

# UPPSC- CURRENT AFFAIRS SPECIAL



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## Conferences and summits

## Last 6 Months

### UP-PSC CURRENT AFFAIR

#### Part - 4

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## April 2020 – Important Summit & Conference

Summit/ Conference	Held in	Aim/ Theme
G20 Extraordinary Energy Ministers' virtual Meeting	Saudi Arabia	The G20 Energy Ministers' focused on ways and means to ensure stable energy markets, which are affected due to demand reduction in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing surplus production related matters.
Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting	Saudi Arabia	The Action Plan was prepared with an aim to protect lives, safeguard jobs and incomes. It also included measures to restore confidence, preserve financial stability, revive growth and recover stronger.
virtual roundtable COVID-19 meet for businesses	United Kingdom	
5th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of New Development Bank (NDB) through videoconference	New Delhi	
virtual meeting of G-20 Agriculture Ministers.	Video Conferencing	

## Shri Sanjay Dhotre launched Hack the Crisis India overcome COVID 19 pandemic

- Minister of State Electronics & Information Technology, Communications and Human Resource

Development Shri Sanjay Dhotre launched Hack the Crisis – India, an Online Hackathon to find working solutions for overcoming COVID 19 pandemic.

- This hackathon is part of a global initiative. It is organized by Hack A Cause – India and Ficci Ladies Organization Pune and supported by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India (MEITY).

## Aim of this hackathon

- To fight against COVID19.

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- The winning ideas from a few top participating teams, as implementable solutions on the corona crisis, is expected to help India and global citizens.
- Minister of State Electronics & Information Technology stated that we should, and we will overcome this challenge and come out stronger as a country and thereby also support humanity at large to prevail. **Highlights:**
- Hack the Crisis – India, an Online Hackathon to find working solutions for overcoming COVID 19 pandemic.
- This hackathon is part of a global initiative organized by 'Hack A Cause – India' and 'Ficci Ladies Organization Pune' and supported by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India (MEITY).
- Around 2000 teams and over 15000 participants will be enhancing their working prototypes in a 48hour hackathon with expert mentoring from India, Estonia, and Finland.
- Top teams from India will participate in 'Hack the Crisis - World' global hackathon in the coming weeks.
- Minister of State Electronics & Information Technology, Communications and Human Resource Development Shri Sanjay Dhotre wished All the best and stay safe.

## **CCRH organized an international webinar and approved Telemedicine Guidelines for Homoeopathic Practitioners**

- Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) under the Ministry of AYUSH organized an international webinar on 10 April 2020 on the occasion of World Homoeopathy Day.
- Over 1000 participants attended the webinar on a digital platform which was also live-streamed.
- The webinar was addressed by Union Minister of State (I/C) AYUSH Shripad Yesso Naik.

### **Highlights:**

- During the meeting, the Ministry of AYUSH approved the Telemedicine guidelines for homeopathic practitioners.
- It emphasized on the need to mobilize the AYUSH workforce to align with the COVID-19 taskforce if the need arises.
- The delegations spoke about the potentials of Homoeopathy which can be harnessed in the containment of COVID-19.
- Presentations on the facts about the use of adjuvant homeopathy along with standard care for COVID-patients was done in the meeting.

## **National Conference on Kharif crops 2020 held**

- The National Conference on Kharif crops 2020 was held through video conference.
- The prime objective of the conference was to discuss various issues and to list out measures in consultation with the States about their preparedness for Kharif cultivation amid the lockdown situation.
- The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar addressed the conference.

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- During the conference, the minister emphasized on achieving the aim of kharif target and take up doubling of farmers' income in the mission mode.
- He also urged the states to explain two schemes namely "PM Fasal Bima Yojana" and "Soil Health Card scheme" to each farmer.
- He also announced the commencement of All India Agri Transport Call Centre in order to ensure that Agriculture is not affected due to the lockdown.

## **Ramesh Pokhriyal chaired the review meeting on SWAYAM and SWAYAM Prabha in New Delhi**

- Union Minister for Human Resource Development (MHRD) Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' held a detailed review of the National online education platform SWAYAM and the 32 DTH Television Education Channels SWAYAM PRABHA in New Delhi on 20 April. During the lockdown, there occurred a tremendous increase in demand and the usage of SWAYAM Courses and SWAYAM PRABHA videos.

### **Highlights:**

#### **SWAYAM:**

- SWAYAM was launched in 2017 by MHRD, GoI. Currently, there are 1902 courses available in SWAYAM.

It has been offered to 1.56 crore students. Over 26 lakh students are taking 574 courses on offer.

- SWAYAM 2.0 also supports the launch of Online degree programs. Mapping of SWAYAM courses to the AICTE model curriculum has been done, gaps identified. A similar exercise for non-technical courses is underway by a committee of UGC.
- It was decided that all the 1900 SWAYAM Courses and 60000 SWAYAM PRABHA videos would be translated into ten regional languages and made available to the students so that more benefits can be derived from the same. The whole project has been scheduled to be completed in a time-bound manner.
- MHRD has announced to provide more courses under SWAYAM, appropriate incentives for their career will be provided. Also, UGC was asked to prepare guidelines regarding online and Distance learning guidelines to increase Gross Enrolment Ratio.

#### **SWAYAM Prabha:**

- The SWAYAM PRABHA is a group of 32 Direct-to-home television (DTH) channels devoted to telecasting high-quality educational programs on 24X7 basis using the GSAT-15 satellite. There will be new content for a minimum of 4 hours which will be repeated 5 more times in a day, allowing the students to choose the time of their convenience.
- SWAYAM Prabha has been directed to redistribute the channels to match available content, and viewership shall be explored. It was also decided to enrich the content in SWAYAM PRABHA by collecting content from those who are willing to contribute the same under Vidya Daan Programme. For the translation of the content of four IIT-PAL channels, CBSE, NIOS shall provide all assistance to IIT-Delhi. This matter shall be followed up by JS(IEC) in MHRD.

## **The 15th Finance Commission held meeting with its Advisory Council**

- The Fifteenth Finance Commission (XVFC) had online meetings with its Advisory Council on 23-24 April 2020.

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- The meeting was chaired by N. K. Singh, Chairman XVFC, and was attended by all members and senior officials of the Commission.

## Highlights:

- The Members of the Advisory Council discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the national lockdown on the Indian economy.
- The officials discussed the impact of the pandemic on financial institutions and business enterprises and the loss of global demand for Indian products because of a steep global recession.
- Discussions on measures to restore the supplies of intermediates and cash flows and the demand for output.
- Small scale enterprises were cash-starved even prior to the onset of COVID-19.
- The Council devised a support mechanism to help the activity levels and cash flows to overcome the economic issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Currently, the activity levels and cash flows are affected, it is important that a support mechanism is devised to help them overcome this problem.
- To help Non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) which are also affected by the slowdown, the commission planned to deepen the NPAs in the financial sector and introduce measures to guarantee help.
- The council planned to seek Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) help to ensure that financial institutions are wellcapitalized.

## Extra Shots:

**The Fifteenth Finance Commission** is an Indian Finance Commission constituted in November 2017 and is to give recommendations for devolution of taxes and other fiscal matters for five fiscal years, commencing 2020-04-01. □ Founder: Ram Nath Kovind

- Founded: 27 November 2017
- Deputy Minister responsible: Anurag Thakur, Minister of State for Finance
- Minister responsible: Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance
- Preceding Commission: Fourteenth Finance Commission
- Commission executives: N. K. Singh, IAS, Chairman; Ajay Narayan Jha, IAS, Member; Prof. Anoop Singh, Member; Dr. Ashok Lahiri, Member; Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member (part-time); Arvind Mehta, IAS, Secretary
- Parent departments: Ministry of Finance, Government of India

## **Ministry of Tourism holds its 5th webinar on the rich heritage of Ladakh under DekhoApnaDesh Webinar Series**

- To generate awareness about and promote various tourism destinations of India, the Ministry of Tourism has launched the “DekhoApnaDesh” webinar series which provide information on the rich culture and heritage of the country and share the depth and expanse of the destinations in India.

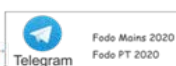
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- As part of the ongoing series, the Ministry of Tourism conducted its 5th webinar on the rich heritage of Ladakh titled "Ladakh: Explore the Unexplored" on 20th April 2020.
- Ladakh, the roof of the world, is home to breathtaking Himalayan landscapes and an ancient Buddhist culture living in harmony with nature for over a thousand years.
- The webinar took the participants on a journey away from the beaten paths of Pangong Tso Lake and Khardungla to the unexplored valleys of Lingshed and Zaskar.
- The webinar stressed on the dispersion of tourism to these remote unexplored areas of Ladakh while providing the local communities with sources of income to ensure the cultural preservation in the fragile ecosystem of Himalayas.
- The webinar received a very good response with over 4600 participants registering and with 78% of the audience rating the webinar as excellent.

## **EAM Jaishankar to participate in BRICS Foreign Ministers meeting on response to COVID-19 pandemic**

- Union Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar joins his counterparts from Brazil, Russia, China, and South Africa for a meeting on 28 April.
- The foreign ministers of BRICS member countries will hold an extraordinary video conference to discuss ways to jointly combat the coronavirus pandemic.
- The event will be chaired by Sergey Lavrov, the Russian Foreign Minister.

## **Highlights:**

- The Ministerial video conference will be hosted by Russia, who is the current rotating head of the BRICS.
- The meeting will focus on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on international relations and possible joint measures in the fight against the highly dangerous and fast-spreading contagion.
- The BRICS presidency was passed from Brazil to Russia from 1 January 2020.
- The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases worldwide amounts to 30,40,709 death. Out of which 2,10,842 deaths were reported and 8,93,872 recoveries.

**Note:** Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa are the BRICS countries.

## **Extra Shots:**

**BRICS:** BRICS is the acronym coined for an association of five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Originally the first four were grouped as "BRIC", before the induction of South Africa in 2010.

- Headquarters location: Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark
- Founded: June 2006
- Formation: 2009
- Predecessor: BRIC
- Founders: India, China, Russia, Brazil

## **Prakash Javadekar stresses on climate finance in first virtual Petersberg Climate Dialogue**

- Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar represented India in the first virtual Petersberg Climate Dialogue on 28 April.

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- The first virtual Climate Dialogue was the eleventh session of Petersberg Climate Dialogue. □ It has been hosted by Germany since 2010.

## **Highlight:**

- The Dialogue aims to provide a forum for informal high-level political discussions.
- The meeting focused both on international climate negotiations and the advancement of climate action.
- Ministers and representatives of about 30 countries participated in the dialogue.
- Minister Javadekar urged to have climate technology as open-source which must be available at an affordable cost.
- He suggested adopting more sustainable consumption patterns in line with the requirement of sustainable lifestyles, as was first initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the Paris Conference of the Parties (COP).
- The Union Minister also participated in an Indo-German bilateral meeting with Ms. Svenja Schulze, Minister, Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany. The bilateral meeting was held through a video conference just before the Petersberg Climate Dialogue.

## **May 2020 – Important Summit & Conference**

### **PM to attend virtual summit of Non-Aligned Movement**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to participate in a virtual summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) on 4 May.
- The summit aims to enhance the coordination of the member states in their fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will also participate in the summit.

### **Highlights:**

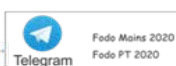
- The summit will be conducted under the Presidency of Azerbaijan, who is the president of the NAM till 2022. The summit will be convened by President Ilham Aliyev.
- The summit will identify measures for enhanced coordination among NAM members in their common fight against COVID-19.
- The online session will conclude with a political declaration of the movement “uniting against COVID-19.”
- The summit-level meeting will witness the participation from representatives of international organizations such as the United Nations Secretary-General and Director-General of WHO.
- This summit will be the first NAM meeting that the PM will attend since becoming the Prime Minister in 2014. The Prime Minister has skipped both the NAM summit in 2016 and

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2019. India was represented by the Vice president Venkaiah Naidu in the last two summits in 2016 in Venezuela and 2019 in Azerbaijan.

## **Extra Shots:**

**NAM:** The Non-Aligned Movement is a forum of 120 developing world states that are not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc. After the United Nations, it is the largest grouping of states worldwide.

- Founded: 1961, Belgrade, Serbia
- Headquarters: Central Jakarta, Indonesia
- Chairperson: Ilham Aliyev
- Membership: 120 member states; 17 states (observers); 10 international organisations □
- Coordinating Bureau: New York City, New York, U.S.
- Founders: Jawaharlal Nehru, Sukarno, Gamal Abdel Nasser, Josip Broz Tito, Kwame Nkrumah

## **India to boost its economy with Bamboo resources**

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Dr. Jitendra Singh, addressed the Bamboo Conclave through Video Conference.
- The Union Ministry of Agriculture and stakeholders from different sectors participated in the conference.

## **Bamboo Conclave:**

- The Minister discussed India's Post-COVID economy which will provide an opportunity for India to emerge as an economic power with the support of its Bamboo resources.
- Northeast consists of 60% of India's reserve of Bamboo.
- The total requirement of "Agarbatti" in India is about 2,30,000 per annum and the market value of it is up to Rs.5000 crore. India has been importing a large bulk of it from countries like China and Vietnam. It is

expected that the Post-COVID era, will provide an opportunity for the North-Eastern region to help India become world competitive and self-sufficient in the changed scenario.

- Centre also plans for the promotion of bamboo manufacturing and trade and works out the feasibility of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in this sector.
- Bamboo can be processed into multiple products, including bio-diesel and green fuel, wooden lumber, and plywood.
- It can change the entire face of the economy and create employment opportunities in multiple sectors.

## **Extra Shots:**

The **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region** is a Government of India ministry, established in September 2001.

- Officeholder: Jitendra Singh (MOS independent charge)
- Founded: September 2001
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Jurisdiction: India

## **PM Narendra Modi participated at the online Summit of NAM Contact Group**

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- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the online Summit of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Contact Group was held on 4 May 2020 to discuss the response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic crisis. □ The summit commemorated the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace.

## **Highlight:**

- The theme of the online NAM Contact Group Summit was 'United against COVID-19.'
- The summit was hosted by the current Chairman of NAM, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan HE Ilham Aliyev.
- The Summit aimed to promote international solidarity in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and to mobilize efforts of States and international organizations to address the pandemic.
- Over 30 other Heads of State and Government and other leaders, including from member States in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean, and Europe participated in the event.
- The Summit was addressed by the President of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) Prof Tijjani Muhammed Bande, UN Secretary-General Mr. Antonio Guterres, African Union (AU) Chairperson Musa Faki Mahamat, European Union (EU) High Representative, Josep Borrell, and Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus.
- The leaders also discussed the creation of a 'Task Force' to identify the needs and requirements of Member States through the establishment of a common database that reflects the basic medical, social, and humanitarian needs in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

## **The 14th meeting of the high-level GoM on COVID-19 was held**

- The 14th meeting of the High-level Group of Ministers (GoM) on COVID-19 was held at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi on 5 May.
- The meeting was held under the chairpersonship of Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare.

## **Highlights:**

- GoM has in-depth deliberation on containment strategy and management aspects of COVID-19, and the measures being taken by the Centre and various States.
- Discussions on the genome sequencing of strains of the novel coronavirus isolated from patients in different parts of the country that has been initiated were held.
- The Minister ensured the availability of essential medical equipment such as Personal Protective Equipments (PPE), masks, ventilators, and other essential equipment against the requirement.
- Various aspects pertaining to the performance, impact, and benefits of the Arogya-Setu application were discussed during the meeting.
- Various mechanisms that were devised to reach out to the people who have a landline or featured phones through Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) in local languages for better results were reviewed at the meeting.

## **Extra Shots:**

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## **EU hosted online Coronavirus Global Response International pledging conference**

- Coronavirus Global Response International pledging conference was held virtually on 5 May. The conference began on 4 May and expected to end on 23 May.

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- Around 40 countries participated in the online summit.
- The conference was hosted by the European Union (EU) and its partners.
- **Aim:** The conference aimed to raise €7.5 billion in initial funding in global cooperation.

## **Highlights:**

- The conference highlighted the requirement of global responsibility for the global coronavirus pandemic.
- The need to develop and deploy effective diagnostics, treatments, and a vaccine against COVID-19 pandemic was stressed.
- Countries and organizations around the world ensured the development of the life-saving vaccine.
- Several world leaders and organizations pledged \$8 billion (around Rs.60,000 crore) to manufacture a vaccine to combat COVID-19, the diseases caused by the novel coronavirus.
- The fund will be used to fund laboratories across the world that have promising leads to research and develop a vaccine.
- Romania contributed \$200,000, Canada contributed \$850 million. Other top donors were Japan, the United Kingdom (UK), Germany, France, and Saudi Arabia.

## **Extra Shots:**

**EU:** The European Union is a political and economic union of 27 member states that are located primarily in Europe. Its members have a combined area of 4,233,255.3 km<sup>2</sup> and an estimated total population of about 447 million.

- Area: 4.476 million km<sup>2</sup>
- Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium
- Founded: 1 November 1993, Maastricht, Netherlands
- Government: Intergovernmental and supranational
- Founders: Germany, Italy, France, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg

## **NCSTC-GUJCOST to host Webinar series to overcome COVID-19 by awareness and preparedness**

- The National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCSTC), Department of Science &

Technology, Government of India, in association with the Gujarat Council of Science & Technology (GUJCOST) has announced to organize a Citizen's Science Webinar Series on "Science Communication in the Time of COVID-19."

- The webinar has been scheduled to be held from 10-16 May 2020 everyday between 10-11 am. The webinar would be accessible online through the internet.

## **Science Communication in the Time of COVID-19:**

- The webinar aims to address tackling the COVID-19 pandemic by applying various methods and means.
- It will develop awareness and preparedness to deal with and address the current health crisis posed by COVID-19 to help overcome the situation.
- The webinar will facilitate the necessary actions and preparedness of the society to address the challenge, such as strategies to reach out to society with the necessary information

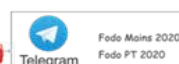
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by involving various stakeholders, including academicians, students, media and volunteers, and so on.

- It also aims to promote at the community-level for the usage of authentic scientific and health information and facilitate crisis management.

## **Extra Shots:**

**NCSTC:** The National Council for Science and Technology Communication is a scientific programme of the Government of India for the popularisation of science, dissemination of scientific knowledge and inculcation of scientific temper.

- Founded: 1982

## **Tourism Ministry organised 17th session of Dekho Apna Desh webinar series on Exploring River Nila**

- Ministry of Tourism organized the 17th session of the Dekho Apna Desh webinar on 9 April 2020. The webinar was titled 'Exploring River Nila' was about showcasing meaningful travel experiences for travelers that are offered by relatively unvisited places. **Exploring River Nila:**
- The webinar took the participants on a journey into lesser-known towns and villages along the "River Nila" also known as Bharathapuzha in Kerala. The river offers authentic and unique experiences to the discerning travellers and explorers.
- The story 'Exploring River Nila' was modelled to showcase the tenets of responsible tourism that involves finding uniqueness about a place, the people who live in it and sharing it with the people who come to visit.
- The webinar also showcased the local food, festivals, art forms, traditions, and also about conserving the nature, landscapes, heritage, and community of the places that people travel to.
- Places like Palakkad, Thrissur and Malappuram districts in Kerala which can be easily accessed by air through Coimbatore, Kochi, and Kozhikode airports were included in the webinar.

## **Background:**

- The focus of the Dekho Apna Desh webinar series aims to promote domestic tourism. The Ministry of

Tourism to engage with the stakeholders of the tourism industry and the citizens of the country to sustain their interest in travelling within the country amid lockdown. The Participants in these webinars have included tourism stakeholders, students, and the general public from all across the country.

## **Extra Shots:**

The **Ministry of Tourism**, a branch of the Government of India, is the apex body for formulation and administration of the rules, regulations and laws relating to the development and promotion of tourism in India. □Officeholder: Prahlad Singh Patel (MOS independent charge)

- Founded: 1967
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Jurisdiction: India

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- Annual budget: 2,150 crores INR (2018–19 est., US\$300 million)

## **High-level digital conference ‘RESTART’ to be organised by DST Focusing on rebooting the economy through Science and Technology**

- The Technology Development Board (TDB) a statutory body of the Department of Science & Technology

(DST) along with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) will organise a high-level digital conference on ‘Rebooting the Economy through Science, Technology and Research Translations (RESTART)’ on May 11, 2020, to celebrate the National Technology Day.

- Union Minister for Science & Technology, Health and Family Welfare and Earth Sciences, Dr. Harsh Vardhan would be the Chief Guest for the occasion.
- The conference will bring together Scientists, Technocrats, Government officials, Diplomats, WHO officials and dignitaries from national and international Industry, Research Institutions and Academic Institutions on a single platform to share their insights on the role played by S & T in the global healthcare crisis and find solutions that not only address the current pandemic but will also help us in facing the challenges ahead.
- The conference will have technical sessions on ‘Medicines & Medical Technologies’; ‘Advanced Materials –

New Technology Horizons’; ‘Advanced Manufacturing Technologies for Sustainable Future and Global Innovation’ & Technology Alliance for Global Economic Leadership.

### **Extra Shots:**

**DST:** The Department of Science and Technology is a department within the Ministry of Science and Technology in India.

- Headquarters location: New Delhi
- Founded: May 1971
- Subsidiary: National Innovation Foundation – India

## **Tribal Affairs Minister held video conference on Tribal livelihoods and safety**

- Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda held a video conference with States/UTs on “Tribal livelihoods and safety” in New Delhi on 13 May.
- The conference was attended by Chief Ministers, Deputy Chief Ministers, State Ministers for Tribal Affairs, and state ministers for Forests from more than 20 states/UTs along with senior State officials.

### **Highlights:**

- The Union Minister reviewed the working of Prime Minister's Vandhan Yojana in the States.
- It is expected that boosting the Minor Forest Produce along with value addition and marketing through Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) and fair support price will prove to be a boon to generate additional livelihoods for the migrants who are returning home amid the COVID-19 lockdown.

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- The conference recommended the setting up of small scale units at the village level to employ the tribal returnees from different States and on the need for taking advantage of inherent traditional knowledge among the tribals.
- It also highlighted the need to develop a Market chain to take the rural products of Organic nature to National and International markets.
- So far, 1205 VDVks have been set up across states. IT has benefitted 3.75 lakh beneficiaries through 18075 Self-help Groups. Nearly Rs.166 crore has been sanctioned for setting up the VDVks to date.

## **Extra Shots:**

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

- Officeholder: Jasvantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor (Minister of State)
- Founded: October 1999
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Jurisdiction: India
- Annual budget: 6,000 crores INR (2018-19 est., US\$870 million)

## **Ministry of Tourism organized 18th webinar titled Odisha-Indias Best kept secret under Dekho Apna Desh series**

- The Ministry of Tourism organized the 18th Dekho Apna Desh webinar series on 12 May 2020.
- It was titled 'Odisha-India's Best kept secret' and took the participants on a virtual journey into Odisha.

## **Highlights:**

- The webinar gave a brief introduction to the State of Odisha and highlighting on the key selling proposition of Odisha such as its ancient civilization, famous temples with Kalinga style of architecture, long coastline endowed with beautiful beaches, arts and handicrafts, culture, popular dance forms such as Odissi, Gotipua, forests.
- The state's initiative in promoting Eco-Tourism sites was highlighted.
- The 18th session of the Ministry of Tourism webinar series highlighted Odisha's bouquet of wonderful offerings which are unique in characters such as ancient ruins and legendary shrines; Indigenous tribes and traditions, Buddhist heritage; Royal Heritage, wilderness; Adventure activities; Coastal breaks and seafronts; picture-perfect campsites, culture, handicrafts, fair and festivals.
- The virtual journey showcased places like Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary, Udaipur Beach, Manglajodi unique wetland, Satpada, Chilika lake known for sighting of unique Irrawaddy dolphins, Simlipal National

Park, Debrigarh National Park-Ecotourism site at Hirakud reservoir, waterfall, Silent Valley-Gorge, Daringbadi nature Camp, Mahanadi Gorge, Bhetnoi, Beach Locations, Tribal heritage, arts and crafts, textiles, dance forms, festivals and cuisine.

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- Founded: 1967
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Jurisdiction: India
- Annual budget: 2,150 crores INR (2018–19 est., US\$300 million) **ASSOCHAM organises Indo-Bangladesh “Virtual Conference”**

• Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) has organised the Indo-Bangladesh

“Virtual Conference”.

- Union DoNER Minister of State (I/C) Dr Jitendra Singh addressed the virtual conference.
- The conference featured the participation of Minister of Commerce Bangladesh Tipu Munshi, Chief Minister of Meghalaya Conrad Sangma and Riva Ganguli Das High commissioner to Bangladesh.
- While addressing the conference, Dr Jitendra Singh emphasized on the critical role that North Eastern Region can play to boost trade and business between the two countries.
- He also urged the participants to make some effort for the promotion of several items such as coal, ginger, citrus-fruit, etc. for export while cement, plastic, PVC pipes etc for import, in order to enhance trade between the two countries.

## **Extra Shots:**

**ASSOCHAM:** The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India is one of the apex trade associations of India. The organisation represents the interests of trade and commerce in India, and acts as an interface between issues and initiatives.

- President: Niranjan Hiranandani
- Headquarters location: New Delhi
- Founder: Dr. Niranjan Hiranandani
- Founded: 1920
- Members: 450,000
- Type of business: Trade Association

## **EAM S Jaishankar participated in the virtual meeting of Foreign Ministers of SCO**

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar participated in the virtual meeting of Foreign Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member countries on 13 May.
- The foreign ministers and diplomats from eight different countries attended the meeting.

## **Highlights:**

- The Meeting aimed to discuss the cooperation to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Discussion on the global challenges, preparedness, and response to the coronavirus crisis was held.

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- It focused on developing cooperation within the SCO, tropical regional and global issues, and particularly the spread of the novel coronavirus.
- They discussed the upcoming 75th anniversary of the Victory in WWII and the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.
- They also discussed the SCO summit in St Petersburg and other events as part of Russia's SCO Presidency that is scheduled to be held on 9-10 June.
- The conference was held under the chairmanship of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

## **Extra Shots:**

### **SCO:** Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

- Headquarters: Beijing, China
- Member: Uzbekistan, China
- Founded: 26 April 1996
- Type of business: Mutual security, political, economic organisation
- Founders: China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan

### **Narendra Singh Tomar held meeting Pesticide Manufacturing Industry representatives to prevent locust attacks**

- The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar held a meeting with representatives of the Pesticide Manufacturing Industry through video conferencing to check the strategy to prevent locust attacks on agricultural fields. **Measures:**
- GoI is taking several measures to ensure uninterrupted sowing and harvesting operations amid lockdown.
- The Central and State Governments are working together on the Desert Locust Control measures and have been able to check its spread. In this regard, new machines have been ordered from the United Kingdom.
- The locust invasion was first noticed in 2019 and the farmers were taken unawares as it took place after decades.
- The Centre has compensated farmers who suffered losses from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Fund.
- Amid COVID-19 lockdown, the Locust Control Offices have been working since 11 April 2020 with 50 spray equipment/vehicles, in coordination with officials of the District Administration and State Agriculture Department.
- Tractor mounted sprayers and fire-tender vehicles are deployed at various locations in locust control.

Additional equipment is also being procured to increase the control capacity of Locust Control Organizations.

### **Harsh Vardhan participated in the 32nd Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting**

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare participated in the 32nd Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting through Video Conference on 14 May.
- The timely, graded, and proactive measures taken by the Indian government towards COVID-19 management were highlighted during the meeting. **Highlights:**

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- The theme of the conference was "Delivering a co-ordinated Commonwealth COVID-19 response."
- GoI's aim to protect lives by mitigating the explosive growth of the disease and by ensuring that the healthcare system is able to cope up with the growth of the disease was discussed.
- The need to work on the causes of the pandemic and discover drugs and vaccines to control transmission and prevent a recurrence.
- The Indian government has announced an economic package of more than \$265 billion to support economic recovery and to support vulnerable segments of the population.
- India has provided essential medicines such as Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) to around 100 needy countries, extending solidarity and support during this time of crisis.

## **Minister Piyush Goyal participated in 2nd G-20 Virtual Trade and Investment Ministers Meeting**

- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal participated in the second G-20 Virtual Trade and Investment Ministers Meeting.
- The meeting focused on immediate and concrete actions that can ease the distress being faced by people all over the world due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The second G20 Ministers Virtual Meeting was held under the Saudi Presidency.

## **Highlights:**

- The Ministers agreed to provide diagnostic and protective equipment and health care professionals across borders where they are most needed.
- India suggested the G-20 nations to ensure access to essential medicines, treatments, and vaccines at affordable prices.
- India has proactively partnered in global efforts to develop vaccines and effective treatment for this disease.
- The meeting also stressed the urgent need to build the digital skills and capacities of developing countries and LDCs.
- Discussion on the need to make binding rules on digital trade and e-commerce, which will freeze the extremely non-level playing field against their interests, and deprive them of the opportunity to benefit from the immense potential in these areas was held.

## **Extra Shots:**

The **G20** is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 19 countries and the European Union.

- Founder: Group of Seven
- Founded: 26 September 1999
- Leader: Salman of Saudi Arabia (2020)

## **Dr Harsh Vardhan participates in the 73rd World Health Assembly through Video Conference**

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare participated in the 73rd World Health Assembly (WHA) through Video Conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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- The 73rd session of the assembly featured the participation of the delegations from all WHO Member States and focused on a specific health agenda prepared by the Executive Board.
- During the session, the minister highlighted the timely, graded and proactive steps taken by the Indian government towards COVID-19 management.
- The World Health Assembly is the decision-making body of WHO. The World Health Assembly is responsible to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed programme budget. It is held annually in Geneva, Switzerland.

## Extra Shots:

The **World Health Assembly** is the forum through which the World Health Organization is governed by its 194 member states. It is the world's highest health policy setting body and is composed of health ministers from member states.

- Founded: 1988

□ Headquarters location: Geneva, Switzerland **“One nation , one digital platform” and “one class one channel” will ensure reach of quality education to farthest corners of the country: HRD Minister**

- Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman has announced several initiatives to boost education sector, on 17th May in New Delhi.
- The present pandemic situation has presented new challenges and several opportunities for our education system.
- The Minister highlighted that the education sector has taken this opportunity to plan several interventions, particularly in the area of adopting innovative curriculum and pedagogies, concentrating energies on the gap areas, being more inclusive and integrating technology at every stage, to usher in a new era of focussed investment in the human capital.
- The “One nation , one digital platform” and “one class one channel” will ensure that quality education material will reach the students present in farthest areas of the country.
- the initiatives will boost the access and equity in education and improve the gross enrolment ratio in the times to come.
- This will benefit nearly 25 crore school going children across the country.

## PM E-Vidya

- PM E-Vidya is to be launched that will unify the efforts related to online education. It will also increase multimode access to education.
- It will include two major initiatives namely **“One Nation One Digital Platform”** and **“One Class One Channel”**
- These two initiatives will make sure students even in remote areas will receive educational materials. These initiatives will increase and improve the access to education materials. Also, they will help in bringing equity in education.
- The One Nation One Digital Platform will include DIKSHA. This will now become major digital infrastructure of the country that will provide quality content to school children.

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- One Class One Channel initiative will provide quality education material for all classes from Class I to Class

12. This will include Swayam online courses, study material for differently abled people called DAISY (Digitally Accessible Information System). **Mandorapan Initiative**

- The initiative is to provide psychological support to teachers, students and families will provide support to national directory of counselors. A toll-free help line will be launched

## **Higher Education**

- The E-Learning in higher education is to be expanded. Top 100 universities in the country will start online courses. The online component in conventional universities is to be raised from 20% to 40%. This is to benefit more than 7 crore students from different colleges and Universities.

## **National Curriculum and Pedagogical Framework**

- In order to promote creative and critical thinking and also to improve communication skills of the students, joyful and experimental learning are to be focused under the framework. The curriculum will be rooted to Indian ethos. Also, the curriculum will be prepared in such as way that the students will fulfil global skill requirements.

## **National Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission**

- The initiative will make sure every child attains foundational literacy and numeracy in Grade 3. ☐ In order to achieve this, the mission will aim at the following:
  1. Teacher Capacity Building
  2. Robust Curricular Framework
  3. Engaging online and offline learning materials
  4. The initiative will provide Measurement indices of learning outcomes

## **Development of Museums and Cultural Spaces hosted a webinar on Revitalising Museums and Cultural Spaces**

- Development of Museums and Cultural Spaces, Ministry of Culture, Government of India hosted a webinar on "Revitalising Museums and Cultural Spaces" on 18 May.
- The webinar aimed to celebrate the International Museum Day and kick start conversations around creating sustainable cultural organizations in post-pandemic India.

### **Highlights:**

- The webinar featured some of the best experts in the museum and cultural spaces domain including Founder

Trustee of Museum of Art and Photography (MAP), Bengaluru Shri Abhishek Poddar, President of Kochi

Biennale Foundation Shri Bose Krishnamachari, Founder and CEO of Cuseum Shri Brendan Ciecko, Managing Director of Teamwork Arts Shi Sanjoy K Roy and CEO of Museums and Cultural Spaces, Ministry of Culture, GoI (Moderator) Shri Raghvendra Singh.

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- The objective aims to identify the possible policy actions that will help alleviate the short and long term effects of the crisis on museums, cultural spaces, and their broader ecosystems.
- Discussion on impact, innovations, and post-COVID-19 crisis planning in the context of Museums and cultural spaces were held.
- The cultural spaces were reimaged to introduce innovative ideas to maximize the social and economic value of cultural heritage and to build capacity in order to engage with local audiences and tourists.
- The discussion aimed to prepare policy paper and get agreement on whatever is practical and feasible.

## **Extra Shots:**

The **Ministry of Culture** is the Indian government ministry charged with preservation and promotion of art and culture of India. Prahlad Singh Patel is the current Minister of Culture. Recently the government has established the National Mission on Libraries India under this ministry.

- Headquarters: C Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
- Minister responsible: Prahlad Singh Patel, Minister of State (Independent Charge) ☐
- Jurisdiction: India
- Annual budget: 3,042.05 crores INR (US\$430 million, 2019-20 est.)

**National Crisis Management Committee meets to review AMPHAN preparedness** ☐ The AMPHAN Super Cyclone is expected to reach West Bengal by May 20, 2020.

- The wind speeds are expected to be between 155 km/hr and 165 km/hr.
- In order to review the preparatory measures, the National Crisis Management Committee met under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary.

## **National Crisis Management Committee**

- The National Crisis Management Committee oversees the command, coordination and control of disaster response. It gives direction to the Crisis Management Group as when necessary.

## **Functions of the Committee**

- The National Crisis Management Committee reviews the measures required to deal with natural calamity. It coordinates the activities of the state governments and central ministries in relation to disaster preparedness. Upon constitution of National Crisis Management Committee, the Agriculture secretary seeks directions and provides information in all matters.

## **Cabinet meets to approve several initiatives under Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**

- The union cabinet approved several initiatives under Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan that was launched by PM Modi recently.
- The Union Cabinet has approved allocation of food grains, adoption of auction methodology for coal, issuance of second order to Reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir, Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana, Scheme to formalize Micro Food Processing Enterprises and Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme.

## **Allocation of Food Grains:**

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- The Union Cabinet has given its nod to allocate food grains from the central pool to over 8 crore migrants. The migrants are to be provided with 5 kg of food grains per person per month. This is to be done under Public Distribution System. The National Food Security Act has empowered the GoI to take such a step.
- The migrants are to be provided food grains under the system for the months of May and June. This is considered as an immediate relief measure for the migrants as the "One Nation One Card" scheme is to be implemented in June, 2020 end. The GoI has allocated Rs 2,982 crores to implement the scheme.

## **Coal Auction:**

- The Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the coal auctioning method while announcing the economic package of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. This has been approved by the Union Cabinet.
- This method has shifted from maximum revenue from coal to maximum coal availability in the market. It has moved towards market oriented revenue from fixed rupees per tonne auction method. Also, the new method allows adequate competition which will help in faster development of coal blocks. The new method has also allowed exploitation of coal bed methane. The tenure of coking coal linkages has been increased to 30 years. **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Second Order, 2020**
- According to the order, the domicile conditions to all level jobs in the state has been changed.

## **Emergency Credit Line Scheme**

- Under the scheme, the Union Cabinet has approved additional funding of upto Rs 3 lakh crore to the eligible MSMEs. In order to achieve this, the GoI has allocated Rs 41,600 crores.
- The Emergency Credit Line scheme was framed to respond to unprecedented situations as that of COVID-19. The scheme aims to provide incentive to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs), Non-Banking Financial Institutions, banks, financial institutions, etc.

## **Special Liquidity Scheme**

- The Union Cabinet has approved the Special Liquidity Scheme for the Housing Finance Corporations and Non-Banking Finance Corporations in order to increase the liquidity flow in the country. Under the scheme, a Special Purpose Vehicle is to be set up that will manage the stressed asset funds. The special securities of these assets are to be bought by the GoI and RBI. They will then use these securities to acquire short term debts.

## **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana**

- The Union Cabinet has given its approval to implement measures under the scheme.
- The Scheme will bring upon blue revolution. It is to be implemented for a period of 5 years.
- The scheme is centrally sponsored with estimated amount of Rs 20, 050 crores. It aims at enhancing productivity of fish, infrastructure and regulatory framework. **Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana**

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- Under the approval, the scheme is to be extended till March 2023. The minimum investment of the scheme has been revised to Rs 1,56,658 for the pension amount of Rs 12,000 per annum and Rs 1,62,162 for pension amount of Rs 1000 per month. **Micro Food Processing**
- The Union Cabinet has approved the Scheme for Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises. The GoI has allocated Rs 10,000 crores under the scheme. The expenditure of the state is to be shared between centre and states in the ratio of 60:40. The scheme aims to increase the access of finances to the micro food processing industries. It will encourage waste to wealth activities. It will also focus on minor forest produce in tribal districts.

## **India attends NAM Health Minister meet**

- Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan attended Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) through video conference.
- The NAM summit was chaired by the Health Minister of Azerbaijan Ogtay Shiraliev. India at the summit, highlighted its contribution such as medical supplies to over 123 countries.
- This includes 59 NAM countries as well.
- The minister at the meet highlighted different health measures of India.
- He also stressed on the fact that India follows the policy of mass isolation, micro identification and quick treatment.
- India is now operating 10,000 COVID-19 dedicated hospitals.

## **Extra Shots:**

**NAM:** The Non-Aligned Movement is a forum of 120 developing world states that are not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc. After the United Nations, it is the largest grouping of states worldwide.

- Founded: 1961, Belgrade, Serbia
  - Headquarters: Central Jakarta, Indonesia
  - Chairperson: Ilham Aliyev
  - Membership: 120 member states; 17 states (observers); 10 international organisations □
  - Coordinating Bureau: New York City, New York, U.S.
  - Founders: Jawaharlal Nehru, Sukarno, Josip Broz Tito, Gamal Abdel Nasser, Kwame Nkrumah
- Rajnath Singh participates in MSMEs E-conclave “SIDM MSME Conclave 2020”**
- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh participates in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) E-conclave, “Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) MSME Conclave 2020”, jointly organised by SIDM, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Department of Defence Production.
  - The Theme of the E-conclave is ‘Business Continuity for MSMEs in Defence & Aerospace Sector’ in which more than 800 Defence MSMEs participated.
  - SIDM has accelerated the manufacturing of DRDO [Defence Research and Development Organisation] designed PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) kits, masks, and ventilator parts in the field of defence industry by efficient coordination and channelization.

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- To tackle the challenges due to lockdown, the Ministry of Defence(MoD) has taken several steps for industries & MSMEs, such as extension of response dates of Request For Information (RFI) or Request For Proposal(RFP)and early clearance of pending payments among others.
- Has assured that the 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat'(self-reliant) campaign, inspired by Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi will provide many opportunities to Indian industry and will help to restore millions of jobs as per PM's call for being 'vocal for local'.
- Advised MSMEs to make India(swadeshi) 'Aatma Nirbhar' in defence technology and products & called to make 'Local' Focal in daily lives to achieve self-reliance.
- MSMEs have a very important role in the goal of indigenous manufacturing, and in the goal of self-reliant India.

## **Extra Shots:**

### **CII:**

- Corporate Office: New Delhi, India
- President: Vikram S. Kirloskar

## **Webinar on "Van Dhan Scheme: learnings for post COVID-19"**

- A Webinar under Know Your Scheme-Lecture Series on "Van Dhan Yojana : Learning For Post Covid-19" was organized today by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of Rajasthan in association with Trifed, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.

## **Highlights:**

- Shri Pravir Krishna, Managing Director of TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs was the Key Note Speaker detailing the learnings for post Covid-19 and the Webinar was moderated by Ms. Mugdha Sinha, Secretary, Science and Technology, Government of Rajasthan.
- Under this initiative tribals will be provided with relevant information regarding COVID-19 along with several guidelines, nationwide and state-specific webinars and instructions on safety measures to be followed.
- The Minimum Support Prices of Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) items has also been revised by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to provide much needed relief to forest gatherers in these trying times.

## **India attends New Development Bank Governors meet**

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman attended the Special Board of Governors meet of New Development bank through video conference.
- The leaders that attended the meet elected the president, vice president of new development bank.
- The bank has so far approved 16.6 billion USD to to over 55 projects in its member countries. Mr Marcos Troyjo of Brazil was elected as the president at the meet.
- The 5th annual meet of board of governors of the New Development Bank was held in April 2020.
- During the meet, the bank allocated 5 billion USD to BRICS countries and 1 billion USD of emergency funds to India.

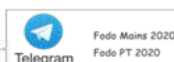
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## Extra Shots:

### NDB:

- Headquarters location: Shanghai, China
- President: K. V. Kamath
- Founder: BRICS
- Founded: 15 July 2014, Fortaleza, State of Ceará, Brazil
- Abbreviation: NDB, or NDB BRICS
- First president: K. V. Kamath

### Ministry of Tourism holds its 24th webinar titled ‘Culture & Tourism- Two sides of Goan economy’ under Dekho Apna Desh Series

- Ministry of Tourism, Government of India’s Dekho Apna Desh Webinar Series titled , “Culture & Tourism- Two sides of Goan economy on 26th May 2020 presented the Culture, history , heritage and architectural marvel that India’s most popular tourist destination ‘Goa’ offers thus bringing the participants face to face with the lesser known places, history, architecture, Culture and heritage waiting to be explored by the tourists.
- The webinar showcased the richness of Goa that extends back through centuries of profound history and cultural exchange and creativity which is beyond the famous beaches and nightlife.
- The Deko Apna Desh Webinar series is presented by Ministry of Tourism with active technical support from

National e-Governance Division (NeGD) created by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) for effective citizen engagement and communication with all stakeholders using the digital experience platform.

- The sessions of webinars are now available on the [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbzIbBmMvtvH7d6Zo\\_ZEHDA/featured](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbzIbBmMvtvH7d6Zo_ZEHDA/featured) and also on all social media handles of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

## Extra Shots:

The **Ministry of Tourism**, a branch of the Government of India, is the apex body for formulation and administration of the rules, regulations and laws relating to the development and promotion of tourism in India. □Officeholder: Prahlaad Singh Patel (MOS independent charge)

- Founded: 1967
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Jurisdiction: India
- Annual budget: 2,150 crores INR (2018–19 est., US\$300 million)
- Minister responsible: Prahlaad Singh Patel, Minister of State (Independent charge)

### 22nd FSDC meeting through video conferencing underway in New Delhi

- The 22nd meeting of Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) through video conferencing is underway in New Delhi.
- The meeting chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is reviewing the measures to maintain financial stability in the context of COVID-19 pandemic.

### Delimitation Commission holds meeting

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- The Delimitation Commission held a meeting to review the progress of directions that were provided during its meet in April, 2020.
- The details of State Election Commissioner were received from the states of Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Assam.
- The Census data has also been received from the Registrar General.

## Delimitation

- Delimitation is the act of redrawing the boundaries of state assembly and Lok Sabha seats with respect to the changes in population. The main objective of delimitation is to provide equal representatives in the legislative assembly and parliament to equal segments of population. The Delimitation is conducted by the Delimitation Commission.

## Delimitation Commission

- The Delimitation Act is brought about by the Parliament after every census under Article 82. The commission is made of Supreme Court Judge, Chief Election Commissioner and also state election commissioners of respective states. The Delimitation exercise has been done four times. They were implemented in 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002. The Last delimitation exercise was begun in 2001 census.

## Meeting of BRICS Heads of Tax Authorities held on May 29

- The meeting of the Heads of Tax Authorities of the BRICS countries, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa was held yesterday.
- The meeting was hosted by the Federal Tax Service of Russia, which currently holds the BRICS Presidency, to discuss the response of BRICS Tax Authorities to the COVID-19 pandemic and to explore potential areas of cooperation in tax matters.
- The meeting was scheduled to be held in Moscow, but was held through video conference in view of COVID19.
- Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey represented India at the meeting.
- During the meeting, Dr Pandey shared with other BRICS nations, various measures taken by India to mitigate the effect of the pandemic on the taxpayers.
- He also urged the BRICS nations to share COVID-19 related tax measures taken by their tax administrations to enhance their understanding of the fiscal and economic impact of the pandemic.
- The BRICS countries to agree for wider sharing of information exchanged under tax treaties for countering corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing.

## Extra Shots:

**BRICS:** BRICS is the acronym coined for an association of five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Originally the first four were grouped as "BRIC", before the induction of South Africa in 2010.

- Founded: June 2006
- Formation: 2009
- Predecessor: BRIC
- State Leaders: Jair Bolsonaro; Vladimir Putin; Narendra Modi; Xi Jinping; Cyril Ramaphosa
- Founders: China, India, Brazil, Russia

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## Ministry of Tourism organizes its 25th webinar titled 'Northeast India for the immersive traveller'

- Ministry of Tourism organized its 25th webinar titled 'Northeast India for the immersive traveller' under Dekho Apna Desh Series, on Thursday. **Highlights:**
- Dekho Apna Desh webinar series is promoting spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' through virtual tours of different parts of the country.
- This webinar offered an attractive virtual tour of four north-eastern states-Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Sikkim.
- The presenters spoke about the unexplored destinations, tribes, festivals, crafts, culture of the local people during the webinar.
- Dzukou valley situated between Manipur and Nagaland were showcased, which is the crater base of an extinct volcano.
- The Hornbill festival celebrated every year from 1st to 10th of December in Kohima has become a big attraction for both domestic and foreign tourists leading to the development of tourist amenities in Nagaland.
- Arunachal Pradesh, with its 70 per cent forest cover and home to 26 major tribes, gives an opportunity to the traveller to experience new culture, tradition and dialects after every few kilometres.
- In the webinar, beauty of Tawang, Sangti valley and Losar festival which is celebrated in February were highlighted. The webinar also showcased Assam's women centric textile sector.
- Sikkim's success in the field of sustainable tourism practices and environmental ecology were also highlighted **Extra Shots:**

The **Ministry of Tourism**, a branch of the Government of India, is the apex body for formulation and administration of the rules, regulations and laws relating to the development and promotion of tourism in India. ☐ Officeholder: Prahlad Singh Patel (MOS independent charge)

- Founded: 1967
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Jurisdiction: India
- Annual budget: 2,150 crores INR (2018–19 est., US\$300 million)
- Minister responsible: Prahlad Singh Patel, Minister of State (Independent charge)

## June 2020 – Important Summit & Conference

### Piyush Goyal attends the Digital Summit on Exports through video conference

- Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Railways, Piyush Goyal participated in the Digital Summit on Exports organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry(CII) through a Video Conference.
- The institutional partner for the summit is Export-Import(EXIM) Bank.

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- Exports are likely to improve in May, with the contraction expected to be 30-35%, after outbound shipments crashed by a record 60% in April. 70% of exports are in raw materials & their remaining trade is affected by price shocks and supply volatility.
- These items command only 30% of global product demand.
- Exports fell 60.28% in April and 34.5% in March. The fall can be narrowed 8- 10% by June 2020.
- The 28 of the 30 major product groups experienced the highest-ever double-digit contraction of up to 99 % in April.
- Even large quantities of petroleum products are unable to push value-wise exports as international prices were at low.
- 3 important ways to increase India's exports- reviving manufacturing, diversifying the exports basket, and finding newer and more accepting markets.
- The government is already promoting electronics production and the manufacturing of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients(API).
- India should be seen as a trusted partner and reliable friend in the world market, especially when global supply chains are undergoing a restructuring.

## **Extra Shots:**

### **EXIM:**

- Head Office: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Managing Director(MD) & Chief Executive Officer(CEO): David Rasquinha **CII:**
- It has completed 125 years & has also launched the Taskforce on Enhancing Exports through integration into the Global Value Chains (GVCs).
- Corporate Office: New Delhi, India
- President: Vikram Shreekanth(S.) Kirloskar
- Director General: Chandrajit Banerjee

### **NITI Aayog organizes Convention to boost Natural Farming**

- The think tank of India, NITI Aayog organized convention on agroecological and natural farming approaches in the country.
- The convention was attended by international experts, policy makers.
- The think tank presented current plans of India at the convention. According to NITI Aayog, Natural Farming that predominantly depends on cow dung, biomass, urine, soil aeration and mulch is indigenous system of farming in the country.
- India intends to reach 20 lakh hectares of organic farming in the country.
- India intends to reach 20 lakh hectares of organic farming in the next five years.
- Of this, 12 lakh hectares are to be brought under Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati Programme.

### **The following programmes were highlighted at the convention**

- Paramparagat Krishi yojana, a scheme to promote organic farming was launched in 2015.
- Under the scheme, around 8 lakh farmers and 7 lakh hectares of land were brought under organic farming in the last 4 years.

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- Andhra Pradesh alone has brought 2 lakh hectares of land under the organic farming by implementing the scheme.
- The other states that have taken up the scheme includes Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka.

## **Extra Shots:**

### **NITI Aayog:**

- Website: niti.gov.in
- 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 to hold first ever virtual bilateral summit with Australia**

- PM Modi will hold a virtual bilateral summit with the Australian PM Scott Morrison. This is the first ever virtual bilateral summit to be held by India.

### **Highlights:**

- The leaders are to discuss a broad framework on the relation of India and Australia.
- The leaders will also sign several agreements.
- The major agreement is the one to be signed on mutual sharing of military logistics facilities.
- The agreement will help increase the bandwidth of operation of both the Australian and Indian forces in the Indo Pacific region.
- The leaders will also discuss boosting science and technology, COVID-19 crisis, cybersecurity, maritime issues in the Indo Pacific Region and also about other critical technologies.
- The leaders will also share how their respective countries are dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Australia has held similar summit with Singapore earlier.

## **Extra Shots:**

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

- Prime Minister: Scott Morrison
- Official Language: English

### **Central Employment Guarantee Council Meet chaired by Rural Development Minister**

- The Union Minister of Rural Development Shri Narendra Singh Tomar chaired the 21st meeting of the Central Employment Guarantee Council.
- During the meet, it was highlighted that the GoI has created assets for irrigation and water conservation.
- Also, individual assets have been created to help agriculture under MGNREGA. All time high amount was allocated to MGNREGA during the COVID-19 times. The GoI allocated around Rs 61,500.

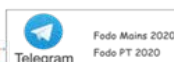
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- Also, under Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, additional amount of Rs 40,000 was allocated.

## **Central Employment Guarantee Council**

- The Council monitors and Evaluates MGNREGA. It also advises the GoI about the implementation of the scheme.
- The council also prepares annual reports about the implementation of the act.
- The act makes the council meet compulsory at least twice a year.
- The CEGC is headed by the Rural Development Minister. It is made of both official and non-official members.

## **Extra Shots:**

The **Ministry of Rural Development**, a branch of the Government of India, is entrusted with the task of accelerating the socio-economic development of rural India. Its focus is on health, education, drinking water, housing and roads. Jurisdiction: India

- Founded: June 2011
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Annual budget: 1.22 lakh crores INR (US\$17 billion, 2020-21 est.)
- Departments: Department of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources
- Officeholders: Narendra Singh Tomar (Minister), Ram Kripal Yadav (Minister of State)

## **World Economic Forum to hold Twin Summit**

- The World Economic Forum announced that it is to host its next summit in Davos under the theme “The Great Reset”.
- The forum has named the summit as “A Unique Twin Summit”.
- The 51st annual summit of the World Economic Forum is to bring together global leaders, civil society and multi stake holders from 400 cities.
- The plan of the summit is to draw thousands of young people all around the world and keep them interconnected through a powerful virtual hub to interact with the leaders.

## **Extra Shots:**

## **World Economic Forum**

- Headquarters: Cologny, Switzerland
- Founder: Klaus Schwab
- Founded: January 1971
- Leader: Klaus Schwab
- Motto: Committed to improving the state of the world

## **India, China held high-level military talks amid stand-off in Ladakh**

- India and China held high-level talks on 6 June. The talk was initiated by India and was held at the Border Personnel Meeting Point in Maldo on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh.
- The talks were held amid the border stand-off between the militaries of the two countries near eastern Ladakh.

## **Highlights:**

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- The Indian delegation was led by Lt. Gen. Harinder Singh, Commander of 14 Corps, and the Chinese side was headed by the Commander of the Tibet Military District.
- Indian and Chinese officials held talks through the established military and diplomatic channels to address the current situation in the India-China border areas.
- Indian side reported that the Chinese military is hindering normal patrolling by its troops along the LAC in Ladakh and Sikkim.
- It strongly refutes China's contention that the escalating tension between both the armies was triggered by the trespassing of Indian forces across the Chinese side.
- The trigger is due to China's stiff opposition to India to lay a key road around the Pangong Tso Lake and the construction of another road connecting the Darbuk-Shayok-Daulat Beg Oldie road in Galwan Valley.

## **Extra Shots:**

**China (Capital/Currency):** Beijing/Renminbi

- President: Xi Jinping

☐ **Official Language: Mandarin** **First virtual Trade Fair of India**

- The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts hosted a four day virtual fair for around 200 Indian Exporters.
- The exporters were mainly from the industries of fashion jewelry and accessories.
- The four-day fair that was conducted online focused on markets such as Europe and United States.
- The fair generated business opportunities of Rs 153 crores.
- Every seller was provided with a virtual stall.
- As an overseas buyer clicks on a stall, he will be directed to the photographs and videos of the product of the seller.
- If the buyer is interested, he will be provided with the links of immediate interaction through Zoom or Skype.
- If he places the order, he will be delivered through courier services.
- Usually the sellers had to spend around Rs 1.5 lakhs to Rs 2 lakhs to install a physical stall.
- This time, their expenses was just Rs 10,000 to showcase their products in a virtual stall. This helped several small exporters to participate in the in the virtual fair.

## **PM Modi's address at 95th ICC session**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered the inaugural address at the 95th annual plenary session of Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) on June 11, 2020 through video conferencing.
- The Prime Minister began his address by highlighting that besides fighting coronavirus pandemic, India has other issues as well including flood, locusts, hailstorm, fire in an oil well, small earthquakes and two cyclones and we are fighting all these together.

## **EAM S Jaishankar to meet Chinese FM during virtual RIC meet on June 22**

- Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is scheduled to meet his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi at a virtual Russia-India-China (RIC) trilateral meeting on June 22, 2020.

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This meeting comes amid rising tensions between India and China over border stand-off along the LAC.

- The trilateral meeting is being convened at the initiative of Russia. It is expected to largely focus on enhancing cooperation to tackle the fallout of the global Covid-19 pandemic.
- Currently, the three nations are working on the agenda for the meeting and it is expected to be finalised by early next week. **Significance**
- This would be the first meeting between Indian EAM S Jaishankar and Chinese FM Wang Yi since the IndiaChina border stand-off along the LAC.
- The two leaders had earlier joined for a virtual summit of the foreign ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation

Organisation (SCO) on May 13 but at that time full details of the border issue hadn't been made public. **Russia-India-China Trilateral Conference**

- The External Affairs Minister of India Shri S Jai Shankar is to hold a joint virtual conference with his Russian and Chinese Counterparts on June 22, 2020.
- The Minister is expected to discuss the recent standoff between Indian and Chinese militaries at the border.
- The meeting is being convened with the initiative of Russia.
- The countries will also discuss regional issues and synchronize their views on regional stability.

## **Background**

- India and China have been engaged in a bitter standoff along the Line of Actual Control at the eastern Ladakh for more than 5 weeks.
- The countries are holding diplomatic and military level talks to resolve the dispute. Russia is expected to expand the discussion on SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization), Russia-India-China trilateral forum and BRICS.
- The leaders are also expected to discuss withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan.
- The meeting of the RIC (Russia India and China) foreign ministers will also include discussions of the connectivity projects in the 7,200 km long INSTC (International North South Transport Corridor).
- The INSTC links Afghanistan, Iran and Central Asia with Europe.

## **Extra Shots:**

**Russia (Capital/Currency):** Moscow/Ruble

- Prime Minister: Dmitry Medvedev
- President: Vladimir Putin
- Official Language: Russian

**China (Capital/Currency):** Beijing/Renminbi

- President: Xi Jinping

☐ Official Language: Mandarin **International Workshop on "Good Governance Practices in a Pandemic"**

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- International Workshop on “Good Governance Practices in a Pandemic for International Civil Servants” was inaugurated by the Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Jitendra Singh.
- The workshop was organized by Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC), Ministry of External Affairs and National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG), Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).
- The two-day Conference featured the participation of 81 International Civil Servants from 16 Countries.
- The participants included the Chief of Staff, Sri Lanka Army Major General HJS Gunawardena, 19 Senior Secretaries to Government from Bangladesh, 11 District Administrators from Myanmar, Senior officials from Bhutan, Somalia, Thailand, Tunisia, Tonga, Kenya, Morocco, Nepal, Oman, Sudan and Uzbekistan.

## **India to lead Summit 2020 on 21st, 22nd July**

- The 45th annual meeting of the United States India Business Council (USIBC) will be marked with the 2020 India Ideas Summit.
- India will virtually host the event on 21st and 22nd July.

## **USIBC:**

- Different sessions will be organized, with each session focusing on a particular issue related to India.
- The summit will showcase the importance of the positive outcome of the India-US economic partnership and the overall bilateral relationship between the two nations.
- USIBC summit is an outcome of the joint efforts of the United States Chambers of Commerce and USIBC.

## **Extra Shots:**

**USIB:** The U.S.-India Business Council was formed in 1975 as a business advocacy organization to enlighten and encourage the private sectors of both India and United States to enhance investment flows. ☐ Headquarters location: Washington, D.C., United States

- Founded: 1975
- Chairman: Nisha Desai Biswal
- Type of business: Non-profit organisation

## **India Attend 32nd Virtual EAG Plenary Meeting 2020 Chaired by EAG Chairman Mr. Yury Chikhanchin**

- Indian officials, including representatives from enforcement agencies, have participated in the 32nd special Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG) plenary meeting 2020, under the aegis of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
- The virtual meet, chaired by the EAG Chairman Mr. Yury Chikhanchin (Russian Federation) and the EAG Deputy Chairman Mr. Farhod Bilolov (Republic of Tajikistan). Earlier, China planned to host this meeting in June 2020.
- However, due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the FATF has decided to cancel the joint Plenary meeting.

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- The meeting witnessed the approval of ML/TF (Money laundering /terrorist financing) risk assessment methodology in the Eurasian region along with the information collection methods.
- The Secretariat has presented the report on the progress in the implementation of the pilot project to coordinate the provision of technical assistance for the Republic of Tajikistan, which included interim findings.

## **Extra Shots:**

### **FATF:**

- Headquarters: Paris, France
- Membership: 39
- President: Xiangmin Liu

## **Minister Mandaviya inaugurated First 2020 Virtual Healthcare and Hygiene EXPO**

- The Minister of State (MoS) for Shipping (Independent charge) and Chemicals & Fertilisers Shri Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated India's one the largest first Virtual Healthcare & Hygiene EXPO 2020.

### **Highlights:**

- The Expo has been organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).
- Virtual Healthcare and Hygiene EXPO 2020 is the first-ever largest virtual exhibition in India.
- The event will be virtually made live daily from 22-26 June 2020.
- This is a step that marks that the business will happen virtually as Digital India is now making a way forward.
- The Expo will help in ramping up domestic production in Pharmaceutical Sector and Health & Hygiene Sector.

## **Extra Shots:**

### **FICCI:**

- Formed: 1927
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- President: Sangita Reddy

## **Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurated 2020 Virtual India Pavilion at Cannes Film Market** ☐

India is participating at the Cannes Film Festival 2020.

- The film festival began with the e-inauguration of the Virtual India Pavilion by Union Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar. ☐The Festival will be held from 22-26 June 2020. **Highlights:**
- The virtual edition of the Cannes Film Market is aimed at exemplifying togetherness and resilience amid the COVID-19 crisis.
- India has sent two films, MaiGhat: Crime No 103/200 (Marathi) and Hellaro (Gujarati), to Cannes from India.
- The two movies are the National Film Award-winning movies in the Market.
- The film festival is held in its virtual mode.

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- The festival will host B2B meetings and have a series of round table sessions each day on various aspects of the media and entertainment industry with panelists participating from the world over as also B2G and G2G meetings.

## **Extra Shots:**

The **Cannes Festival**, until 2003 called the International Film Festival and known in English as the Cannes Film Festival, is an annual film festival held in Cannes, France, which previews new films of all genres, including documentaries, from all around the world.

- Location: Cannes, France
- Founded: 20 September 1946; 73 years ago (as International Film Festival) □ Awards: Palme d'Or, Grand Prix

## **Defence Minister inaugurated two-day Defence Conclave 2020 Gujarat through video conferencing**

- Union Minister of State for Defence Shri Shripad Naik inaugurated a two-day digital conference on the defence & aerospace manufacturing sector Defence Conclave 2020, Gujarat via video conference on 26 June.
- The conclave is being jointly organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Gujarat and Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM). **Highlights:**
- The Conclave will bring together high-level government representatives, key industries, and academia.
- The representatives will discuss, deliberate and exchange ideas, viewpoints, and knowledge about critical defence offset policies, sector analyses, and review choices of technology available globally for the manufacturing and production of indigenous defence systems.
- The Conclave intends to build on the positives of the 'Make in India' vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for boosting the defence manufacturing.
- Gujarat has emerged as a State with excellent infrastructure facilities and can offer both forward and backward supply chain linkages to the Defence & Aerospace manufacturing sector.

## **Extra Shots:**

The **Ministry of Defence** is charged with coordinating and supervising all agencies and functions of the government relating directly to national security and the Indian armed forces. The President of India is the ceremonial commander-in-chief of the armed forces of the country.

- Preceding Ministry: Department of Defence (1938–47)
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Founded: 15 August 1947
- Annual budget: 4.71 lakh crores INR (US\$66 billion, 2020–2021)
- Officeholders: Rajnath Singh (Minister), Subhash Bhamre (Minister of State)

## **NITI Aayog launched Behaviour Change Campaign Navigating the New Normal and Website**

- NITI Aayog, in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Centre for Social and Behavioural Change (CSBC), Ashoka University, and the Ministries of Health

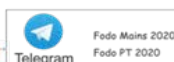
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and Ministry of Women and Child Development launched a behaviour change campaign called 'Navigating the New Normal', and its website on 25 June.

- Around 92,000 Non-Governmental Organisation (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) working with NITI Aayog participated in the virtual launch via a webcast.

## **Highlights:**

- The campaign focuses on COVID-19-safe behaviours, especially wearing masks, during the 'Unlock' phase of the ongoing pandemic.
- The campaign & website was developed under the guidance of Empowered Group 6, constituted by the Government of India and chaired by CEO, NITI Aayog.
- The campaign has two parts.
- The first is a web portal, <http://www.covidthenewnormal.com/>, containing resources informed by behavioural science and the use of nudge and social norms theory, related to COVID-safe behavioural norms during the ongoing Unlock phase
- The second is a media campaign focused on the wearing of masks.
- Empowered Group 6 & Ministry of Health nudged the citizens towards desired social behaviour.
- The effort aims to provide people with prompts and reminders along with simple, easy-to-practice ideas of designing their environment in such a manner that practising these behaviours become easy.

## **Extra Shots:**

### **NITI Aayog:**

- Website: [niti.gov.in](http://niti.gov.in)
- 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

### **36th ASEAN Summit held virtually, "hosted" by Vietnam**

- The 36th ASEAN Summit held via teleconference in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Vietnam, as the ASEAN Chair, is to emphasize unity in the region to respond to current challenges, and it is expected that ASEAN leaders will discuss cooperation on public health, and draft a plan for post COVID-19 rehabilitation.
- With the theme "Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN", the summit discuss the regional comprehensive postpandemic recovery plans, implement initiatives including establishing the ASEAN COVID-19 response fund, setting up a reserve for medical supplies to meet urgent needs during epidemics, building the ASEAN standard procedures of epidemic response in case of health emergency.

## **Extra Shots:**

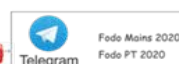
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The **ASEAN Summit** is a biannual meeting held by the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in relation to economic, political, security, and socio-cultural development of Southeast Asian countries. ☐ Most recent: 2020

- Genre: Summit
- Inaugurated: 24 February 1976
- Frequency: Bi-annual

## **Piyush Goyal chairs 49th Governing Council Meeting of NPC**

- Shri Piyush Goyal, Commerce & Industry Minister and President of NPC Governing Council chaired the 49th Governing Council Meeting of National Productivity Council (NPC).
- NPC is an autonomous body which comes under the Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade

(DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India. The meeting witnessed the participation of Government Officers, Leaders of Industry Associations, Industry captains, Trade Union leaders, Productivity Councils of States and other eminent personalities.

- The participants in the meeting deliberated on increasing the productivity levels of the India in various sectors.
- These participants put forward various suggestions such as interlinking of academia and industry for creation of a highly skilled labor force, identification of Champion sectors which has the potential to drive the economy, sector formulation of specific action plans by NPC especially in agriculture and logistics sectors, adoption of technology to increase the productivity and delivering cost-effective solutions for marginalised sector etc.

## **Extra Shots:**

### **NCP:**

- Founded: 12 February 1958
- Headquarters location: New Delhi

## **July 2020 – Important Summit & Conference**

### **New Zealand cancels the APEC Summit 2021**

- New Zealand has cancelled the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- This summit to be held in Auckland, New Zealand.
- The 2019 leaders' meeting was cancelled by Chile due to violent anti-government protests and the virtual APEC meeting of 2020 is being hosted by Malaysia. Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand, Winston Peters announced that for planning and security reasons the 2021 APEC summit is cancelled and the summit will be hosted as a virtual event.
- New Zealand has closed its borders of every nation except for the returning citizens and residents.

## **Extra Shots**

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The **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation** is an inter-governmental forum for 21 member economies in the Pacific Rim that promotes free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

- Headquarters: Singapore
- Founder: Bob Hawke
- Founded: November 1989, Canberra, Australia
- Chairperson: Muhyiddin Yassin
- Type of business: Economic meeting

## **4th edition of the virtual Ministerial on Climate Action held**

- The fourth edition of the virtual Ministerial on Climate Action was co-chaired by European Union, China and Canada.
- In the meeting, India was represented by the Union Environment Minister, Shri Prakash Javadekar.
- The meeting witnessed the countries deliberating on how countries are aligning economic recovery plans with the Paris Agreement as well as the critical enabling conditions to ensure continued climate action.
- The virtual Ministerial on Climate Action was held with prime objective of demonstrating the continued political commitment to global climate action.
- It also aimed to further the discussions on the full implementation of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- It was attended by Ministers and representatives of about 30 countries and was held virtually in view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

## **15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the India-European Union Summit**

- The 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the India-European Union Summit will be held in virtual mode.
- The summit will deliberate on India-EU cooperation by covering various aspects such as political and security relations, trade and investment and economic cooperation.
- The developments around the COVID-19 pandemic and contemporary global topics of interest to both sides would be discussed during the summit.
- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President of European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, and President of European Council Charles Michel will co-chair the 15th meeting of the India-European Union Summit to be held virtually.

## **Extra Shots:**

### **European Union (EU)**

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

## **NITI Aayog presented second Voluntary National Review of India at United Nations HLPF**

- NITI Aayog presented India's second Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development 2020.
- The HLPF is the foremost international platform for follow-up and review of progress on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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## Highlights:

- The India VNR 2020 report titled "Decade of Action: Taking SDGs from Global to Local".
- VNR is presented by Dr.Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog and was released by Dr.Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Dr V.K Paul, Member, NITI Aayog, Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog, and Smt. Sanyukta Samaddar, Adviser (SDGs), NITI Aayog.
- VNRs are a critical component of the review of the progress and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The reviews are voluntary and state-led. The aim of the report is to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned
- The HLPF annually meets in the month of July for eight days under the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the UN. **Extra Shots:**

## NITI Aayog

- Website: niti.gov.in
- 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

**UN HLPF:** The United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development is a subsidiary body of both the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations Economic and Social Council responsible for the entire organization's policy on sustainable development.

- Founded: 9 July 2013
- Headquarters location: New York, New York, United States
- Formation: 9 July 2013; 6 years ago
- Parent organizations: United Nations Economic and Social Council, United Nations General Assembly

## India-European Summit held via video conferencing

- On July 15, 2020, the 15th India-European Union Summit was held through video conferencing. The summit aims to strengthen ties between India and European Union.
- The fourteenth India-European Union Summit was held in New Delhi in 2017.

## Highlights of the Summit:

- Under the Summit, India and European Union agreed to boost their ties in the areas of defence, trade and investment.
- They agreed to launch a dialogue on maritime security.
- The leaders at the summit decided to strengthen India-EU strategic partnership.
- They affirmed their determination to promote multilateralism with United Nations and World Trade Organization (WTO). **A Roadmap to 2025**

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- The Roadmap to 2025 was created during the 15th India-EU Summit. The roadmap does not give rise to any financial commitments and does not create any legally binding rights or obligations.

## **Clean Energy and Climate Partnership**

- India and EU discussed the ongoing cooperation under the “Clean Energy and Climate Partnership”.

## **Bilateral Cooperation**

- They also reinforced their cooperation in International Solar Alliance (ISA), International Platform on Sustainable Finance (IPSF). These platforms will help in environmentally sustainable investments.

## **India-EURATOM Agreement**

- The leaders at the summit welcomed the signing of India-EURATOM agreement on research and development in nuclear energy. **Cyberspace**
- The leaders confirmed their full support to an open, free, stable and secure cyberspace, and their commitment to foster the responsible and liable behaviour of all the actors in the cyberspace.

## **Extra Shots:**

### **European Union (EU)**

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

### **World Trade Organization (WTO)**

- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- Membership: 164 member states
- Head: Pascal Lamy
- Founded: 1 January 1995
- Purpose: Reduction of tariffs and other barriers to trade

## **Conference on Defence Manufacturing Technologies and Aerospace inaugurated**

- The Union Minister of State for Defence Shri Shripad Naik inaugurated the conference on Defence Manufacturing Technologies and Aerospace.
- The conference is being held to promote Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan and Make in India initiative.
- The conference is held under the theme: Empowering India with Atma Nirbhar Bharat Mission
- The event was jointly organized by Tamil Nadu Technology Development Promotion Centre, Confederation of Indian Industry and Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers.
- The Technology promotion centre of Tamil Nadu participated as one of the two defence industrial corridors of the country is located in the state. The other is located in Uttar Pradesh.
- The conference will help India achieve its defence target of 26 billion USD of domestic production by 2025.

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## **Extra Shots:**

The **Ministry of Defence** is charged with coordinating and supervising all agencies and functions of the government relating directly to national security and the Indian armed forces. The President of India is the ceremonial commander-in-chief of the armed forces of the country.

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Founded: 15 August 1947
- Officeholders: Rajnath Singh (Minister), Subhash Bhamre (Minister of State)

## **Indo-Italian Business Mission on Food Processing inaugurated**

- On July 15, 2020, the Union Minister of Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the Digital Indo-Italian Business mission on Food Processing. **Highlights:**
- The Mission will focus on key areas such as fruits and vegetables, milk, cereals, dairy processing, bottling and packaging.
- The event is to be held for two days.
- During the event, trade fairs, digital conferences and back to back meetings are to be conducted.
- Around 23 Italian companies are to exhibit their products and services.
- India is to invest in mega food parks and agricultural export zones in the future.
- Also, GoI will link these parks with Industrial estates, industrial parks and clusters in the country.

## **Extra Shots:**

The **Ministry of Food Processing Industries** is a ministry of the Government of India responsible for formulation and administration of the rules and regulations and laws relating to food processing in India.

- Departments: National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management □ Headquarters: New Delhi
- Founded: 1947
- Officeholders: Niranjana Jyoti (Minister of State), Harsimrat Kaur Badal (Minister)

## **India, China Military Level meeting held**

- India and China hold discussions through established military and diplomatic channels to address the prevailing situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- On 14th July, Commanders from People's Liberation Army (PLA) and Indian Army held a meeting at Chushul, on the Indian side, for the fourth round of talks. **Highlights:**
- The engagement of the military in both the countries were consistent with the consensus reached between the Special Representatives of China and India earlier, on 5 July, to discuss complete disengagement.
- The Senior Commanders reviewed the work on the implementation of the first phase of disengagement and discussed further steps to ensure complete disengagement.
- Both sides reaffirmed the commitment to the objective of complete disengagement.
- This process is intricate and requires constant verification. They are taking it forward through regular meetings at the diplomatic and military levels.

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**China (Capital/Currency):** Beijing/Renminbi

- President: Xi Jinping
- Official Language: Mandarin

**Prime Minister to address High-Level Segment of ECOSOC on 17 July**

- A High-Level Segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) session is to be held on 17 July 2020.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi is expected to deliver a keynote address virtually at the United Nations in New York.
- PM Narendra Modi will be speaking at the valedictory session along with the Prime Minister of Norway Erna Solberg and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. **India:** ☐ This is the first opportunity for PM to address the broader UN membership since India's overwhelming election as a non-permanent member of the Security Council on 17th June, for the term 2021-22.
- The theme of the High-Level Segment of the ECOSOC resonates with India's Security Council priority, wherein it calls for 'reformed multilateralism' in a post-COVID-19 world.
- PM had earlier delivered the keynote address virtually at the 70th anniversary of ECOSOC in January 2016.

**Highlights:**

- The annual High-level Segment convenes a diverse group of high-level representatives from the Government, the private sector, civil society, and academia.
- The theme of the 2020 High-level Segment, on the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the UN, is

"Multilateralism after COVID19: What kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary".

- The session is to focus on critical forces shaping the course of multilateralism and explore ways to bolster the global agenda through strong leadership, effective international institutions, a broadening of participation and enhanced significance of global public goods, especially amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Extra Shots:**

**United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**

- Headquarters location: New York, United States
- Head: Mona Juul
- Founded: 1945

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- Parent organization: United Nations

## **CII to hold virtual Tea Conclave from September 1**

- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) will organise a virtual Tea Conclave from 1st September to 30th November.
- digital conferences, exhibition of different varieties of tea, products related to tea industry, and have a buyerseller meet spread over a period of 90 days.
- The CII in the past has organized eight tea conclaves – five in Siliguri and two in Guwahati.
- This tea conclave will be a virtual one and will have virtual stalls similar to regular exhibitions. Producers and manufacturers will be able to display their products in the stalls. Buyers and tea connoisseurs can visit the stalls.
- This platform will also be an opportunity to launch new products as well as for start-ups & innovators. **Theme** of the Conference: Chai Piyo Swasth Raho (Drink tea and remain healthy). **Note:** 21<sup>st</sup> May- International Tea Day **Extra Shots:**

## **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**

- President: Uday Kotak
- Headquarters location: New Delhi
- Founded: 1895
- Members: Direct 9,000+; Indirect 300,000
- Purpose: Create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India

## **PM Modi Virtually addresses UN ECOSOC on UN's 75th anniversary**

- Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi deliver a keynote address virtually at the valedictory session of High-Level Segment of UN ECOSOC (United Nations Economic and Social Council) on July 17 in New York, on the eve of 75th anniversary of the United Nations.
- The year 2020 marks the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, in 1945.
- The theme of the High-level Segment was “Multilateralism after COVID19: What kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary”.
- This was Prime Minister Modi's first speech at the UN after India's election to the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member on 17th June 2020 for the term 2021-22.
- PM was joined by his Norwegian counterpart Erna Solberg as well as UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.
- The High-Level Segment is held annually by ECOSOC for discussing international economic and social issues and formulating policy recommendations addressed to member states and United Nations system.

## **Extra Shots:**

## **UN ECOSOC**

- Headquarters location: New York, New York, United States
- Head: Mona Juul
- Founded: 1945

Parent organization: United Nations

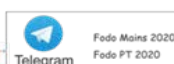
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## **India attends third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meet**

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman participated in third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meet.
- The meet was presided by Saudi Arabia.
- During the first meeting, India shared its G20 Action plan in response to COVID-19 that was endorsed by all the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors.
- During the third meet, India shared global economic outlook amid evolving COVID-19 crisis.

## **Extra Shots:**

### **Saudi Arabia (Capital/Currency):** Riyadh/ Saudi riyal

- Price: Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud

## **India Business Council to host India Ideas Summit 2020**

- India Business Council will host the 45th India Ideas Summit 2020 on July 22nd.
- The Summit convenes business and government leaders for discussions on the future of the U.S.-India Partnership and the trends shaping globalization, trade and investment, and the future of work in the COVIDera and beyond.
- This year's focus is on "Building a Better Future".
- The Summit will feature a high-powered line up of both public and private sector speakers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will deliver the keynote addresses. □ Among others, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will address the summit.

## **3-day long Air Force Commanders' Conference to begin from Wednesday in Delhi**

- The three-day long Air Force Commanders' Conference will begin.
- The theme of the conference is "Indian Air Force in the Next Decade".
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is likely to inaugurate the conference on Wednesday.
- The Defence Secretary and Secretary Defence Production are also expected to be present during the inauguration.

## **Extra Shots:**

### **Indian Airforce**

- Helicopter: Apache AH-64E, CH-47 Chinook, Dhruv, Chetak, Cheetah, Mi-8, Mi-17, Rudra, Mi-26, Mi-25/35 □ Founded: 8 October 1932, India
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Attack: Jaguar, Harpy
- Role: Aerial warfare
- Fighters: Sukhoi Su-30MKI, Dassault Rafale, Dassault Mirage 2000, Mikoyan MiG-29, HAL Tejas, Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-21

## **Indian Air Force Commanders Conference inaugurated on 22 July**

- The Air Force Commanders' Conference (AFCC) was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Defence Rajnath Singh on 22 July 2020 at Air Headquarters, Vayu Bhawan, New Delhi. □ The AFCC conference will be held for 3 days.

The theme of the AFCC is 'IAF in the Next Decade'.

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## Highlights:

- It aims in enhancing efforts towards indigenization in the future.
- IAF is proactively bolstering its operational capabilities over the past few months.
- Amid the pandemic, IAF is supporting the nation's response to COVID-19 pandemic and the role played during several HADR missions.
- IAF has enhanced the synergy and integration within the three services since the appointment of Combined

Defence Services (CDS) and the creation of the Department of Military Affairs (DMA).

- IAF has adapted to changes in technology and adopting emerging capabilities in Nano Technology, Artificial Intelligence, Cyber and Space domains.

## India to participate in G20 Digital Ministers Meet

- Union Minister of Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad is to address the G20 Digital Minister's meeting on 22 July 2020.
- The Digital Economy Ministers meeting will be held as a part of the Sherpa Track for the G20 Leaders' Summit 2020, which is to be hosted by Saudi Arabia at the end of 2020.
- The theme of G20 Digital Minister's meeting "Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century For All".

**The annual G20 meeting are conducted through three tracks:** ☐ Government discussions take place under the Finance

- Sherpa Tracks
- Civil society organisations participate through engagement groups.

## **The Ministers will address three key agenda are:**

- To empower people, by creating the conditions in which all people - especially women and youth - can live, work and thrive
- To safeguard the planet, by fostering collective efforts to protect our global commons
- To shape New Frontiers, by adopting long-term and bold strategies to share benefits of innovation and technological advancement.

## Extra Shots:

**G20:** The G20 is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 19 countries and the European Union.

- Leader: Salman of Saudi Arabia (2020)
- Chairman: King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (2020)
- Founder: Group of Seven
- Founded: 26 September 1999
- Formation: 26 September 1999; 20 years ago; 2008 (heads-of-state/heads-of-government summits)

## United Nations General Assembly to go virtual for the first time

- The 75th United Nations General Assembly is to be conducted virtually in 2020 for the first time in its history.
- The 2020 session is to begin on September 15.


## The main highlights of the 2020 UNGA are as follows

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Biodiversity Summit

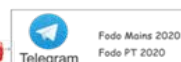
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- A high-level meeting to celebrate 25th anniversary of fourth world conference on women Climate Week **Extra Shots:**

## **United Nations General Assembly**

- President: Tijjani Muhammad-Bande
- Headquarters: New York, United States
- Founder: United Nations
- Founded: 1945, New York, United States

## **Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda inaugurates e-Symposium on Handicrafts**

- Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda today inaugurated an e-Symposium on Handicrafts organized by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research and Analysis, Indian Institute of Management, Shillong.
- The e-symposium was titled 'Emergent North-East India: Strategic and Developmental Imperatives in Handicrafts'.

## **Dr. Harsh Vardhan represents India at SCO Health Ministers Digital Meet**

- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, virtually participated in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Health Minister's Digital Meet on 24th July.
- The meeting was chaired by Mr. Mikhail Murashko, Minister of Health of the Russian Federation.

## **Highlights:**

- The Ministers discussed the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, as it was the key topic of discussion.
- India proposed to set up a Sub-Group on Traditional Medicine under the existing Institutional Meetings of the SCO Health Ministers to fulfill the WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2014-2023.
- India also suggested to reinforce the effective implementation of the joint statement on cooperation in combating epidemics signed at the Qingdao Summit in 2018. **Extra Shots:**

## **SCO**

- Headquarters: Beijing, China
- Deputy Secretaries General: Sabyr Imandosov; Wang Kaiwen; Aziz Nosirov; Vladimir Potapenko
- Founded: 15 June 2001
- Secretary General: Vladimir Norov
- Official language: Chinese and Russian
- Founders: China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan

## **India-UK affirm shared commitment to FTA at 14th Joint Economic and Trade Committee meeting**

- India and the United Kingdom virtually held the 14th Joint Economic and Trade Committee meeting on 24 July 2020. It was co-chaired by Minister for Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal and UK Secretary of State for International Trade, HE, Ms Elizabeth Truss.

## **Highlights:**

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- The Co-chairs of Business led Joint Working Groups on Life Science and Health, ICT and Food and Drink set up during the last JETCO made their recommendations to the Ministers.
- Both the countries shared commitment to revive and revitalize the long-standing trade and economic linkages between India and the UK.
- The countries also resolved to cooperate in health Sector especially in view of the present Pandemic of COVID-19.

## **“2nd Empathy e-Conclave” organised by ILBS**

- Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) has organised “2nd Empathy e-Conclave” in collaboration with Airport Authority of India (AAI).
- The conclave was held on the occasion of “World Hepatitis Day”.
- The theme of 2nd Empathy e-Conclave is “Keep your Liver Safe in COVID times “.

### **Extra Shots:**

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

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Parent organization: Directorate General of Civil Aviation
- Number of employees: 17,535 (As on 31.03.2018)
- Founded: 1 April 1995
- Key people: Arvind Singh (Chairman), B.S. Bhullar, DGCA (Ex-Officio)

## **FM Nirmala Sitharaman attends 5th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of AIIB**

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attended the 5th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) through video conference in New Delhi.
- Theme of the conference ‘AIIB 2030-Supporting Asia’s Development over the Next Decade’.
- Sitharaman mentioned about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative of creating a COVID-19 Emergency

Fund for SAARC Nations and India's efforts in supplying critical medical health kits to tackle the COVID-19. **Extra Shots:**

### **AIIB:**

- Headquarters: Beijing, China
- Region served: Asia and Oceania
- Membership: 102 Members
- Main organ: Board of Governors; Board of Directors

## **August 2020 – Important Summit & Conference**

### **6th BRICS Environment Ministers’ Meeting held virtually**

- The Environment Ministers of the five BRICS countries participated in the 6th BRICS Environment

Ministers’ Meeting on July 30, 2020 through video conference.

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- Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar represented India at the meeting along with the Ministers of the other BRICS nations- Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa.

## **Highlights:**

- The Environment Minister discussed the need to implement the various initiatives under the BRICS and for the speedy implementation of the BRICS agreement.
- He also elaborated on the efforts made by India in areas relating to sustainable urban management, tackling marine litter, air pollution and the cleaning of rivers.
- The Minister highlighted that India launched Air Quality monitoring index in 10 cities in 2015 to control air pollution.
- He also informed that India had launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in 2019, the goal of which is to reduce particulate pollution by 20-30 percent relative to 2017 levels by 2024. **Extra Shots:**

## **BRICS**

- Founded: June 2006
- Formation: 2009
- Official language: Portuguese, Russian, Hindi, Chinese, English
- State Leaders: Jair Bolsonaro; Vladimir Putin; Narendra Modi; Xi Jinping; Cyril Ramaphosa
- Founders: India, China, Brazil, Russia

**Piyush Goyal Inaugurates National Digital Conference on “Easing Doing Business for Atmanirbhar Bharat”** □ The National Digital Conference on ‘Easing Doing Business for Atmanirbhar Bharat’ was organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in partnership with the Department for Promotion of Investment and Internal Trade (DPIIT) on 30 July 2020.

- The event was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, who was the Chief Guest at the event and delivered the inaugural address.

**The Conference deliberated on a range of issues like:**

- Major regulatory reforms undertaken by the government across various indicators of doing business,
- Assess their on-ground implementation,
- Disseminate best practices from various states,
- Crucial policy issues requiring redressal and,
- Identify a sustainable action plan for improving the business environment across sectors and states.

**Tourism Minister Prahlaad Singh Patel virtually inaugurates world class “Thenzawl Golf Resort” project implemented in Mizoram under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme**

- The Union Minister of State for Culture & Tourism (Independent charge) Shri Prahlaad Singh Patel has virtually inaugurated the world-class “Thenzawl Golf Resort” Project in Mizoram on 4 August 2020, for the development of Golf Tourism in the country and attract both International and domestic tourists.
- The project has been implemented under the Integrated Development of New Eco Tourism under Swadesh Darshan Scheme, sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism, Government

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of India under the new scheme called Swadesh Darshan – North East Circuit, with the aim of developing theme-based tourism circuits in the country.

- The Thenzawl Golf Resort Project will have an international standard 18 holes Golf Course designed by Canadian based Golf Course Architect Firm Graham Cooke & Associates and 30 Eco Log Huts. □ The total outlay of the Project amounts to Rs.92.25 Crore.

## Extra Shots:

### Ministry of Tourism

- Officeholder: Prahlad Singh Patel (MOS independent charge) □ Founded: 1967
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Jurisdiction: India

### PM addressed the Conclave on Transformational Reforms in Higher Education

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Conclave on Transformational Reforms in Higher Education under National Education Policy on 7 August through video-conferencing.
- The conclave was organized by the Ministry of Education along with the University Grants Commission (UGC).
- Also, the Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank launched UGC's guidelines to offer internship-embedded degree programmes. **Highlights:**
- The Prime Minister urged all to work towards the implementation of a new national education policy. □ National Education Policy was approved after 3-4 years of extensive deliberations.
- The new policy is expected to benefit the country's education system.
- The policy aims to provide all the students an opportunity to achieve their goals.
- The policy was launched as the mapping of interest, ability, and demand was needed.
- The NEP has the potential to not only change the education system but to also transform the entire nation. It will be the foundation of the New India.
- Directors of Institutions, Vice-Chancellors of universities, Principals of colleges and other stakeholders participated in the programme.

## Extra Shots:

### UGC:

- Founded: 1956
- Objectives: Coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of university education. It provides recognition to universities in India, and disburses funds to such recognized universities and college □ Sector: Higher Education
- Jurisdiction: India
- First executive: Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar
- Headquarters: New Delhi

### 'India-Canada IC-IMPACTS Annual Research Conference'


- The India-Canada IC-IMPACTS Annual Research Conference was held on August 6-7, 2020 in order to discuss the ways for taking cooperation between the two countries to a new level.

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- This conference is organized virtually by the India-Canada Centre for Innovative Multidisciplinary Partnership to Accelerate Community Transformation and Sustainability (IC-IMPACTS).

## **Extra Shots:**

**Canada (Capital/Currency):** Ottawa/ Canadian dollar

- Prime Minister: Justin Trudeau

## **Fourth Meeting of the BRICS Anti-Drug Working Group held**

- The 4th Session of the BRICS Anti-Drug Working Group comprising of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa was held virtually.
- The Indian delegation was led by Shri Rakesh Asthana, Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau.
- The session was held over the video conference on August 12, 2020. The 4th session was chaired by Russia.

## **Highlights:**

- The countries adopted reaffirming the commitment of the five-member states to the International Anti-drug conventions.
- India recommended for nodal points to enable real-time information sharing among BRICS nations.
- The countries exchanged opinions concerning the drug situation in their countries, the international and regional trends of illegal trafficking in narcotic drugs. **Extra Shots:**

## **BRICS**

- Founded: June 2006
- Formation: 2009
- Official language: Portuguese, Russian, Hindi, Chinese, English
- State Leaders: Jair Bolsonaro; Vladimir Putin; Narendra Modi; Xi Jinping; Cyril Ramaphosa
- Founders: India, China, Brazil, Russia

## **India's External Affairs Minister and Foreign Minister of UAE Co-Chairs 13th India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting**

- The 13th Session of the India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) on Trade, Economic and Technical Cooperation was held virtually on 17 August 2020 to further strengthen the bilateral ties between the two strategic partners.
- The Meeting was co-chaired by Union Minister of External Affairs, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar from India's side and UAE's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- The next Session of the India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting will be held in Abu Dhabi in 2021.

## **5<sup>th</sup> World Conference of Speakers of Parliament held virtually**

- 5<sup>th</sup> World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (5WCSP) was held virtually.
- The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Geneva, and the Parliament of Austria jointly organized the two-day Conference with the support of the United Nations (UN).

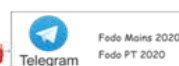
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- The conference was held with the theme “Parliamentary leadership for more effective multilateralism” to deliver peace and sustainable development for the people and planet.
- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla participated in the inaugural ceremony of the conference.

**MoS V. Muraleedharan co-chairs first India-Uzbekistan National Coordination Committee meeting virtually** □ Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan co-chaired the first India-Uzbekistan National Coordination Committee meeting virtually with Uzbek Deputy Prime Minister for Investments and Foreign Economic Relations Sardor Umurzakov.

## **Extra Shots:**

**Uzbekistan (Capital/Currency):** Tashkent/ Uzbekistani so‘m

- President: Shavkat Mirziyoyev

## **MEA in partnership with Foreign Ministry of Thailand organize 6th Round Table of AINTT**

- The Ministry of External Affairs in partnership with the Foreign Ministry of Thailand has organized the 6th Round Table of ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT) held virtually.
- The theme of the two day Round Table which was conducted through video conferencing was ‘ASEAN-India: Strengthening Partnership in the Post COVID Era’.
- The ASEAN-India Round Table comprising think tanks, policy makers, scholars, media and business representatives was established at the 7th ASEAN-India Summit in Thailand in 2009 to provide policy inputs to Governments on future direction of cooperation. **Extra Shots:**

## **ASEAN**

- Headquarters: Jakarta, Indonesia
- Founded: 8 August 1967, Thailand
- Members: Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei, Myanmar (Burma), Cambodia, Laos
- Founders: Abdul Razak Hussein, Narciso Ramos, Adam Malik, S. Rajaratnam, Thanat Khoman □ Subsidiary: ASEAN Regional Forum

## **International Conference on ‘Aerosol Air Quality, Climate Change and Impact on Water Resources and Livelihoods in the Greater Himalayas’**

- The International Conference on Aerosol Air Quality, Climate Change and Impact on Water Resources and Livelihoods in the Greater Himalayas is set to be held from September 14 to 16.
- The three-day conference will be organised by the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital in association with Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University.
- The international conference will be held on online platform.
- The conference will deliberate on topics such as rapid increase in the air pollution associated with industrialisation, urbanisation and its resultant impact on regional and global air quality, visibility degradation, cloud formation, and atmospheric chemistry, radiation budget, ecosystem, Himalayan climate, and glaciology, cryosphere, monsoon patterns, water availability, and human health.

## **‘Candid & In-Depth’ exchange of views in 18th India-China WMCC meeting**

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- India and China had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on the existing situation in the India-China border areas during the 18th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on India-China Border Affairs last week.
- In the last meeting of the WMCC the two sides have agreed to resolve the outstanding issues in an expeditious manner and in accordance with the existing agreements and protocols.
- Both sides also agreed that full restoration of peace and tranquility in the border areas would be essential for the overall development of bilateral relations.

## **Extra Shots:**

**China (Capital/Currency):** Beijing/Renminbi

- President: Xi Jinping
- Official Language: Mandarin

## **Som Parkash addresses 5th virtual BRICS Industry Minister's Meeting**

- The Industry Ministers of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries held a meeting through video mode on 24 August 2020 to discuss ways to boost cooperation in areas including 5G and Artificial Intelligence.
- From India, the Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Shri Som Parkash, participated in the 5th edition of the Industry Ministers' meeting.
- The meeting adopted a joint statement on cooperation in new industries, such as 5G, AI and the industrial Internet, among BRICS countries.
- It is also likely that BRICS foreign ministers' meeting will be organised in early September 2020, which will be arranged by Russia, the current Chair of BRICS. **Extra Shots:**

## **BRICS**

- Founded: June 2006
- Formation: 2009
- Official language: Portuguese, Russian, Hindi, Chinese, English
- State Leaders: Jair Bolsonaro; Vladimir Putin; Narendra Modi; Xi Jinping; Cyril Ramaphosa
- Founders: India, China, Brazil, Russia

## **14th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue (DPD) held with focus on maritime security cooperation**

- The 14th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue (DPD) was held virtually on 28 August 2020 to further boost the defence and security partnership between the two countries, with a special focus on the maritime sphere.
- The meeting was co-chaired by Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and Permanent Secretary (Defence), Singapore Mr Chan Heng Kee.
- The Implementing Arrangement on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) was signed between India and Singapore during the meeting.

## **Extra Shots:**

**Singapore (Capital/Currency):** Singapore/ Dollar

- Prime Minister: Lee Hsien Loong

## **NCPUL organises "World Urdu Conference" in New Delhi**

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- National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) has organised the “World Urdu Conference” in New Delhi.
- The inaugural session of the two days long conference was virtually addressed by Union Education Minister

Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’.

- During the conference, the minister added that Government of India will honor Urdu writers and literators with awards and honours in the name of important personalities of Urdu in order to encourage Urdu writers for literary and creative services.
- NCPUL has organised the conference to celebrate the quintessential spirit of Urdu, its inclusive ethos and creative character.

## Extra Shots:

### NCPUL

- Parent organization: Government of India
- Founded: 1 April 1996
- Headquarters location: New Delhi
- Key people: Dr. M. Mangapati; Pallam Raju; Shri Jitin Prasada; Wasim Barelvi; Dr. Khwaja Mohd. Ekramuddin. **Piyush Goyal Attends 8th East Asia Summit (Economic Ministers’ Meeting)**
- The 8th East Asia Summit (Economic Ministers’ Meeting) was held virtually on 28 August 2020, to strengthen the regional supply chains, become resilient during this challenging time of Covid-19 pandemic, and to spur economic growth.
- The meeting was attended by the Economic ministers from the 10 ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) members and eight other nations, including India, the US, China, Japan, South Korea, Russia, Australia and New Zealand.
- The East Asia Summit 2020 was chaired by Vietnam’s Industry and Trade Minister Tran Tuan Anh. □ The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal represented India in the Summit.
- The meeting concluded with a joint statement in which the ministers reaffirmed their commitment to promote trade and investment, minimise disruptions to trade and global supply chains and facilitate supply chain connectivity, including for essential goods such as medical supplies, medicines, including vaccines, food, commodities and other essential supplies and services in the region.

## Extra Shots:

### Association of Southeast Asian Nations:

- Secretariat: Jakarta, Indonesia
- Chairman: Nguyen Xuan Phuc
- Secretary General: H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi

**Rohingya relocation to Bhashan Char island may start after Monsoon** Bangladesh is planning to start the process of relocating Rohingya refugees from the crowded camps of Cox’s Bazar to the newly built facility at Bhashan Char island after the monsoon session.

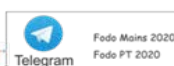
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- The government is planning to take relatives of the 306 Rohingya refugees already settled there and other representatives to show the facilities available on the Bhashan Char for the people to be settled there.
- If they find the place better than the cramped Cox's Bazar, the initial transfer of Rohingyas may commence after the Monsoon season.
- Bhashan char is an uninhabited island where the government of Bangladesh has made shelter houses for one lakh Rohingya refugees at an estimated cost of Tk. 2,300 crore.
- The environmentalists say that the Bhashan Char falls in an ecologically fragile area prone to floods, erosion and cyclones.

The issue of forced relocation and lack of mobility on the island has also been raised by organisations working among the Rohingyas.

## **September 2020 – Important Summit & Conference**

### **CFI to host first-ever Cycling Summit in 2021**

- The Cycling Federation of India (CFI) is all set to host the first-ever Cycling Summit in 2021, with an aim to promote the culture of cycling in the country.
- This one-day summit is designed to promote the culture of cycling and exchange knowledge with budding and professional cyclists.
- The Cycling Summit 2021 will be hosted in Delhi, Mumbai, and Bangalore and is expected to be a unique confluence of cycling enthusiasts, renowned athletes, and businesses from all over the country.

### **Extra Shots:**

#### **Cycling Federation of India**

- Founded: 1946

### **Union Minister Piyush Goyal addresses US-India Strategic Partnership Forum through virtual conference**

- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has invited the US business and industry to work with their Indian counterparts to take the bilateral trade to greater heights.
- Both countries believe in free and fair trade, and the US is India's largest trading partner.
- The two nations can be the resilient trusted partners in the global value chain.

### **Third Annual Leadership Summit of the USISPF is being held**

- The Third Annual Leadership Summit of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) is being held from 31st August.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver the Special Key Note Address at the USISPF 3rd Annual Leadership Summit through video conference.
- The theme of the 5-day Summit is "US-India Navigating New Challenges."

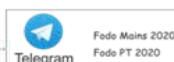
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- The theme will cover various subjects such as India's potential in becoming a Global Manufacturing Hub, Opportunities in India's Gas Market, Ease of Doing Business to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India.

## **Extra Shots:**

**USISPF** - The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum is a non-profit organization that works for the partnership between India and the United States.

## **Arjun Munda inaugurates the two-day National Tribal Research Conclave**

- The two days National Tribal Research Conclave will be held virtually on 3rd and 4th September 2020.
- The Conclave Minister for Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda will chair the two-day National Tribal Research Conclave.
- The Conclave is organized by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA).
- This is the second workshop of its kind.
- The first workshop was organized in January 2020.
- The themes of the conclave are Health, Livelihood, Education, digitalisation, water conservation, data sciences and development models for aspiration and model villages.

## **Extra Shots:**

### **IIPA**

- Founder: Paul H. Appleby
- Founded: 1954

## **India to host SCO Council Summit of heads of government on November 30**

- A senior official in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has informed that India will host a summit of the council of heads of government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on November 30, 2020.
- The focus of the summit will be on the contribution to trade and the economic agenda of the influential grouping.
- India has already been focusing on expanding its cooperation with SCO. **Extra Shots:**

### **SCO**

- Headquarters: Beijing, China
- Deputy Secretaries General: Sabyr Imandosov; Wang Kaiwen; Aziz Nosirov; Vladimir Potapenko
- Founded: 15 June 2001
- Secretary General: Vladimir Norov
- Official language: Chinese and Russian
- Founders: China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan

## **Saudi Arabia hosts G20 Foreign Ministers' Extraordinary Meeting**


- The G20 Foreign Ministers' Extraordinary Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September under the current Chair, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia virtually.
- External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar represented India.

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- India proposed the setting up of voluntary 'G20 Principles on Coordinated Cross-Border Movement of People'.
- This new set up will be based on following three pillars:
- Standardisation of testing procedures and universal acceptability of test results
- Standardisation of 'Quarantine procedures'
- Standardisation of 'movement and transit' protocols **Extra Shots:**

**Saudi Arabia (Capital/Currency):** Riyadh/ Saudi riyal

- King: Mohammed bin Salman

**Prahlad Singh Patel virtually attends BRICS Culture Ministers' Meet**

- The 5th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting was held under the chairpersonship of Russian Federation.
- India was represented by Union Minister of State (I/C) for Culture and Tourism Shri Prahlad Singh Patel in the 5th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meet.
- The Minister of State for Culture addressed participants of the meeting and presented India's perspective to strengthen the cultural cooperation within BRICS through alternative mechanisms of sharing and organizing cultural events in online format given the prevailing pandemic situation. **Extra Shots:**

**BRICS**

- Founded: June 2006
- Formation: 2009
- Official language: Portuguese, Russian, Hindi, Chinese, English
- State Leaders: Jair Bolsonaro; Vladimir Putin; Narendra Modi; Xi Jinping; Cyril Ramaphosa
- Founders: India, China, Brazil, Russia

**India attends Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) Meeting of BIMSTEC**

- India participated in the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) of the regional grouping BIMSTEC on 2 September 2020 to discuss ways to further expand cooperation among its member nations to effectively deal with key challenges including impact of the coronavirus pandemic.
- The key meeting of BIMSTEC was held under the chairmanship of Sri Lanka.
- The Indian delegation at the meeting was headed by Secretary (East) in Ministry of External Affairs Vijay Thakur Singh. **Extra Shots:**

**BIMSTEC**

- Headquarters location: Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Founded: 6 June 1997

**India to host Quad meet and 2+2 dialogue**

- India will soon be hosting the Quad meet involving Australia, Japan and the United States and the 2+2 dialogue with the United States.
- The details are being worked out for the same.
- The information regarding the diplomatic engagements was shared by the Ministry of External Affairs at the regular weekly briefing on September 3, 2020.

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## **35th FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC) held under the Chairmanship of Bhutan**

- The 35th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC 35), was held from 01 – 04 September 2020, in virtual format due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Conference was held under the Chair of the Host Country, Bhutan.
- The Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Parshottam Rupala represented India in the conference.
- The conference focused on regional priorities and issues such as COVID 19, the state of agriculture, natural resources management, food security and nutrition.
- Bangladesh will host the 36th Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific of the in 2022.
- It will be the first time that the country will host the event, ever since it joined the organisation in 1973.
- The Regional Conference is held once every two years. The first regional conference was held in Bangalore, India, in 1953.

### **Extra Shots:**

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

- Prime Minister: Lotay Tshering

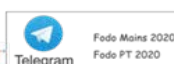
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## **PM's special keynote at 3rd Annual Leadership Summit**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered the Special Key Note Address at the USISPF 3rd Annual Leadership Summit at 9 PM on 3 September 2020, through video conference.
- The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) is a non-profit organization that works for the partnership between India and the US.
- The theme of the 5-day Summit that began on 31 August is "US-India Navigating New Challenges".

## **Keynotes**

- India's potential in becoming a Global Manufacturing Hub
- Opportunities in India's Gas Market
- Ease of Doing Business to attract FDI in India
- Common Opportunities & Challenges in Tech Space
- Indo-Pacific Economic issues
- Innovation in Public Health and others

## **Bangladesh to host FAO Asia Pacific Regional Conference in 2022**

- Bangladesh will host the 36th Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC) of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), for the first time in 2022 since joining the organization in 1973.
- Due to the global Covid-19 pandemic, the 35th FAO Asia-Pacific regional conference, organised by Bhutan this year, was held through video conference from September 1-4. The regional conference of FAO is held every two years.

## **Extra Shots:**

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

- President: Abdul Hamid

## **India to host summit of SCO council of heads of government on Nov 30, says MEA**

- India will host a summit of the council of heads of government of the SCO on November 30 with a focus on contributing to the trade and economic agenda of the influential grouping.
- The focus of the summit will be on the contribution to trade and the economic agenda of the influential grouping.
- India has already been focusing on expanding its cooperation with SCO. **Extra Shots:**

## **SCO**

- Headquarters: Beijing, China
- Deputy Secretaries General: Sabyr Imandosov; Wang Kaiwen; Aziz Nosirov; Vladimir Potapenko
- Founded: 15 June 2001
- Secretary General: Vladimir Norov
- Official language: Chinese and Russian
- Founders: China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan

## **Saudi Arabia chairs G20 Education Ministers Meeting**

The Education Ministers Meeting will take place as part of the Sherpa Track for the G20 Leaders Summit 2020, which is to be hosted by Saudi Arabia at the end of 2020.

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- The Saudi Arabian Presidency has selected the following theme for the G20's 2020 activities: 'Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century For All'.
- The meet was chaired by Saudi Arabia's Education Minister Dr Hamad Al-Asheikh where India was represented by Union Minister of Education, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, in the virtual mode.

## **Extra Shots:**

**Saudi Arabia (Capital/Currency):** Riyadh/ Saudi riyal

- King: Mohammed bin Salman

## **First World Solar Technology Summit (WSTS) of ISA to be held**

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is going to organise the first World Solar Technology Summit (WSTS) on September 8, 2020.
  - In the virtual summit, around 26,000 participants have registered from 149 countries.
  - The summit will focus on bringing the light on affordable and sustainable clean energy.
- ☐ The Summit will be addressed by PM Modi.

**The summit is going to launch 8 initiatives and guidelines,** ☐ Solar Photo-voltaic Technician Skill development initiative.

- ISA Cares Initiative.
- Undergraduate Programme (UG) for small Island, Developing states and Least Developed Countries.
- Price Exploratory Global bid for energy that will provide access to 47 million households through solar parks.
- Advisory for manufacturers to produce solar kits-based ventilators.
- Action plan to develop 20 GW of Solar parks.
- To make solar power bankable.
- A new website for the ISA will be launched.

## **Extra Shots:**

### **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**

- Headquarters location: Gurugram
- Leader: Upendra Tripathy
- Founded at: Paris, France
- Founded: 30 November 2015
- Membership: All members of UN
- Founders: India, Narendra Modi, François Hollande

**Second Webinar organized on topic 'Nutrient Requirement for Children & Mothers during first 1000 days'** ☐ The Ministry of Women and Child Development is organizing a series of webinars during the third Poshan Maah being celebrated this month.

- The first webinar on Best Practices and Success Stories from POSHAN Abhiyaan was organized yesterday.
- The second webinar was held today on the topic of Nutrient Requirement for Children and Mothers during the first 1000 days.

## **India-France-Australia holds first-ever Trilateral Dialogue on Indo-Pacific**

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India, Australia and France held their first-ever Trilateral Dialogue on 9 September 2020, with focus on enhancing cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

- The meeting was co-chaired virtually by Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary of India, François Delattre, Secretary-General, French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and Frances Adamson, Secretary, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
- Objective of this trilateral meeting was to strengthen the strong bilateral relations among the three countries and synergize their respective strengths to ensure a peaceful, secure, prosperous and rules-based Indo-Pacific Region.
- The three sides agreed to hold the dialogue on an annual basis.

## **Extra Shots:**

**France (Capital/Currency):** Paris/ Euro, CFP franc

- Prime Minister: Jean Castex

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

- Prime Minister: Scott Morrison

**Education Ministry organises 2 -day conclave on School Education in 21st Century under Shikshak Parv**

- Education Ministry is organising a two-day conclave on School Education in 21st Century under Shikshak Parv through online medium.
- The focus will be on Principal and Teacher practitioners, who will discuss how they have already implemented certain themes of the NEP in creative ways.
- Shikshak Parv is being celebrated from 8th September- 25th September, to felicitate the Teachers and to take New Education Policy 2020 forward.

**13<sup>th</sup> Aero India-21 to be held in Bengaluru in Feb 2021**

- The 13<sup>th</sup> edition of Aero India-21 is scheduled to be held at Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, Karnataka from 3 to 07 February 2021.
- Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh has launched the website for Aero India 2021, so that the exhibitors can register and book their space online as well as Business and other visitors buy their tickets online to visit the show.
- The website can be accessed at <https://aeroindia.gov.in>
- Aero India is Asia's largest air show and aviation exhibition held biennially in Bengaluru since 1996.

**Conclave on "School Education in 21st Century" begins**

- A two-day conclave on 'School Education in 21st Century' commenced virtually.
- The conclave has been organised by Ministry of Education as part of Shikshak Parv 2020.
- Shikshak Parv is being celebrated from 8th-25th September, 2020 to felicitate the teachers and to take New Education Policy 2020 forward.
- The conclave was addressed by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi under the National Education Policy- 2020 (NEP-2020).

**India to host CHG meeting of SCO on 29-30 November in New Delhi**

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- India is scheduled to host the meeting of Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, SCO on 29-30 November 2020 in New Delhi.

This will be the first Prime Minister level meeting to be hosted by India since its elevation as a full-member of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, SCO.

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- India hosted a Preparatory Seminar on Start-up Forum on 11 August and the first-ever meeting of Consortium of Economic Think-Tanks on 21-22 August.
- Both the events were attended by all the SCO Member States through Video Conferencing.
- India will also be hosting two Ministerial-level meetings of SCO Member States. **Extra Shots:**

## SCO

- Headquarters: Beijing, China
- Deputy Secretaries General: Sabyr Imandosov; Wang Kaiwen; Aziz Nosirov; Vladimir Potapenko
- Founded: 15 June 2001
- Secretary General: Vladimir Norov
- Formation: 2001
- Founders: China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan

## **Santosh Gangwar addresses Virtual Meeting of G-20 Labour and Employment Ministers**

- Labour and Employment Minister Santosh Gangwar has called upon all G-20 members to continue to work together for finding solutions to the common problems resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Mr Gangwar was speaking at Virtual Meeting of G-20 Labour and Employment Ministers last evening through video conferencing.

## **Extra Shots:**

## **G20**

- Leader: Salman of Saudi Arabia (2020)
- Founder: Group of Seven
- Founded: 26 September 1999
- Chairman: King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (2020)
- Formation: 26 September 1999; 20 years ago; 2008 (heads-of-state/heads-of-government summits)

## **Health Minister Harsh Vardhan attends 73rd session of WHO South East Asia Region** ☐ Health Minister Harsh Vardhan attends 73rd session of WHO South East Asia Region.

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare attended the 73rd session of WHO South East Asia Region (SEARO) through video conference.
- This is the first time the two-day event is being held entirely through virtual platforms owing to the COVID pandemic.
- The 73rd session is being hosted by the Government of Thailand (from Bangkok) while the previous session was held in New Delhi.

## **Extra Shots:**

## **WHO**

- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- Founded: 7 April 1948
- Customer service: 011 6656 4800
- Parent organization: United Nations Economic and Social Council

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- Heads: Tedros Adhanom, Soumya Swaminathan, Jane Ellison

## **S Jaishankar co-chairs ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting with Thailand**

- The Union Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar co-chaired the ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on 12 September 2020, with his Thailand counterpart Don Pramudwinai.
- The virtual meeting saw the participation of Foreign Ministers of the 10 ASEAN Member States and India. □ The new ASEAN-India Plan of Action for next five years (2021-2025) was adopted at the meeting.
- The meeting reviewed the status of ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership in several areas including maritime cooperation, connectivity, education capacity building and people-to-people contacts and also discussed ways to strengthen cooperation to fight COVID-19 pandemic among other things.

## **V Muraleedharan participates in 27th ASEAN regional forum**

- Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan participated in the 27th ASEAN regional forum. □ During the 27th ASEAN regional forum, the minister shared India's views on maritime security, counter terrorism as well as the COVID-19 pandemic.
- He also stated that India will co-chair ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) workshops on port security and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

## **Virtual meeting of G-20 Agriculture, Water Ministers held**

- A virtual meeting of G-20 Agriculture and Water Ministers was held.
- The meeting was attended by Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare Parshottam Rupala.
- The Jal Shakti Minister assured the forum of India's commitment to contribute towards the objectives, goals and targets set by G-20.
- Government of India is implementing the 'Jal Jeevan Mission' to provide household tap connections to 190 million rural homes, thereby ensuring drinking water security.

## **Virtual Buyer-Seller meet for carpet exports to commence from Sept 29**

- The Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) has announced a three-day Buyer-Seller Meet in virtual mode with special focus on Australia and adjoining countries to ensure business continuity amid COVID-19 pandemic.
- The buyer-seller meet shall be held from 29th of September to 1st of October and with a limited number of virtual booths available, only 50 exhibitors shall participate in the event on first-cum-first-serve basis.
- India is the biggest exporter of handmade carpets to countries like Australia in the Oceania Region.
- Carpet exporters can explore business opportunities by targeting new destinations Down Under to enhance export potential.
- The famed Kashmir carpet is the leading hand-made product exported to various overseas destinations like Europe, US and the Middle East.
- All carpet exporters interested in participation in Buyer-Seller Meet have been advised to coordinate with the Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, Kashmir Haat, Srinagar or reach out on [adh.exportpromotion@gmail.com](mailto:adh.exportpromotion@gmail.com).

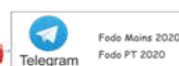
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## **Jaishankar participates in inaugural session of Intra-Afghan negotiations in Doha**

- External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar participated in the inaugural session of the Intra-Afghan negotiations held in Doha on Saturday via video teleconference.
- The Minister's participation was in response to an invitation extended to him by the Qatar's Foreign Minister Mohammad bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani.
- He highlighted India's role as a major development partner of Afghanistan with over 400 projects completed in all the 34 provinces of Afghanistan.

## **Health Ministry organises virtual conclave for pvt hospitals providing COVID-19 treatment in country**

- The Health Ministry organized a virtual conclave for private hospitals providing COVID-19 treatment in the country.
- It provided a platform for discussion of clinical protocols and best practices in COVID-19 management towards reducing avoidable deaths.
- While COVID-19 has posed unprecedented challenges to the country's health care systems, there have been proactive responses from the government as well as the private industry.
- The Ministry also encouraged the hospital representatives to share their key concerns and challenges being faced while managing COVID-19 in their facilities

## **10th Indo-US Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) Group Meeting held virtually**

- India and the United States held the 10th Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) Group Meeting on 15 September 2020 through virtual platform, in the wake of COVID pandemic.
- The DTTI Group Meetings are normally held twice a year, alternatively between India and the United States, as a part of Indo-US Bilateral Defence Cooperation, to bring sustained leadership focus to the bilateral defense trade relationship.
- The virtual meeting was co-chaired by Raj Kumar, Secretary of Defence Production, Defence Ministry and Ellen M. Lord, Under Secretary of Defence for Acquisition and Sustainment, from the US Department of Defence.
- Both the countries signed a statement of intent (SoI) to strengthen the bilateral dialogue on defence technology co-operation and create opportunities for co-production and co-development of military equipment.

## **56th Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme observed in Dhaka**

- The 56th Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) day was observed online by the High Commission of India in Dhaka.
- The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme was instituted by a decision of the Indian Cabinet in 1964.
- The Programme is launched to provide development assistance to developing countries across the globe.
- ITEC is administered by the Ministry of External Affairs, India and is fully funded by the Government of India.

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**Extra Shots:****Bangladesh (Capital/Currency):** Dhaka/Taka

- Prime Minister: Sheikh Hasina
- Official Language: Bengali

**S. Jaishankar Chairs IBSA Foreign Ministers' Virtual Meeting**

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- The IBSA Foreign Ministers customary meeting was held through video conferencing on 16th September, 2020.
- The Union Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India, Shri S. Jaishankar chaired the meeting.
- South Africa was represented by FM Grace Naledi Mandisa Pandor and Brazil by FM Ambassador Fabio Marzano. □ During the meeting, the group issued a joint statement calling for 'accelerated and comprehensive reforms' of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), expressing frustration with the slow pace of progress on Council's reforms in the Inter-Governmental Negotiations process which lacks transparency in its working methods.
- IBSA is a Forum of three countries including India, Brazil and South Africa.

## Extra Shots:

### IBSA

- Founded: 6 June 2003, Brasilia, Brazil

### Prakash Javadekar attends G20 Environment Ministerial Meeting virtually

- The G20 Environment Ministerial Meeting was held on 17 September 2020 through video conferencing.
- The meeting was chaired by Saudi Arabia.
- The Union Environment Minister, Shri Prakash Javadekar represented India in the meeting.
- The meetings focused on various social and economic issues such as agriculture, anti-corruption, climate, digital economy, education, employment, energy, environment, health, tourism, trade and investment.
- G20 consists of 19 individual countries and the European Union (EU).

## Extra Shots:

### Saudi Arabia (Capital/Currency): Riyadh/ Saudi riyal

- King: Mohammed bin Salman

### Fourth Global Ayurveda Summit organised virtually

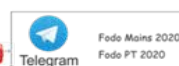
- The fourth edition of the Global Ayurveda Summit was inaugurated by the Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu through video-conferencing on 15 September 2020.
- The Global Ayurveda Summit 2020 has been organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), from September 15 to October 14, 2020.
- This year the Summit will be held virtually due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- The theme for Global Ayurveda Summit 2020 is "Emerging Opportunities for Ayurveda during Pandemic"
- The Summit will provide a platform to showcase Ayurveda and herbal medicine to the world as a solution to deal with this global health crises.
- The Global Ayurveda Summit 2020 will have 8-day International Conference, 30-day International Exhibition and Focused Business to Business Meetings.
- Global Ayurveda Summit is an annual international event started by the Confederation of Indian Industry, Kerala in 2010 to help the Ayurvedic sector to aspire, plan and achieve greater heights.

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## Extra Shots:

### Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) President: Uday Kotak

- Headquarters location: New Delhi
- Founded: 1895
- Purpose: Create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India

### 10th virtual meeting of BRICS NSAs

- 10th Meeting of the BRICS High Representatives on National Security will be held today, September 17, 2020.
- The virtual meeting would be chaired by Russia.
- The National Security Advisors of the BRICS nations will discuss the issues related to strengthening of the political security and cooperation among the BRICS nations.
- Countries will also exchange their views on international security, biosafety, cooperation on counter-terrorism and cybersecurity.

## Extra Shots:

### BRICS

- Founded: June 2006
- Formation: 2009
- Official language: Portuguese, Russian, Hindi, Chinese, English
- State Leaders: Jair Bolsonaro; Vladimir Putin; Narendra Modi; Xi Jinping; Cyril Ramaphosa
- Founders: India, China, Brazil, Russia

### India, Brazil, South Africa jointly call for comprehensive reforms of UNSC

- India, Brazil and South Africa jointly called comprehensive reforms of the UN Security Council at the IBSA

Foreign Ministers' virtual meeting on September 16, 2020.

- The customary meeting of IBSA Foreign Ministers was chaired by Union External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar and attended by his Brazilian counterpart Fabio Marzano and South African Counterpart Grace Naledi Mandisa Pandor.
- During the meeting, the foreign ministers of the three-nation group- India, Brazil and South Africa adopted a joint statement on the Reform of the UN Security Council, as a common endeavour of the Global South. Extra Shots:

### UNSC

- Headquarters: New York, New York, United States
- Founded: 24 October 1945
- Formation: 1945
- Subsidiaries: MINUSCA, United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee
- Parent organization: United Nations

### Brazil (Capital/Currency): Brasilia/ Brazilian real

- President: Jair Bolsonaro

### AFMC Hosts IMPACT 2020 Virtually

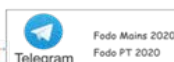
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- The Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) the first-ever completely online conference cum workshop IMPACT 2020 from 16-18 Sep 2020.

The unique conference has been designed with the medical researcher in mind.

- The conference is organized by the Medical Journal Armed Forces India (MJAFI) as it celebrates its 76th publishing volume this year.

## **Highlights:**

- The three-day event will feature distinguished faculty from among reviewers, authors, and editors will conduct interactive sessions on contemporary issues in medical publishing.
- The new guidelines for the promotion of teachers in the medical profession will be released during the conference.
- The new guidelines mandate the publication of research articles in peer-reviewed indexed journals.

## **PM Modi to inaugurate VAIBHAV Summit on 2nd October 2020**

- Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV)

Summit on 2nd October'2020 through video conferencing.

- The VAIBHAV Summit is a joint initiative of all S&T and Academic Organisations of India (working in Research, Academic and Scientific fields) to enable deliberations on thought processes, practices and R&D culture with a problem-solving approach for well-defined objectives.
- The month-long Summit will provide a platform to leverage the expertise and knowledge of global Indian researchers for solving emerging challenges and create an ecosystem of Knowledge and Innovation in the country through global outreach.

## **India-UK Water Partnership Forum discuss on water conservation** □ The India-UK Water Partnership Forum was recently held.

- The forum discussed on developing water infrastructure in India.
- The countries linked Memorandum of Understanding between Ganga and British waters.
- The forum also discussed Namami Gange Programme, Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission.
- It showcased the investment and business opportunities in the Indian water sector.
- It also highlighted on how the countries can collaborate in water infrastructure development. □ These water partnership forums are essential as India is highly water stressed.

## **Dr. Harsh Vardhan chairs 'Aarogya Manthan' 2.0**

- Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare chaired 'Aarogya Manthan' 2.0 celebrating the 2nd Anniversary of Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).
- During the event, he also presented awards to the winners of the Ayushman Bharat PMJAY Start-up Grand Challenge to support the implementation of PM-JAY.
- The Union Health Minister launched the AB PMJAY Joint Certification Programme.

## **PM Modi to hold virtual summit with his Sri Lankan counterpart on Sep 26**

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- PM Narendra Modi and Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa will hold a Virtual Bilateral Summit on 26th of this month.
- The Virtual Bilateral Summit will give an opportunity to the two leaders to comprehensively review the broad framework of the bilateral relationship soon after the Parliamentary elections in Sri Lanka.

## **Extra Shots:**

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

President: Gotabaya Rajapaksa

- Prime Minister: Mahinda Rajapaksa

## **Central Pollution Control Board celebrates 46th Foundation Day**

- The Central Pollution Control Board celebrated its 46th Foundation Day.
- The CBCB was established on September 23, 1974 under The Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as a technical arm of Central Government for environmental research, monitoring, regulation and enforcement in the country. **Global Climate Summit, 2020**
- The United Nations is to hold the Global Climate Summit on December 12, 2020 and Britain is to co-host the summit.
- The summit is to increase momentum ahead of UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change) COP 26 (Conference of Parties) that is to be held in November 2021.

## **Union Minister Piyush Goyal attends G-20 Trade and Investment Ministers Meeting Virtually**

□ Union Minister Piyush Goyal attends G-20 Trade and Investment Ministers Meeting Virtually.

- Union Commerce and Industry & Railways Minister Shri Piyush Goyal attended the G-20 Trade and Investment Ministers Meeting.

- The Minister attended the G20 Meeting through video conference.
- Discussions were held on the importance to recognise the important role of small retailers in sustaining food chains and essential supplies.
- G20 founded in 1999 with the aim to discuss policy pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability.

## **EAM Dr S Jaishankar attends Special Ministerial Meeting of FMs of CICA**

- The Union Minister of External Affairs, Dr S Jaishankar participated in the Special Ministerial Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the CICA on 24 September 2020.
- CICA stands for the 'Conference on Interaction & Confidence Building Measures in Asia'.
- CICA is an inter-governmental forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.
- The Secretariat of CICA is based at Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.
- It has 27 member states including India; 8 observer states and 5 observer organizations.

## **India attends SAARC Foreign Ministers Informal Summit**


- The external Affairs Minister S Jaishankar attended the South Asian

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Association of Regional Cooperation Foreign Ministers Informal meet virtually. During the meet, it was highlighted that SAARC should overcome cross border terrorism, blocking of connectivity and obstruction in trade. These three are currently considered the three greatest challenges of SAARC grouping.

- The meet was hosted by the Nepalese Foreign Minister.
- During the meet, the external Affairs minister reaffirmed the following
  - India has provided 200 million USD of financial help to Bhutan, 150 million USD to Maldives since 2020.
  - SAARC has made progress towards collaboration, collective prosperity in the last 35 years.
  - Currently, it is important for the members of SAARC to earn collective trust and confidence and evolve stronger in defeating terrorism
  - India directly blamed Pakistan for stalling functioning of SAARC, blocking connectivity and for sponsoring terrorism.

## Extra Shots:

### SAARC

- Founded: 8 December 1985, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Headquarters: Kathmandu, Nepal
- Secretary general: Esala Weerakoon

### National Webinar on Internationalisation of Higher Education, Conducted by DHE & UGC under Shiksha Parv

- Department of Higher Education and University Grants Commission have conducted a National Webinar on 'Internationalisation of Higher Education' under Shiksha Parv initiative. This Webinar was joined by academia, international organisations, industry and Higher Education Institutions.
- Recently, Indian Government has launched National Education Policy-2020 to promote education amongst India's people.

- The policy covers elementary education to colleges in both rural and urban India.

## Extra Shots:

### Ministry of Education

- Union Minister: Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' □ Minister of State: Dhotre Sanjay Shamrao

### Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate the summit 'Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020 on 5th Oct

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and NITI Aayog will organize a Mega Virtual Summit on Artificial Intelligence (AI), RAISE 2020- 'Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020,' from October 5-9, 2020.
- RAISE 2020 will be a global meeting of minds to exchange ideas and chart a course for using AI for social transformation, inclusion and empowerment in areas like Healthcare, Agriculture, Education and Smart Mobility, among other sectors.

## Extra Shots:

### Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

- Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology: Ravi Shankar Prasad.

### Prakash Javadekar addresses virtual Ministerial Roundtable Dialogue on Biodiversity Beyond 2020

- The Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar represented India at the virtual Ministerial Roundtable Dialogue on Biodiversity held on 24 September 2020.
- The theme of the Ministerial Dialogue was Biodiversity Beyond 2020: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth.
- The event was hosted by China, ahead of the upcoming United Nations Biodiversity Summit.

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Summit on Biodiversity on 30 September 2020.

- Around 15 ministerial representatives as well as the heads from relevant international organizations participated in the event to exchange views on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.
- Mr. Javadekar also informed that India aims to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land, and achieve landdegradation neutrality by 2030.

## **Extra Shots:**

### **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**

- Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change: Prakash Javadekar

### **India holds webinar with Cambodia to boost defence cooperation** □ A webinar between India and Cambodia was held.

- The theme of the webinar was "Indian Defence Industry Global Outreach for Collaborative Partnership: Webinar and Expo".
- It was organized under the aegis of Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence through Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers, SIDM.
- This webinar is the part of the series of webinars which are being organized with friendly foreign countries in order to boost defence exports and achieve defence export target of 5 billion dollars in the next five years.

## **Extra Shots:**

### **Ministry of Defence**

- Union Minister of Defence: Rajnath Singh

### **National webinar on Nutrition Science and Advancements organized by AYUSH Ministry**

- Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy under AYUSH Ministry organised a Webinar Nutrition Science and Advancements named POSHAN AAHAR.

- This is a part of the "AYUSH for Immunity" campaign.

- The webinar was attended by Experts, researchers, Clinical Nutritionists, Surgeons and Yoga & Naturopathy physicians.

## **Extra Shots:**

### **Ministry of AYUSH:**

- Union Minister: Shripad Naik

### **A National webinar on Early Childhood Care and Education held under ShikshakParv**

- A webinar on Early Childhood Care and Education was organized by Ministry of Education under ShikshakParv initiative to highlight the salient features of the New Education Policy (NEP 2020).
- Ministry of Education organised ShikshakParv from 8th September- 25th September, 2020 to felicitate the Teachers and to take New Education Policy 2020 forward.

## **Extra Shots:**

### **Ministry of Education**

- Union Minister of Education: Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank

### **Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar addresses Ministerial meeting of Alliance for Multilateralism**

- External Affairs Minister of India S Jaishankar addressed the Ministerial meeting of Alliance for Multilateralism.
- During the Meeting he highlighted the the international solar alliance and coalition for disaster resilient infrastructure.
- Discussions were held about the Jal Jeevan and Ujala schemes and the Aarogya Setu app.

## **Extra Shots:**

### **Ministry of External Affairs**

- Union Minister: Subrahmanyam Jaishankar
- Minister of State: V. Muraleedharan

### **National Webinar on Credit Mechanism, Mobility and Academic Bank of Credit organised by Education Ministry**

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- Education Ministry organised a National Webinar on 'Credit Mechanism, Mobility and Academic Bank of Credit'.
- The Ministry is observing "ShikshakParv" from 8 to 25 September, 2020.
- As a part of this initiative the ministry has organised various webinars on the newly announced NEP 2020.
- This Credit Mechanism, Mobility and Academic Bank of Credit webinar was initiated by Dr. Pankaj Mittal by who highlighted the importance of ShikshakParv and the concept of the webinar.

## **Extra Shots:**

### **Education Ministry**

- Union Minister: Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' □ Minister of State: Dhore Sanjay Shamrao

### **Centre for Disability Sports Foundation Stone Laid at Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, organised by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities**

- Centre for Disability Sports Foundation Stone was Laid at Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. The function was organised by DEPwD which is under Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry. Because of the coronavirus situation the function was held through video conferencing.
- Union Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar and Bharat Singh Kushwah, Minister of State for Horticulture & Food Processing were presented in this occasion.
- Cabinet approved for Setting up of a Centre for Disability Sports at Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh on 28 February, 2019.
- Total estimated cost to set up the Centre is Rs.170.99 crore.

## **Extra Shots:**

### **Madhya Pradesh:**

- Statehood Day: November 1, 1956
- Capital: Bhopal

- Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chauhan
- Governor: Anandiben Patel
- National Park: Bandhavgarh NP, Fossil NP, Kanha NP, Madhav NP, Panna NP, Pench NP, Sanjay NP, Satpura NP

### **Union Petroleum Minister addresses meeting with the theme of Tourism & rural development virtually**

- Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Union Tourism and Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel addressed a meeting on the theme of Tourism and rural development on World Tourism Day i.e 27 September 2020.
- The Discussions were held on Ministry of Tourism for its novel initiative Dekho Apna Desh that promotes and encourages local heritage and tourist sites, Internet's role in making the world a global village. **Extra Shots:**

### **Ministry of Rural Development**

- Union Minister: Narendra Singh Tomar
- Constituency: Rajya Sabha(M.P)

### **Ministry of Tourism**

- Union Minister: Prahalad Singh Patel
- Constituency: Damoh(M.P)

### **Webinars on Naturopathy to be conducted on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti**

- National Webinar will be organised by a National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN), Pune, is a premier institute comes under Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India.
- The theme of the webinar is Gandhian philosophy of Self Reliance through Self Health Reliance on Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary celebrations from 2nd Oct 2020 and which will go on till National Naturopathy Day which is on 18th Nov 2020.
- The aim of the program is to create awareness on Naturopathy practices with demonstrations.

## **Extra Shots:**

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- Union Minister: Shripad Yesso Naik

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**Class explanation- mind map**

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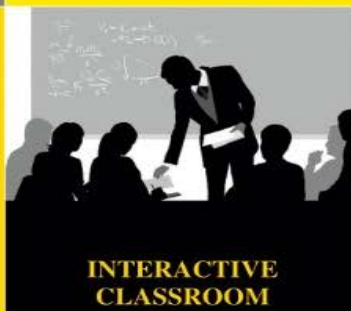
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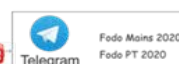
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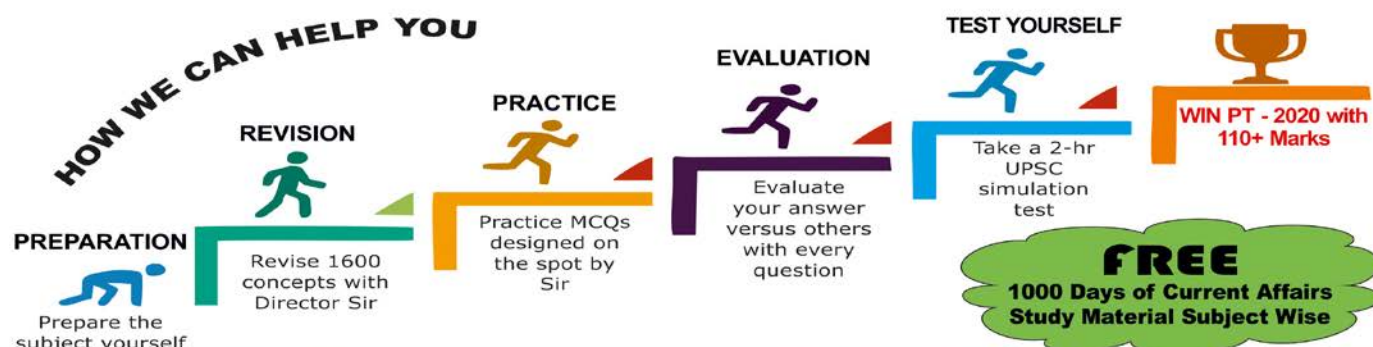


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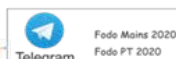
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