner**

- TVS Automobile Solutions Ltd, part of the USD 8.5 billion TVS Group has selected Google Cloud as its technology partner to build its digital transformation strategy.

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- Through this partnership, TVS Automobile Solutions Ltd would advance its goal of creating a 'digital ecosystem' empowering thousands of small entrepreneurs across automotive retailers and garages.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **TVS Automobile Solutions Ltd**

- Founded: 2009
- Parent organization: T V Sundram Iyengar & Sons Private Limited

### **CMIA partnered with UNDP to set up help desk for MSMEs**

- Chamber of Marathwada Industries and Agriculture (CMIA) partnered with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on 24 August to set up help desk for MSMEs amid Covid-19.
- The partnership aims to establish Covid-19 help desk in order to facilitate Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The help desk will be active till January 2021.
- The Covid-19 help desk will provide various information on government safety guidelines, regulatory norms and government Covid-19 response schemes and support measures.
- It will provide support to MSMEs through in-person and phone consultation

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **UNDP**

- Headquarters: New York, New York, United States
- Founded: 22 November 1965, United States
- Head: Achim Steiner
- Parent organization: United Nations Economic and Social Council
- Awards: Shorty Social Good Award for Best in Live Events
- Nominations: Latin American Green Award: Human Development

### **APEDA signs MoUs with AFC India, NCUI to synergize the activities in the interest of agriculture and allied sectors**

- Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has signed Memorandum of understanding (MoUs) with AFC India Limited, and National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), Delhi.
- The MoU aims to utilise their expertise by mutually working together to synergize the activities in the interest of agriculture and allied sectors for bringing better value to the stakeholders. **PT POINTERS:**

### **APEDA**

- Founded: 1986

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## **Tech Mahindra partners with Niti Aayog to empower women entrepreneurs**

- IT major Tech Mahindra announced collaboration with NITI Aayog to empower women entrepreneurs in the country.
- Tech Mahindra will provide mentorship, co-create solutions leveraging new age technologies and support in developing a go-to-market strategy.
- As part of the collaboration, Tech Mahindra has partnered with the winners of Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards, an initiative of the Niti Aayog, to recognise women leaders in entrepreneurship across various sectors **PT POINTERS:**

### **TechMahindra**

- CEO: C. P. Gurnani
- Parent organization: Mahindra Group
- Headquarters: Pune
- Founder: Anand Mahindra

## **NeGD signs MoU with CSC E-Governance Services India Limited**

- The National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) has partnered with CSC (Common Service Center) e Governance Services India Limited.
- The partnership aims to enable delivery of UMANG services to citizens through the network of 3.75 lakh CSCs.
- The CSC operators Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) will facilitate citizens to use e-Governance services of 140 Departments with the help of UMANG App.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **CSC (Common Service Center)**

- Founder: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- Founded: 16 July 2009
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Key person: Dinesh Tyagi
- Type of business: Publicly listed company

## **POWERGRID Signs MoU with ACTREC for Construction of Operation Theater Complex in Navi Mumbai**

- The Power Grid Corporation (POWERGRID), an enterprise under the government of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with TATA Memorial Centre (TMC) – Advanced Centre for Treatment Research & Education in Cancer (ACTREC), under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) for the construction of “POWERGRID OT Complex” a modular operation theatre complex in Navi Mumbai.

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#### **ACTREC:**

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- Director: Sudeep Gupta
- Location: Kharghar, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra **Power Grid Corporation:**
- CMD: K Sreekant
- Headquarters: Gurgaon, Haryana

## **Greenko Energies Signs MoU with NTPC for Renewable Energy Power Solutions**

- Greenko Energies Private Limited, Hyderabad based energy solution provider entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN), a wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC limited to explore renewable energy power supply solution and energy storage.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Greenko Energies:**

- Founder, CEO & MD: Anil Kumar Chalamalasetty
- Founder, President & Joint MD: Mahesh Kolli
- Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana

#### **NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam(NVVN):**

- CEO: Mohit Bhargava

□ Headquarters:

New Delhi **ISRO**

**Signs MoU with**

**VSSUT**

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT), Burla, Odisha, a technical institute, to set up the first of its kind innovation cum incubation centre, VSSUT Space Innovation Centre (VSSIC) in India to promote space research.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **ISRO:**

- Chairman: K.Sivan
- Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka **VSSUT:**
- Vice Chancellor: Atal Chaudhuri
- Location: Sambalpur, Odisha

## **Government to sell up to 15% stake in HAL to raise Rs 5,000**

- The Centre will sell up to 15% stake in state-owned defence unit Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) which will help it mop up about Rs 5,000 crore.
- The government will sell 33.4 million shares, or 10% of its stakes to retail investors. **PT**

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# UPPSC- CURRENT AFFAIRS SPECIAL

## HAL

- Founder: Walchand Hirachand
- Founded: 23 December 1940, Bengaluru
- Headquarters: Bengaluru

## Haryana Government inks MoU with M3M Foundation to facilitate students' online preparation for government jobs

- A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Haryana employment department and M3M Foundation to facilitate students for online preparation for government jobs.
- The objective of the MoU is to build and strengthen the partnership between both institutions to enable students to access quality preparation for entrance examinations of government jobs.
- Through this MoU, a program will be run to select 50,000 candidates for online training based on their past performance in government examinations in the state.

## PT POINTERS:

### Haryana:

- Capital: Chandigarh
- Chief Minister: Manohar Lal Khattar
- Governor: Satyadev Narayan Arya
- National Park: Sultanpur National Park, Kalesar National Park

## IIT Alumni Council partners with Russia to build world's largest & fastest hybrid quantum computer

- With the objective to achieve the mission of Atma Nirbhar Bharat, the Indian Institute of Technology's (IITs) Alumni Council has signed an agreement with Russian state-owned companies, Lomonosov Moscow State University and Russoft, to build the world's largest and fastest hybrid quantum computer in India.
- The agreement aims to access and transfer key technologies from Russia to IIT Alumni Council such as critical modules in cryogenics, cryptography and modularised cloud management technology.
- These technologies will be used to support solutions for solving infrastructure challenges in areas such as healthcare, agriculture, transport and logistics, pollution and weather forecast.
- Quantum Computing is several million times faster than the largest supercomputer in India, and once operational it will make existing supercomputers obsolete.

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## IIT Alumni Council:

- President: Ravi Sharma
- Headquarter: New Delhi **Russoft:**
- President: Valentin Makarov
- Headquarter: St.Petersburg, Russia

## **HDFC Bank & Adobe partners to enhance digital customer experiences**

- HDFC Bank has announced a strategic partnership with Adobe to enhance the Digital Experiences of its Customers.
- The partnership is powered by Adobe Experience Cloud Solutions and will help HDFC Bank to deliver personalised digital experiences to existing as well as new customers, at anytime and anywhere.
- The Bank will use platforms like Data Management Platform in Adobe Audience Manager to develop a deep understanding of the customers. **PT POINTERS:**

## **HDFC Bank**

- CEO: Aditya Puri
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: August 1994, India
- Parent organization: Housing Development Finance Corporation

## **Ericsson & UNICEF Partnered to Map School Internet Connectivity in 35 Countries**

- Ericsson partnered with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to map internet connectivity landscape for schools in 35 countries by the end of 2023 to provide digital learning access to the children.
- This joint initiative is a part of the Giga initiative launched by UNICEF and International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in September 2019 to provide internet connection to every school and their surrounding communities.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **Ericsson:**

- President and CEO: Börje Ekholm
- Headquarters: Stockholm, Sweden **UNICEF:**
- Executive Director: Henrietta Holsman Fore
- Headquarter: New York, United States (US)

## **Greenko Energies signs MoU with NTPC for RE power solutions**

- Energy solutions provider Greenko Energies has entered into an agreement with NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam to explore energy storage and renewable energy power supply solutions.

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- The objective of the partnership is to explore the possibility of development of renewable energy based round-the-clock, flexible and dispatchable power supply offering based on integration of RE sources and pumped storage projects.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **NTPC**

- Founded: 1975
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Owner: Government of India
- Organization type: State-owned enterprise
- Purpose: Electricity generation and distribution natural gas exploration, production, transportation and distribution

### **Innoviti partners with Visa to develop installments platform for face-to-face transactions**

- Innoviti announced that it had entered a partnership with Visa, the leader in payments technology to develop a platform that will enable issuers to extend credit to their cardholders at face-to-face point-of-sale (In India).
- It provides shoppers the ability to choose how they pay during the purchase with the introduction of a suite of platform capabilities leveraging Innoviti's uniPAYNEXT platform and Visa's APIs.
- Innoviti and Visa plan to collaborate and pilot a variety of installment use cases as part of this partnership going forward.

### **Mahindra inks pacts with Israeli firm to develop electric commercial vehicles**

- Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) has inked a pact with Tel Aviv-based REE Automotive to explore production of electric commercial vehicles for global markets.
- The strategic collaboration will leverage REE's revolutionary electric vehicle corner module and platform technology of integrating powertrain, suspension and steering components in the arch of a vehicle wheel.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M)**

- Parent organization: Mahindra Group
- CEO: Anand Mahindra
- Founded: 2 October 1945, Ludhiana
- Founders: Malik Ghulam Muhammad, Jagdish Chandra Mahindra, Kailash Chandra Mahindra

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## Reliance buys Kishore Biyani's Future retail for Rs 24,713 crore

- Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL), subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited will buy Kishore Biyani's Future retail for Rs 24,713 crore.
- The first step in this acquisition will be the merger of five Future Group's listed entities including Future Retail, Future Lifestyle and Future Consumer – into Future Enterprises (FEL).
- FEL will then sell the retail, wholesale business, logistics and warehouse business as a slump sale to Reliance Retail and Fashion Lifestyle Limited (RRFLL). RRFLL is a subsidiary of RRVL which in turn is a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited.
- This acquisition is subject to SEBI, CCI, NCLT, shareholders, creditors, and other requisite approvals. **PT POINTERS:**

### RIL

- CEO: Mukesh Ambani
- Founder: Dhirubhai Ambani
- Founded: 8 May 1973, Maharashtra
- Owner: Mukesh Ambani (47.35%)

## ITC plans to merge three subsidiaries including Sunrise Foods with itself

- ITC on Friday said it is considering merger of its three wholly-owned subsidiaries - Sunrise Foods, Hobbits International Foods and Sunrise Sheetgrah - with itself.
- A board meeting of the company has been convened for this on September 4, 2020, ITC informed in a regulatory filing.
- The Board of Directors of the Company will consider a proposal for amalgamation of Sunrise Foods Private Limited, Hobbits International Foods Private Limited and Sunrise Sheetgrah Private Limited, wholly-owned subsidiaries, with the Company, at its meeting convened for Friday, September 4, 2020. **PT POINTERS:**

### ITC

- CEO: Sanjiv Puri
- Founded: 24 August 1910, Kolkata
- Headquarters: Kolkata

## September 2020 – Important MoUs & Agreements

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# UPPSC- CURRENT AFFAIRS SPECIAL

## **Vedanta Tied Up with SBI for Long Term Syndicated Loan of Rs.10000 Crore**

- Vedanta announced it tie up for a long-term syndicated loan facility for Rs.10000 crore with State bank of India (SBI).
- This loan increases the average debt maturity profile of Vedanta limited and also improves the liquidity ratios as the near-term maturities are replaced by a long-term loan.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Vedanta Limited:**

- Chief Executive Officer (CEO): Sunil Duggal
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra **State Bank of India (SBI):**
- Chairman: Rajnish Kumar.
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Tagline: The banker to every Indian; With you all the way; Purely banking nothing else; The nation banks on us.

## **Adani Group buys 74% stake in Mumbai International Airport**

- Adani Group has acquired 74% stake in Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL) that operates Mumbai Airport. Mumbai Airport is the second largest airport in India.
- Under this, Adani Group will acquire 50.5% stake of GVK group.
- Additionally, Adani will also acquire 23.5% stake of minority partners Airport Company of South Africa (ACSA) and Bidvest.
- The acquisition will also give Adani's ownership of the upcoming Navi Mumbai airport in which MIAL holds 74% stake. **PT POINTERS:**

### **Adani Group**

- Founder: Gautam Adani
- Founded: 20 July 1988
- Headquarters: Ahmedabad
- Parent organization: S.B. Adani Family Trust

## **L&T sells electrical and automation business to Schneider Electric**

- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has completed the sale of its electrical and automation business to Schneider Electric in an all-cash deal worth nearly ₹ 14,000 crore.
- About 5,000 employees of L&T's electrical and automation business will join Schneider Electric.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)**

- Headquarters: Mumbai
- CEO: S N Subrahmanyam

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- Founded: 7 February 1938, Mumbai
- Founders: Henning Holck-Larsen, Søren Kristian Toubro

## **India, France discuss to provide Mission Alpha-like equipment for Gaganyaan Mission**

- India and France are in discussions to provide Mission Alpha-like equipment to astronauts involved in the 'Gaganyaan' mission.
- As per the National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) of France, the discussions are in the final stage. □ Mission Alpha is the name of French Astronaut Thomas Pesquet's mission wherein he will be sent to International Space Station (ISS) on Crew Dragon spacecraft next year.

### **PT POINTERS:**

**France (Capital/Currency):** Paris/ Euro, CFP franc

- Prime Minister: Jean Castex
- President: Emmanuel Macron

## **Brookfield gets govt's approval for purchase of Reliance telecom tower assets**

- India's government has approved Brookfield Asset Management Inc.'s proposal to acquire a 252 billion rupees (\$3.4 billion) stake in a trust that manages the wireless infrastructure of the nation's biggest mobilephone service provider Reliance Jio Infratel Pvt. through Tower Infrastructure Trust.
- The investment is in the form of over Rs 105 crore in equity and the remainder as debt. **PT**

### **POINTERS:**

### **RIL:**

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman & Managing Director: Mukesh D. Ambani

### **Brookfield Infrastructure Partners L.P**

- Headquarters: Toronto, Canada
- CEO: Sam Pollock (Managing Partner of Brookfield)

## **Federal Bank partnered with Innoviti to provide Affordable Options of Federal Bank Debit Cards**

- Federal Bank partnered with Innoviti to provide Affordable Options of Federal Bank Debit Cards through Innoviti Point of Sale (POS) terminals.
- Through this partnership customers can access the credit, which can be repaid in convenient Equated Monthly Installments (EMIs) through their Federal Bank Debit Card.

### **PT POINTERS:**

**Innoviti Payment Solutions Pvt. Ltd:**

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- Registered office: Bangalore, Karnataka
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO): Rajeev Agrawal **Federal Bank:**
- Headquarters: Aluva, Kerala
- Managing Director (MD) & CEO: Shyam Srinivasan
- Tagline: Your Perfect Banking Partner

## **MoU between India and Japan on cooperation in Textiles**

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Textiles Committee, India and M/s Nissenken Quality Evaluation Centre, Japan for improving quality and testing of Indian textiles and Clothing for the Japanese market.
- The MoU would enable Japan in assigning Textile Committee as their cooperative Testing and Inspection service providers in India for Textiles & Apparel products including Technical Textiles and any other products for both domestic and overseas buyers.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **Japan (Capital/Currency):** Tokyo/ Japanese yen

- President: Shinzo Abe

## **In US, Amazon granted approval to deliver packages by drones**

- The Federal Aviation Administration has granted Amazon approval to deliver packages by drones.
- The online shopping giant has been working on drone delivery for years.
- Amazon unveiled self-piloting drones that are fully electric in 2019 which can carry 5 pounds of goods and are designed to deliver items in 30 minutes by dropping them in a backyard.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **Amazon**

- CEO: Jeff Bezos
- Founder: Jeff Bezos
- Founded: 5 July 1994, Bellevue, Washington, United States
- Headquarters: Seattle, Washington, United States

## **India, Russia finalise deal to manufacture AK-47 203 Rifles**

- India and Russia on September 3, 2020 finalised a deal to manufacture AK-47 203 rifles in India.
- The deal was finalised during the ongoing visit of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to Russia.
- The AK-47 203 Rifles will be made in India under the joint venture Indo-Russia Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL), which was established between the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), Rosoboronexport and the Kalashnikov Concern.

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- The OFB will own around 50.5% majority stake in IRRPL, Kalashnikov Group will own 42% and Rosoboronexport will own 7.5% stake.
- The AK-47 203 Rifle of 7.62×39 mm will be manufactured at Uttar Pradesh's Korwa Ordnance Factory that was inaugurated by PM Modi in 2019.

## **PT POINTERS:**

**Russia (Capital/Currency):** Moscow/ Russian Rouble

- President: Vladimir Putin

## **Andhra Pradesh signs MoU with CSIR-IICT on Bulk Drug Park**

- The Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Ltd (APIIC) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT) as a step forward in the direction of setting up a Bulk Drug Park (BDP) under a scheme by the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, Department of Pharmaceuticals
- The objective of the MoU is to develop a collaborative partnership between the State government and CSIR-IICT to establish Bulk Drug Pharma park in the State □ It seeks financial support from the Centre.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **CSIR**

- Director General : Shekhar C. Mande
- Headquarters : New Delhi

## **Rajasthan government signed a MoU with ShriVallabh Pittie (SVP) International Group**

- Rajasthan government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ShriVallabh Pittie (SVP) International Group to develop projects for textile, defence and aerospace.
- Through this MoU, SVP will invest Rs 4000 crore for the projects, which will create employment opportunities for about 4000 people.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **Rajasthan**

- Statehood Day: 30 March 1949
- Capital: Jaipur
- Chief Minister: Ashok Gehlot
- Governor: Kalraj Mishra

## **SIDBI, Maharashtra Govt Inked Pact to Develop MSME Ecosystem**

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Maharashtra to develop the micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) ecosystem in the state.

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- As a part of MoU, Project Management Unit (PMU) will be deployed by SIDBI in Maharashtra.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI):**

- Chairman & Managing Director (CMD): Mohammad Mustafa
- Headquarter: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

### **Infosys to acquire US based engineering firm 'Kaleidoscope Communication'**

- Infosys to acquire US based engineering firm 'Kaleidoscope Communication' for \$ 42 million (Rs 308 crore).
- This is the second acquisition of Infosys after it acquired Simplus, a Salesforce consulting and advisory firm for \$250 million.
- The acquisition of Kaleidoscope Communication is expected to strengthen the firm's health-tech vertical which witnessed a robust growth amidst the COVID pandemic. **PT**

## **POINTERS:**

### **Infosys**

- Founded: 7 July 1981, Pune
- CEO: Salil Parekh
- Headquarters: Bengaluru

### **WhatsApp Partners with CyberPeace Foundation to create awareness on cyber safety among students**

- The Facebook-owned WhatsApp has entered into a partnership with the cyber security think tank CyberPeace Foundation to create awareness on cyber safety among students.
- The awareness campaign has been launched under the “e-Raksha” programme and will be implemented in phases.
- In the first phase 15,000 students will be covered in five regions by the end of 2020. They include Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Maharashtra.
- The need for this awareness campaign was felt as students spend more time online and so they become more vulnerable to cyber threats such as cyberbullying, stumbling across child abuse material, cybercriminals disrupting online classes, the spread of misinformation, privacy issues etc.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **CyberPeace Foundation**

- Headquarter: Delhi
- President: Vineet Kumar

### **WhatsApp**

Founded: 2009

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- Headquarters: Menlo Park, California, United States
- Acquisition date: 19 February 2014
- Founders: Jan Koum, Brian Acton
- Parent organization: Facebook

## **IIT Roorkee signs MoU with NIUA for building accessible, safe Indian cities**

- The National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee for collaboration in areas of universal design principles and inclusive development in the backdrop of 'Building Accessible Safe Inclusive Indian Cities' (BASIIC) program.
- The association will aim to leverage the technical capacities of both institutions, which will lead to creation and sharing of knowledge and resources for devising strategies in making Indian cities more accessible, safe, and inclusive for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), elderly, women, and children among others. **PT POINTERS:**

## **NIUA**

- Headquarters: Delhi
- Director: Hitesh Vaidya
- Vice President: Kunal Kumar

## **AP signs MoUs with Dutch govt, 8 others in food processing companies**

- Andhra Pradesh Govt signed MoUs with eight companies including the Netherlands government in the food processing sector.
- These MoUs will help the food processing sector of various agricultural products, including bananas, tomatoes, mangoes, sugar, chillies, vegetables, and aqua products.

## **PT POINTERS:**

## **Andhra Pradesh:**

- Capital: Amravati
- Chief Minister: Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy
- Governor: Biswabhusan Harichandan
- Literacy rate: 67.4%
- National Park: Sri Venkateswara National Park, Sri Venkateswara National Park, Papikonda National Park

## **IndiGrid completes acquisition of GPTL from Sterlite Power**

- IndiGrid has completed the acquisition of Gurgaon Palwal Transmission Limited (GPTL) from Sterlite Power for ₹ 1,080 crore.
- IndiGrid, India's first power sector InvIT, is managed by Sterlite Investment Managers Limited, wherein KKR and GIC jointly own 57 per cent in the InvIT.

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- With this acquisition, IndiGrid's AUM has increased by 9% to INR 133 Bn (USD 1.80 Bn)dxz

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **GPTL**

- Founded: 2015
- Parent organization: Sterlite Power

### **AIM partnered with Freshworks to empower AIM Startup Innovators**

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, has partnered with Freshworks Inc., a customer-engagement software company, with an aim to provide robust support to innovators and entrepreneurs in India.
- It also aims to increase the efficiency of several institutions and startups in the AIM portfolio.
- It also aims to foster innovation and entrepreneurship among startup innovators. **PT**

### **POINTERS:**

### **NITI Aayog**

- Formed: 1 January 2015
- Objectives: Foster involvement and participation in the economic policy-making process by the State Governments of India
- Jurisdiction: Government of India
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairperson: Narendra Modi

### **India-Bangladesh to hold Joint Consultative Commission meeting**

- India and Bangladesh have agreed to hold the 6th meeting of the Joint Consultative Commission (JCC) later this month.
- The 5th meeting of the JCC was held in New Delhi in February last year between Dr. A.K.Abdul Momen and the then Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj.
- During the 5th JCC last year, three MoUs/Agreements were signed to further strengthen the existing multifaceted cooperation between the two countries.
- These included the MoUs on mid-career training of Bangladesh civil servants, cooperation between AYUSH and the Ministry of Health of Bangladesh in the field of medicinal plants, and an MoU between AntiCorruption Commission (ACC) of Bangladesh and CBI.
- Another MoU was signed between Hiranandani Group and Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) to facilitate investments in the Indian Economic Zone in Mongla.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **Bangladesh (Capital/Currency):** Dhaka /Bangladeshi taka

- President: Abdul Hamid

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## World Bank's loan for Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Projects

- World Bank and the government of Himachal Pradesh signed \$82 million loan for the implementation of Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project.

## The Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project will finance initiatives with following objectives: ☐ To build climate and disaster-resilient roads.

- To improve road safety along tourism corridors in Himachal. ☐ To enhance logistics along fruit belts.
- To support the government's initiative so as to create a corporate entity responsible for ensuring wellperforming roads. **PT POINTERS:**

## World Bank

- Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
- Parent organization: World Bank Group
- Membership: 189 countries (IBRD); 173 countries (IDA) ☐ Founded: July 1944

## ADB, India signed USD 500 Million Loan for Delhi-Meerut RRTS Corridor

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India (GoI) signed a \$500 million loan on 8 September.
- The first tranche of a total \$1 billion facility will be used to build a modern, high-speed 82 Km Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor.
- It will improve regional connectivity and mobility in India's national capital region (NCR).
- The first tranche loan will support the construction of the first of three priority rail corridors planned under the NCR Regional Plan 2021 to connect Delhi to other cities in adjoining states.
- The project is aimed to provide better connectivity to allow other towns in the NCR to develop as urban economic centres surrounded by residential areas while easing the concentration pressure on Delhi. **PT POINTERS:**

## ADB

- Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines
- President: Masatsugu Asakawa
- Founded: 19 December 1966
- Membership: 68 countries

## TPT South Africa partners with TCS for logistics supply chain transformation

- Tata Consultancy Services has partnered with Transnet Port Terminals in South Africa to help the latter develop an integrated online marketplace platform by bringing together cargo owners, shipping lines, clearing and forwarding agents, and road/rail haulers.

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- A new platform named 'Cargo Connect', which will function as an online logistics marketplace where customers can submit logistics related requests and allow service providers to bid online.
- Customers will be able to select the preferred proposal and award the cargo contract to that bidder.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **TCS**

- CEO: Rajesh Gopinathan
- Founded: 1 April 1968
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founders: Faquir Chand Kohli, Tata Sons, J. R. D. Tata

### **CSIR-CMERI Durgapur and NISE, Gurugram sign an MoU as a Strategic Association to bolster the Solar Energy Sector**

- CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), Durgapur and National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), Gurugram joined hands by signing an online Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as a 'Strategic Association' to bolster the Solar Energy sector across
- CSIR-CMERI has expertise in design and development of various capacity Solar Artifacts for multifaceted uses ranging from fulfilling localized energy demand to boosting Agricultural sector for irrigation, solar powered agro dryer, de-centralized solar cold storage, charging of battery-operated agricultural machineries etc.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **CSIR-CMERI**

- Director: Harish Hirani
- Founded: 26 February 1958

### **NSDC and LinkedIn partner to accelerate digital skills training for Indian youth**

- National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and LinkedIn, the world's largest online professional networks, have joined hands to provide access to free LinkedIn Learning resources for digital skills.
- Under the partnership, 10 free LinkedIn Learning paths, consisting of 140 courses for a range of in-demand tech jobs, will be made available for free on eSkill India digital platform until 31st March, 2021.
- The LinkedIn and NSDC collaboration aim to enable a future-ready digital workforce.

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- Each learning path includes a series of video content designed to help job-seekers develop the core digital skills needed for an in-demand tech role, covering a broad range of skills from entry-level digital literacy to advanced product-based skills.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **NSDC**

- CEO: Manish Kumar
- Headquarters location: New Delhi
- Founded: 2008
- CFO: Prakash Sharma

### **Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission and NESFB sign MoU**

- Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission (ASRLM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB) to work in cohesion in support of Bank Linkage of the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Producer Groups/ Enterprises under ASRLM.
- ASRLM is the first amongst all the State Livelihood Missions to initiate the signing of MoU with the new generation small finance banks.
- This collaboration of ASRLM and NESFB will cater to the financial needs of many SHG members, other higher-level federation like VOs, CLFs, Producer Groups, Producer Collectives etc. to kick-start their dream projects of livelihood enhancement.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **North East Small Finance Bank Limited**

- Founded: 2016
- Parent organization: RGVN (North East) Microfinance Limited

### **STEPapp collaborates with the Tribal Development Department, Govt of India in bringing gamified learning to underprivileged students**

- STEPapp (Student Talent Enhancement Program Application) has received a mandate from the Indian Ministry of Tribal Affairs to implement its gamified learning app across all Tribal Schools in India in a landmark development.
- This is the first time a government institution has tied up with an Indian EdTech startup on a monetised project.
- This initiative will benefit more than 1.5 lakh students from grades 1st-12th across the country immediately and will expand the scope in the coming years.
- Through this association, STEPapp will enhance the students' performance in school exams as well as in competitive exams.

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- This will also enable schools to measure the students' learning outcomes through dashboards.

☐ The content provided will be in the English language.

## **WE HUB & NutriHub partner to Scale-up Agriculture Businesses**

- WE HUB, India's first state-led incubator to foster and promote women entrepreneurship to start-up, scale-up and accelerate with global market access, announced its partnership with NutriHub, first of its kind incubator to cater start-ups needs in the Nutricereals sector.
- The partnership will initiate virtual co-incubation for women-led start-ups in the agripreneurship space.
- NutriHub, through its existing R&D facility, will support WE HUB start-ups with technical advice, testing, product development, access to laboratories, equipment, and technical staff.
- WE HUB and NutriHub will also collaborate in conducting start-up related events, workshops, to generate interest among potential start-ups.
- These programs will enable women, entrepreneurs to gain a deeper understanding of the industry landscape, hence helping them scale-up and sustain in the ecosystem.

## **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance joins hands with NSDL Payments Bank to offer insurance products**

- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance joined hands with NSDL Payments Bank to provide its products to customers of payments bank.  
These insurance products will enable NSDL Payments Bank customers to provide financial security to their families and help them achieve their financial goals.
- Under this agreement, the private insurer will be able to cover the uninsured population of the country by offering its innovative and easy to understand life insurance POS products on NSDL Payment Bank's exhaustive point of sale (POS) network, across the country.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance**

- CEO: N. S. Kannan
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: 2000
- Parent organization: ICICI Bank

#### **NSDL**

- Headquarters location: Mumbai
- CEO: G.V. Nageswara Rao
- Founded: 8 August 1996

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## UNICEF India and Indian youth icon Ayushmann Khurrana join hands to advocate for Child Rights

- UNICEF India announced popular Indian film actor and thought-leader, Ayushmann Khurrana, as its celebrity advocate for promoting rights #ForEveryChild.
- Ayushmann Khurrana will support UNICEF towards its work around ending violence against children. **PT POINTERS:**

### UNICEF

- Headquarters: New York, New York, United States
- Head: Henrietta H. Fore
- Founded: 11 December 1946, New York, New York, United States
- Founders: United Nations General Assembly, Ludwik Rajchman **India, U.S. and Israel collaborating in 5G tech**
- India, Israel and the United States have begun collaboration in developmental area, and in next generation of emerging technologies, including a transparent, open, reliable and secure 5G communication network.
- It was announced at the virtual US-India-Israel summit that focused on trilateral partnerships in the strategic, technology and development arenas.
- The branching out of this trilateral initiative in development and technological arena is a result of the people-to-people collaboration, in particular those by Indian diaspora in the US and Israel, that was initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his historic visit to Israel three years ago in July 2017.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Israel (Capital/Currency):** Jerusalem/ Israeli Shekel

- President: Reuven Rivlin

#### **India and US review progress in bilateral ties in defence, security and foreign policy areas**

- India and the United States held a bilateral 22 Inter-sessional meeting at the official level in virtual mode.
- Both sides reviewed the progress and developments in bilateral ties in defence, security, and foreign policy areas since the last 22 Ministerial meeting held on 18th December last year in Washington DC.
- They explored opportunities for enhancing ongoing cooperation in these fields based on mutual interest.
- They also exchanged views about regional developments and agreed to pursue their quest for a free, open, inclusive, peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **US (Capital/Currency):** Washington, D.C./ United States Dollar

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- President: Donald Trump

## HCL Technologies joins NVIDIA partner network, will pursue opportunities in AI space

- HCL Technologies (HCL), a leading global technology company, today announced it has joined NVIDIA Partner Network (NPN), the US-based technology company's partner program, with plans to pursue expanded opportunities in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) space.
- HCL also announced the launch of NEXT.ai, HCL's AI Lab, focused on upskilling engineers and architects utilizing AI solutions across hardware and software technology stacks.
- This will enhance their capabilities to build AI-led solutions for multiple HCL clients across industry verticals.
- The HCL NEXT.ai lab focuses on emerging technologies to develop industry-specific AI solutions for customers pursuing digital transformation.
- Customers and partners can co-create proofs of concept and full-fledged, scalable and production-ready solutions in the lab.

## PT POINTERS:

### HCL

- CEO: C Vijayakumar
- Founded: 11 August 1976
- Headquarters: Noida
- Founders: Shiv Nadar, Arjun Malhotra
- Parent organization: HCL Enterprise

## ADB, ENGIE sign \$466 loan for developing solar project in Gujarat

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and France's ENGIE group have signed a long-term loan of up to ~~₹466 crore~~ **\$466 million** for setting up a 200 MW solar project in Gujarat.
- Electro Solaire Private Limited (ESPL), a special purpose vehicle owned by the ENGIE group, will implement the project.
- ESPL is collaborating with the Gujarat government to construct the project and has signed a power purchase agreement for 25 years with the State government. **PT POINTERS:**

### ADB

- Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines
- President: Masatsugu Asakawa
- Founded: 19 December 1966
- Membership: 68 countries
- Purpose: Economic development

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## Microsoft joins Nasscom to skill 10 lakh students in AI by 2021

- Microsoft on Thursday joined hands with industry-driven learning ecosystem Nasscom FutureSkills to launch a nation-wide initiative that aims to skill 10 lakh students in Artificial Intelligence (AI) by 2021.
- This initiative called "AI Classroom Series" will be paced in three modules.
- The online classes will include live demos, hands-on workshops and assignments through self-learning, virtual instructor-led training, and mentoring.
- The partnership with Nasscom FutureSkills is an extension of Microsoft's global skilling initiative to help 25 million people worldwide acquire new digital skills, needed to thrive in a digital economy. **PT POINTERS:**

### Microsoft

- CEO: Satya Nadella
- Founded: 4 April 1975, Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States
- Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States
- Founders: Bill Gates, Paul Allen

### NASSCOM

- Chairperson: Keshav R Muruges
- Headquarters location: New Delhi
- Founded: 1 March 1988
- Founders: Dewang Mehta, Nandan Nilekani

## IIT Roorkee signs MoU with OUAT for cooperation in agricultural research and education

- IIT Roorkee signs MoU with OUAT for cooperation in agricultural research and education. Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT-R) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), Bhubaneswar.
- Objective: to generate frontier technologies and produce quality manpower in the field of agricultural research and education for addressing the challenges faced by the rural communities and improving their quality of life.
- The MoU was signed by Prof Ajit K Chaturvedi, Director, on behalf of IIT Roorkee and Dr Pawan Kumar Agrawal, Vice-Chancellor, OUAT.
- The MOU empowers both institutions to establish mutual relations between their scientific and technical divisions and to set up facilities for the exchange and proper placement of scientific technologists and experts.

### PT POINTERS:

### OUAT:

- Chancellor: Governor of Odisha
- Vice-Chancellor: Prof. Pawan Agarwal

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# UPPSC- CURRENT AFFAIRS SPECIAL

- Established: 1962

## **Odisha Govt signed MoU with NCDC for Promotion and Management of Farmer Producer Organisation**

- An MoU has been signed between the Government of Odisha and the National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) at Krushi Bhawan for the promotion and management of Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO).
- This MoU is based on Farmers Producer Organisation (FPO) Promotion and Management with central sector scheme.
- Under this Central scheme, NCCD will be formed Farmer Producer Organisation (FPOs) and will impart training, proper guidance to the small and marginal farmers of Odisha to face various challenges in production, technical knowhow, quality of production, optimum price realisation, credit, seed production, processing, utilisation and marketing.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **Odisha:**

- Statehood Day: 1<sup>st</sup> April 1936
- Capital: Bhubaneswar
- Governor: Ganeshi Lal
- Chief Minister: Naveen Patnaik

## **ADB, Suguna Sign \$15 Million Deal to Sustain Rural Livelihoods in India During Pandemic**

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed an agreement for \$15 million with Suguna Foods Private Limited (Suguna) to help sustain poultry farming operations, as well as rural livelihoods and food security in India during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.
- ADB's assistance will provide essential liquidity support to Suguna's operations during this COVID-19 crisis, help the company build inventory buffers and make timely payments to contract farmers and suppliers, **PT POINTERS:**

### **ADB**

- Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines
- President: Masatsugu Asakawa
- Founded: 19 December 1966
- Membership: 68 countries
- Purpose: Economic development

## **Rajasthan Partners with SIDBI to develop MSMEs**

- Industries Minister Parsadi Lal Meena said that Rajasthan's Department of Industries and Sidbi partnered on September 12, 2020 to provide financial, technical, marketing and export support to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the state. **Highlights**

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- The Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Rajasthan Government.
- It will develop to develop the MSME ecosystem in the state.
- For this purpose, MSME Act has been amended to promote industries
- The move will exempt MSME businesses from all kinds of permissions and inspections for three years.
- Also, establishing large industries will become easy with the coming of a single window one-stop shop. **PT POINTERS:**

## **SIDBI**

- Headquarters location: Lucknow
- Founded: 2 April 1990
- Chairman and Managing Director: Mohammad Mustafa

## **Liberty General Insurance Partners with SpiceJet to Offer Travel Insurance**

- Mumbai-based Liberty General Insurance has partnered with SpiceJet to offer Liberty Secure Travel' an insurance policy to consumers who book airline travel through SpiceJet's website and mobile site.
- Applicable across SpiceJet's domestic network, Liberty's new zero-cancellation service offered under the Liberty Secure Travel Policy allows Passengers can claim a full cancellation-fee reimbursement for a flightbooking made in advance not beyond 90 days.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **Liberty General Insurance**

- Headquarters: Mumbai
- CEO: Roopam Asthana
- Founded: 2013

## **Infosys to acquire GuideVision for about 30 million euros**

- IT services major Infosys will acquire Czech Republic-based GuideVision for up to 30 million euros (about Rs 260.4 crore).
- The acquisition is being carried out by Infy Consulting Company Ltd, a step-down subsidiary of Infosys Ltd.

As per the regulatory filing, the cost of acquisition is "up to 30 million euros including earn-out and bonuses.

- The acquisition is expected to close during the third quarter of FY2021, subject to customary closing conditions, it added.
- This acquisition is an important milestone in our journey to build capabilities relevant to the digital priorities of Infosys clients.

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- Infosys launched Cobalt in August 2020, which is a set of services, solutions, and platforms to help its clients, mostly large enterprises, build new cloud-first capabilities. **PT**

## **POINTERS:**

### **Infosys**

- Founded: 7 July 1981, Pune
- CEO: Salil Parekh
- Headquarters: Bengaluru

### **IIT Roorkee inks MoU with Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology for cooperation in agricultural research and education**

- Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT-R) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), Bhubaneswar to generate frontier technologies and produce quality manpower in the field of agricultural research and education for addressing the challenges faced by the rural communities and improving their quality of life.
- According to the MoU, both institutions will collaborate in research programmes where IITR and OUAT would work jointly in the field of Agriculture in the field of Genomics, Transgenics and Metabolomics, crop improvement, Information and Communication, application of Sensor in agriculture, information and communication, IT-based societal development and related aspects of Agriculture leading to the creation of rural livelihood opportunities

### **International Financial Services Centre Authority Inks Mou With India Gold Policy Centre of IIM Ahmedabad**

- International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) and India Gold Policy Centre (IGPC) – IIMA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the IFSCA, GIFT City Gandhinagar, Gujarat for providing consulting to facilitate the establishment of International Bullion Exchange in India.
- Under the memorandum of understanding (MoU), IGPC-IIMA will take a top-down approach by setting the broader vision, developing success strategies and creating the operating guidelines for the seamless functioning of the bullion exchange.

### **Brooke India signs MoU with Kamdhenu University Gujarat**

- BI has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with KU, Gujarat, for collaboration in research, training of staff and students, support studies on equine health, production and allied activities which would benefit the equine and their owners and other relevant stakeholders.
- This collaboration will deliver mutually beneficially results for all the concerned stakeholders.

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- BI will also support KU in collection of laboratory samples and garnering relevant data.

## **SIDBI joins hands with Government of Gujarat**

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), the principal financial institution engaged in the promotion, financing and development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), has entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Gujarat to develop the MSME ecosystem in the State.
- The MoU was signed in the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Vijay Rupani, Shri M. K. Das, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary (Industries & Mines), Government of Gujarat (GoG) and Shri V. Satya Venkata Rao, Deputy Managing Director, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
- Under the agreement, a Project Management Unit (PMU) will be deployed by SIDBI with Government of Gujarat.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **SIDBI**

- Headquarters location: Lucknow
- Founded: 2 April 1990
- CMD: Mohammad Mustafa

## **Punjab under the PGRKAM is organising 6th State Level Mega Job Fair across the state**

- The Punjab Government under the Ghar Ghar Rozgar and Karobar Mission is organising 6th State Level Mega Job Fair across the state from 24th to 30th, September, 2020.

## **Titan partners with SBI to launch contactless payment watches "Titan Pay"**

- Titan Company has partnered with the State Bank of India (SBI) to launch India's first contactless payment watches named "Titan Pay".
- Using these watches, the account holders of SBI can tap their Titan Pay watch on the contactless payment POS machines for making payments. It is powered by YONO SBI.
- Under this mechanism, payments of up to Rs. 2,000 can be made without entering a PIN, as per the RBI guidelines.
- A secure certified near-field communication (NFC) chip developed by Tappy Technologies has been embedded in the watch strap that will enable the tap and pay feature in the watch.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **SBI**

- Chairperson: Rajnish Kumar
- Headquarters: Mumbai

### **Titan**

- Founder: Xerxes Desai

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- Founded: 1984
- Parent organizations: Tata Group, Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation

## **Israel, UAE, Bahrain sign historic US-brokered peace deals**

- Israel, UAE and Bahrain signed Abraham Accords in a signing ceremony presided over by United States President Donald Trump at the White House on September 15, 2020.
- The signing of Abraham Accords aims to establish foundation of peace agreements between Israel and the two Arab nations- the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.
- The peace accord makes UAE and Bahrain, the third and fourth Arab states respectively to take such steps to establish full relations with Israel after Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994.
- The two gulf nations have now joined Egypt and Jordan as the only Arab nations to recognise and normalise ties with Israel.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **Saudi Arabia (Capital/Currency):** Riyad/ Saudi riyal

- Crown Prince: Muhammed Bin Salman

### **UAE (Capital/Currency):** Abu Dhabi/ United Arab Emirates dirham

- President: Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

## **SIDBI enters into MoU to encourage MSME sector in Gujarat**

- In Gujarat, Industry Department and the Small Industries Development Bank of India- SIDBI entered into a MoU to encourage the MSME sector in the State.
- The MoU with SIDBI is intended to provide financial assistance, capital subsidy, interest subsidy, patent assistance, technology transfer and acquisition, innovation to provide financial assistance, market support, innovation, technology transfer and build capacity to compete in the global market. **PT POINTERS:**

## **SIDBI**

- Headquarters location: Lucknow
- Founded: 2 April 1990
- CMD : Mohammad Mustafa

## **BHEL ties up with SwissRapid AG to bring Maglev trains to India**

- State-run engineering firm BHEL announced it tie up with SwissRapid AG to bring Maglev trains (magnetic levitation) to India.
- The Maglev Rail system hovers in the air instead of rolling, due to magnetic levitation, thus the vehicles have no physical contact with the guideway.
- This enables the system to be highly energy efficient, allows operating speeds of easily up to 500 km/h and significantly reduces the total cost of system ownership. **PT POINTERS:**

## **BHEL**

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# UPPSC- CURRENT AFFAIRS SPECIAL

- CEO: Nalin Singhal
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Founder: Government of India
- Founded: 1964
- Owner: Government of India (63.17%)

## **SBM bank ties-up with Mastercard, launches SBM world debit card**

- Mastercard Incorporated MA and SBM Bank India have collaborated to launch SBM World Debit Card, a premium and exclusive card.
- This card will be custom-built and offered to SBM Private Wealth customers on request.
- The SBM World Debit Card will club niche banking solutions and carefully curated lifestyle privileges including some of the finest shopping and dining opportunities.
- Customers can spend/withdraw money with this card in any foreign currency with 0% foreign currency markup fee. **PT POINTERS:**

## **Mastercard**

- CEO: Ajaypal Singh Banga
- Headquarters: Purchase, Harrison, New York, United States
- Founders: Wells Fargo, Crocker National Bank, First Interstate Bancorp, Bank of California

## **SBM Bank**

- Headquarters: Port Louis, Mauritius
- CEO: Parvataneni Venkateswara Rao
- Parent organization: SBM Holdings
- Subsidiaries: SBM Bank Kenya Limited, Rafiki Microfinance Bank Limited

## **Niti Aayog partners with ISPP for capacity building**

- Niti Aayog has partnered with the Indian School of Public Policy (ISPP) for mentoring, training, and capacity building of government officials and public policy scholars.
- A statement of intent (SOI) was signed between the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) of the NITI Aayog and the ISPP regarding this. **Highlights:**
- The partnership aims to build collaboration for faster intermediation of knowledge and use within the public system.
- Under the partnership, communications, and outreach, evidence building exercises, organizing joint conferences, and podcast series will be conducted. **PT POINTERS:**

## **NITI Aayog**

- Formed: 1 January 2015
- Objectives: Foster involvement and participation in the economic policy-making process by the State Governments of India

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# UPPSC- CURRENT AFFAIRS SPECIAL

- Jurisdiction: Government of India
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairperson: Narendra Modi

## **MoU signed between Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Women and Child Development for Controlling Malnutrition**

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Women and Child Development today in New Delhi for controlling Malnutrition as a part of POSHAN Abhiyaan.
- The MoU will see some time-tested and scientifically proven Ayush-based solutions being adopted for controlling malnutrition in the country.

## **HCL Technologies to acquire Australian IT solutions company DWS**

- Noida-based IT company HCL Technologies (HCL) announced that it would acquire DWS Limited, an Australian IT, business and management consulting group.
- The acquisition of DWS will enhance HCL's contribution to digital initiatives in Australia and New Zealand while strengthening HCL's client portfolio across key

industries. **PT POINTERS:**

### **HCL**

- CEO: C Vijayakumar
- Founded: 11 August 1976
- Headquarters: Noida
- Founders: Shiv Nadar, Arjun Malhotra

## **Volvo Car India launches "Volvo Car Financial Services"**

- Volvo Car India has partnered with HDFC Bank to launch Volvo Car Financial Services to enable buyers get easy finance for its vehicles.
- The service facilitates finance of up to 100% of ex-showroom price of the car and offers convenient repayment options, with no foreclosure charges under specific conditions.
- Other features of the Volvo Car financial service include loans for up to 7 years and option to finance insurance, extended warranty, service package and accessories.

## **Uttarakhand Govt Inks MoU with ITBP to promote adventure tourism at Tehri Lake**

- The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on 21 September 2020 to promote adventure sports activities at Tehri Lake.

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- As per the MoU, the Rajiv Gandhi Adventure Sports Academy at Tehri Lake will now be administered and managed by ITBP for a period of 20 years, which will be used by ITBP for development of tourism and water sports in Tehri Dam.
- ITBP will train over 200 candidates selected by the state government or tourism department every year free of cost.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **Uttarkhand**

- Statehood Day: 9<sup>th</sup> November 2000
- Capital: Dehradun
- Governor: Baby Rani maurya
- Chief Minister: Trivendra Singh Rawat
- National Park :Jim Corbett NP, Gangotri NP, Nanda Devi NP, Rajaji NP

### **India-UK sign MoU on Water Partnership through video conferencing**

- India and the United Kingdom held a virtual Water Partnership meeting on 22 September 2020 to discuss ways to work together on issues pertaining to water conservation and building better water infrastructure. □The programme was inaugurated by the Indian High Commissioner to UK, Gaitri Issar Kumar with the Ministry of Jal Shakti Secretary UP Singh.
- The delegations from both the countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on strategic water partnership to develop better water infrastructure in India.
- Several issues which were discussed during the meeting included India's water conservation schemes like Namami Gange programme, Jal Jeevan Mission, and Swachh Bharat Mission.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **United Kingdom (Capital/Currency):** London/ Pound sterling

- Prime Minister: Boris Johnson

### **Wipro GE Healthcare and Indian Institute of Science partner to set up a Healthcare Innovation Lab**

- Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and Wipro GE Healthcare announced the inauguration of an advanced centre for innovation and research at the IISc campus in Bangalore- 'WIPRO GE Healthcare – Computational and

Data Sciences Collaborative Laboratory of Artificial Intelligence in Medical and Healthcare Imaging'.

- The facility, located at the Department of Computational and Data Sciences (CDS) of IISc, Bangalore, will work on the next level of healthcare diagnostics with deep learning technology, artificial intelligence and future-ready digital interfaces, to provide highly

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sophisticated diagnostic and medical image-reconstruction techniques and protocols for faster and better imaging.

- This facility will work with over fifty students and three faculty members of IISc. **PT**

## **POINTERS:**

### **Wipro**

- CEO: Thierry Delaporte
- Founder: M.H. Hasham Premji
- Founded: 29 December 1945, India
- Owner: Azim Premji (73.85%)
- Headquarters: Bengaluru

### **MoU signed between HP Police and IIT Mandi**

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Himachal Pradesh Police and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi to set up an institutional mechanism to facilitate the Police Personnel in updating their knowledge.
- The objective of the MoU was to facilitate the police personnel to update their knowledge about new technologies, geographical and temporal analysis of crime and public order, prediction of period crime trends, traffic management, e-challaning, beat patrolling system, threat and security analysis, cybercrime, cyber forensics and cyber security.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **Himachal Pradesh:**

- State formed on: 25 January 1971
- Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya
- Chief Minister: Jai Ram Thakur
- Official language: Hindi
- Literacy Rate: 83.78%

### **India & Denmark Inks MoU for Cooperation in the field of Intellectual Property**

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with its Denmark counterpart in the field of Intellectual Property Cooperation.
- The MoU was signed between Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra, Secretary, DPIIT and Mr. Freddy Svane, Ambassador of Denmark on 26 September 2020.
- The MoU aims at increasing IP co-operation between the two countries and provide opportunities to both countries to learn from the experience of each other.
- The two sides will draw up Biennial Work Plan to implement the MoU.

### **PT POINTERS:**

**Denmark (Capital/Currency):** Copenhagen/ Danish krone

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- Prime Minister: Mette Frederiksen

## **India, Sri Lanka to enhance cooperation in combating terrorism & drug trafficking**

- India and Sri Lanka have agreed to enhance cooperation to combat terrorism and drug trafficking.
- The Joint Statement on Virtual Bilateral Summit said both countries have decided to continue the fruitful and efficient development partnership in accordance with the priority areas identified by the Government and people of Sri Lanka.
- Prime Minister Modi reaffirmed India's continued commitment for all possible support to Sri Lanka for minimising the health and economic impact of the pandemic.
- Both leaders agreed to work together to expeditiously complete construction of 10,000 housing units in the plantation areas.

### **PT POINTERS:**

**Sri Lanka (Capital/Currency):** Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte/Sri Lankan Rupee

- President: Gotabaya Rajapaksa
- Prime Minister: Mahinda Rajapaksa

## **West Bengal, UKIBC sign MoU to strengthen State's Industrial Development Corporation**

- The UK India Business Council has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC), the premier nodal agency of West Bengal's Industry, Commerce and Enterprises Department focused on accelerating industrial development in the state.
- This collaborative partnership between the UKIBC and Government of West Bengal will help to boost business and industrial development in the state by proactively developing the business environment and strengthening collaboration with British businesses in West Bengal.

### **PT POINTERS:**

#### **West Bengal:**

- Capital: Kolkata
- Chief Minister: Mamta Banerjee
- Governor: Jagdeep Dhankhar
- State Formed in: 1947
- Literacy Rate: 76.26%
- National Park: Buxa National Park, Gorumara National Park, Neora Valley National Park, Neora Valley National Park, Sunderban National Park, Jaldapara National Park

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## Microsoft acquires video game company ZeniMax

- Microsoft announced that it will buy ZeniMax Media, the company that owns well-known video game publisher Bethesda, for \$7.5 billion in cash.
- The deal gives Microsoft access to a raft of successful game franchises, including Fallout, The Elder Scrolls and Doom.
- It's the biggest gaming acquisition in Microsoft's history, after the company bought Minecraft developer Mojang for \$2.5 billion in 2014.

## PT POINTERS:

### Microsoft Corporation

- CEO: Satya Nadella
- Founded: 4 April 1975, Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States
- Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States
- Founders: Bill Gates, Paul Allen

## India-Denmark Virtual Bilateral Summit calls for 'Green Strategic Partnership'

- The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi and the Prime Minister of Denmark, Mette Frederiksen participated in a virtual India-Denmark Bilateral Summit on 28 September 2020.
- The summit aimed at further extending cooperation to strengthen bilateral relationship between the two countries. □ During the Summit, the two countries agreed for the establishment of 'Green Strategic Partnership', which would involve: political cooperation, expand economic relations and green growth, create jobs and strengthen cooperation on addressing global challenges and opportunities
- Ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- The summit saw signing of an MoU in the field of intellectual property cooperation between the two countries.
- Apart from this, Denmark also joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- Denmark has also proposed to host the second India-Nordic Summit.
- A joint statement was issued under which the two sides agreed to cooperate in a range of sectors like energy, climate change, environment, water, circular economy, sustainable urban development, trade, shipping, food, agriculture and life sciences.

## PT POINTERS:

### Denmark (Capital/Currency): Copenhagen/ Danish krone

- Prime Minister: Mette Frederiksen

## PFC signs MoU with Govt. of India detailing targets for FY 2020-21

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- Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) has signed a performance-based Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Power, Government of India detailing various targets to be achieved by PFC during Fiscal Year 2020-21.
- Government of India has set an ambitious revenue target of Rs. 36,000 Crores.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **Ministry of Power**

- Union Minister: Raj Kumar Singh

### **Gujarat govt signs MoU with Denmark in water sector**

- Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding -MoU with Denmark in the water sector.
- The state government arm Gujarat Water Supply and Sewerage Board has signed the MoU with 'Danish Water Forum' through an online interactive platform.
- This will help in technology exchange, training, capacity building, knowledge exchange, cooperation in water supply, wastewater treatment- reuse and water management between the two organizations.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **Gujarat:**

- Capital: Gandhinagar
- Chief Minister: Vijay Rupani
- Governor: Acharya Devvrat
- State formed on: 1 May 1960
- Literacy Rate: 79.31%
- National Park: Vansda NP, Blackbuck NP, Gir Forest NP, Marine NP, Gulf of Kutch

### **Flipkart partners with Bajaj Allianz to offer cyber fraud insurance**

- Flipkart has announced a partnership with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company to offer 'Digital Suraksha Group Insurance' for customers in the country.
- The "Digital Suraksha Group Insurance" policy will cover financial losses caused by various kinds of online frauds and cyber-attacks that might occur during digital transactions.
- The customers can choose for a one-year cover at premiums as low as Rs 183 for a cover of Rs 50,000, Rs 312 for Rs 1 lakh, and Rs 561 for Rs 2 lakh for a 12-months tenure, with covers also extending up to Rs 10 lakh.
- The policy can be availed while buying certain models of mobiles, laptops, tablets, and audio devices on Flipkart.

## **PT POINTERS:**

### **Flipkart**

- Founded: October 2007, Bengaluru

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- CEO: Kalyan Krishnamurthy
- Founders: Sachin Bansal, Binny Bansal
- Parent organization: Walmart

## **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance**

- CEO: Tapan Singhel
- Headquarters: Pune

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