



IMPORTANT DAYS

World AIDS Day observed on 1st December

- World AIDS Day was observed on December 1, 2020 to raise public awareness about Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome, AIDS. The day aims to provide an opportunity for people to unite in the fight against HIV and to show support for those living with HIV.
- According to WHO the global HIV epidemic may be accelerating even more during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2019, there were around 38 million people living with HIV infection.
- The theme of the day for the year 2020 is 'Ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic: resilience and impact.'

International Day for the Abolition of Slavery observed on 2nd December

- Every year on December 2, the world celebrates International Day for the Abolition of Slavery. The day was commissioned by the United Nations General Assembly.
- A globally relevant day, the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery intends to eliminate the modern-day forms of slavery that exist in the society.

Indian Navy Day observed on 4th December

- Indian Navy Day is celebrated every year on December 4 to commemorate the attack on the Karachi harbour during the India-Pakistan war in 1971.
- On this day, the Indian Navy's attack on Karachi harbour contributed to the ultimate victory of the Indian Armed Forces over Pakistan. The theme of Navy Day 2020 is "Indian Navy Combat Ready, Credible & Cohesive".

Armed Forces Flag Day observed 7th December

- Armed Forces Flag Day was observed on December 7. The day is observed every year to honour martyrs and the men in uniform who serve India.
- On the occasions, the citizens are urged to make voluntary contributions towards the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund for the welfare of personnel and ex-servicemen, their family members and also to rehabilitate those injured in wars.

International Civil Aviation Day observed 7th December

- The International Civil Aviation Day is observed on December 7 every year. The day is celebrated all over the world to increase awareness about the role and importance of the organization, International Civil Aviation in air transport.
- International Civil Aviation Day 2020 theme is, "Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development". This theme will be valid till the year 2023.

International Anti-Corruption Day observed 9th December

- International Anti-corruption Day is celebrated every year on December 9. The day focuses on the ill effects of corruption, which is one of the most notorious socio-political phenomena that affect all countries.

- The Day is observed to create awareness about the socio-economic issues and how one can fight against it. The theme for the year 2020 is to be united against Corruption.



INDIAN AFFAIRS

Government of India launched Agriculture Infrastructure Fund

- The Central Government has launched the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF). Under the initiative, a credit guarantee for loans up to two crore rupees is provided by the government.
- The fund is a medium-long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for postharvest management infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and credit guarantee.

First child-friendly Police station launched in Maharashtra's Pune

- A child-friendly police station set up in accordance with guidelines laid down by the National Commissioner for Protection of Child Rights was launched in Pune.
- It has come up in the premises of the Lashkar police station and is aimed at giving children in conflict with law a friendly environment. Pune police have worked with Hope for Children Foundation to set up this.

One time power bill settlement scheme launched in Goa

- A one-time settlement scheme for power consumers was launched in Goa on 30 November 2020 by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant. A similar scheme would be launched by the public works department (PWD) for water bills.
- Delayed payment fee would be dropped, fully or partially, under this power settlement scheme, for which applications can be made all through December 2020.

Uttarakhand gets its first eco-bridge for small animals

- Uttarakhand's Ramnagar Forest Division has built an eco-bridge across Kaladhungi-Nainital highway. The bridge has been constructed to save reptiles and small animals from vehicular accidents while crossing the road.
- The 90-foot-long and 5-foot-wide bridge is Uttarakhand's first eco-bridge. It has been constructed with the hope that small animals and reptiles like snake, squirrel, and monitor lizard will cross the road through the bridge and avoid being killed by vehicles.

High Court of Karnataka ruled right to marry person of choice a Fundamental Right

- The Karnataka High Court ruled recently that the right of any major individual to marry the person of his/her choice is a fundamental right that is enshrined in the Constitution of India.

- The High Court division bench comprising Justices S Sujata and Sachin Shankar Magadum gave the ruling while hearing a habeas corpus petition filed by one Wajeed Khan seeking the release of his partner Ramya from confinement.

Five-star village postal scheme launched in Uttarakhand

- The Union Minister of State for Communication Sanjay Dhotre launched five-star village postal scheme in Dehradun for rural areas of Uttarakhand. It will ensure the universal coverage of flagship postal schemes.
- He also distributed Sukanya Samridhi Yojana passbooks, chequebooks, ATM Cards and saving bank passbooks to the beneficiaries of senior citizens welfare fund schemes.



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Government of UK approved Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for use

- The United Kingdom became the first country to approve the widespread use of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine against the pandemic. The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency- MHRA, a British regulator, approved the vaccine against the virus and informed that it offers up to 95% of protection against it.
- The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is safe for the rollout next week and immunisation can be started soon for people who are in the high priority groups.

New Zealand declared climate emergency

- New Zealand has declared a “climate emergency” and promised to make its public sector carbon neutral by 2025. Nearly half of New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions come from agriculture, mainly methane.
- New Zealand joins 32 other countries including Japan, Canada, France and Britain that have declared a climate emergency.

US House of Representatives passed legislation to promote Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr's legacies

- The US House of Representatives has passed a legislation that would establish an exchange initiative between the US and India to study the work and legacies of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr.
- Written by civil rights icon John Lewis, who died early this year, and co-sponsored by Indian-American Congressman Ami Bera, the Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative Act authorises the State Department, in cooperation with the Indian government.

PASSEX conducted by Indian Navy and Russian Navy

- The Indian Navy (IN) is undertaking a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the Russian Federation Navy (RuFN) in the Eastern Indian Ocean Region (IOR) from 4-5 Dec 2020. The exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability.
- India Navy is being represented by indigenously constructed guided-missile frigate Shivalik and anti-submarine corvette Kadmatt along with integral helicopters.

China became 2nd nation to plant flag on the Moon

- China has become the second country in the world to unfurl its national flag on the moon surface. Earlier this feat was achieved only by the USA when it planted its flag on the Moon during the Apollo mission in 1969.
- China achieved the historic feat when 'Chang'e 5' probe of China, which was launched to collect soil and rock samples of the lunar surface, took off from the moon to return to earth after planting the national flag.



BANKING & FINANCE

ADB, India signed 132.8 million loan to strengthen Meghalaya's power distribution Sector

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$132.8 million loan to strengthen and modernize the distribution network and improve the quality of power supplied to households, industries, and businesses in India's north-eastern state of Meghalaya.
- The project will construct 23 substations; renovate and modernize 45 substations, including the provision of control room equipment and protection systems; install and upgrade 2,214 kilometres of distribution lines and associated facilities covering three out of the six circles in the state.

Union Bank completed integration of all branches of Corporation Bank with itself

- Union Bank of India has completed the IT integration after which all the branches of erstwhile Corporation Bank have come fully under its fold as part of the amalgamation exercise.
- With this IT integration, all of erstwhile Corporation Bank, including service and specialised branches, have been fully integrated with Union Bank of India (UBI).

Reserve Bank of India directed HDFC Bank to stop new digital launches

- The RBI has directed HDFC Bank, to stop issuing new credit cards and halt the launch of new digital businesses. It will suspend all launches of digital business generating activities planned under its program Digital 2.0 (to be launched).
- The order has come after a notable rise in the number of outages of its online services over the last 2 years, the most recent being on Nov 21, 2020.

NABARD and SBI signed MoU to extend concessional refinance facility in Karnataka

- The Karnataka regional office of NABARD and State Bank of India has signed a MoU to extend concessional refinance facility to the beneficiaries of watershed development and tribal development projects.
- The MoU aims to benefit 45000 beneficiaries from 260 Farmers Producers Organisations in 28 districts. In addition 8500 beneficiaries from Self Help groups and Joint Liability Groups will be covered.

PayNearby partnered with NPCI and Yes Bank to launch retailer shopping card

- PayNearby, India's largest hyperlocal fintech start-up has partnered with YES Bank and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch PayNearby Shopping Card, enabling its retail partners to derive maximum benefits of digital commerce in the mass market category.
- The new service will allow PayNearby retailers to avail a range of digital services in a secure, risk-free mode. The launch of the PayNearby shopping card is powered by RuPay and is targeted for enabling a mass-market adoption. This will likely allow for cash digitization options at the grass-root levels.

ADB approved \$190 mn loan for upgradation of Bengaluru power distribution system

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 190 million (over Rs 1,400 crore) loan for modernisation and upgradation of power distribution system in Karnataka's capital city of Bengaluru.
- The funding for the Bengaluru Smart Energy Efficient Power Distribution Project by ADB includes a USD 100 million sovereign loan and a USD 90 million without sovereign guarantee loan to Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM).



BUSINESS & ECONOMY

OnePlus, American Express joined hands to offer benefits to customers

- OnePlus has inked a long-term strategic partnership with American Express, to offer a range of benefits for buyers in India. The new partnership would provide "always-on", exciting cashback offers for customers.
- Ten per cent cashback is provided for product categories listed on OnePlus.in for customers who purchase a product with a minimum listed price of Rs 40,000.

Infosys & Rolls-Royce formed strategic partnership for Aerospace Engineering in India

- Infosys Ltd has entered into a partnership with Rolls-Royce, an aerospace and defence technology company. Infosys will provide a full range of high-end engineering and R&D services integrated with advanced digital service to Rolls-Royce.
- Under this, Rolls-Royce will transition a significant part of its engineering centre capabilities for civil aerospace in Bengaluru to Infosys.

Amazon & Blackberry joined hands to build software for smart cars

- Amazon Web Services and BlackBerry have announced a multi-year, global agreement to develop and market BlackBerry's Intelligent Vehicle Data Platform, IVY. BlackBerry IVY is a scalable, cloud-connected software platform.
- It will allow automakers to provide a consistent and secure way to read vehicle sensor data, normalize it, and create actionable insights from that data.

Kotak AMC launched International REIT Fund of Funds

- Kotak Mahindra AMC (Kotak Mutual Fund) has launched Kotak International REIT Fund of Funds. It is an open-ended mutual fund scheme that will invest in units of SMAM Asia REIT Sub Trust Fund.
- This mutual fund scheme will have a diversified investment portfolio comprising of listed REITs (Real Estate Investment Trusts). It is India's first diversified REIT Mutual Fund.

Singapore Airlines, Vistara signed commercial cooperation agreement

- Singapore Airlines and Vistara have signed a commercial cooperation framework agreement. It will allow them to harmonise efforts in capacity planning, sales, marketing, joint fare products, customer services and operations.
- The agreement is an extension of a codeshare partnership between the airlines. Vistara is a 51:49 joint venture between the Tata group and Singapore Airlines.

Heritage Foods sold holding in Future Retail for ₹ 132 crores

- Heritage Foods sold its holding of about 3% in Future Retail for around Rs 132 crores. Heritage Foods is promoted by the family members of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.
- In November 2016, Future Group had signed a definitive agreement to acquire Hyderabad based dairy and retails enterprise, Heritage Foods, in an all-stock deal.



MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

Facebook acquired Kustomer for \$1 Billion

- Facebook has decided to buy Kustomer for \$1B to expand into customer service tools. Kustomer was co-founded by CEO Brad Birnbaum and Jeremy Suriel.
- Kustomer, a start-up, was founded to disrupt the customer services industry with a new approach to providing agents with better data and a more unified picture of users by bringing together the many social media.

Bank of India decided to acquire 49% stake in subsidiaries

- Bank of India will acquire 49% stake each in BOI AXA Investment Managers Pvt Ltd and BOI AXA Trustee Services Pvt Ltd. After the acquisitions, both the entities will become Bank of India's fully owned subsidiaries.
- The transaction, to be done on a cash basis, is proposed to be completed by end of December 2020, or another extended date mutually agreed between them.

CISCO agreed to buy U.K. Cloud Company for \$721 million

- CISCO Systems Inc. has agreed to buy U.K. customer service software maker IMI mobile Plc in a deal valued at about 543 million pounds (\$721 million).
- It is a part of a plan to enhance tools to help companies keep track of and interacting with users. The deal, CISCO's largest U.K. acquisition in about three years, offers IMI mobile investors 595 pence per share in cash.

LEAD School acquired AI-powered gamified student assessment start-up QuizNext

- Mumbai-based edtech start-up Lead School has acquired student assessment start-up QuizNext for an undisclosed amount. In August 2020, Lead School had raised \$28 million in Series C funding round led by WestBridge Capital.
- Founded in 2012 by Mehta and Smita Deorah, Lead School offers integrated curriculum and technology solutions to affordable private schools.

Blackstone decided to acquire Piramal Glass for \$1 billion

- Blackstone has agreed to acquire Piramal Glass, the glass packaging business of the diversified Piramal Group, at an enterprise value of \$1 billion.
- Blackstone will execute the deal in two tranches, as part of the agreement signed between the two parties. It will first pay \$850 million and assume ownership and management control of Piramal Glass.

Twitter acquired screen-sharing social media app Squad

- Twitter has acquired the social media app Squad that lets people hang out with friends via video chat and screen-sharing.
- Alongside live video conversations, Squad specialised in allowing its users to share their screens via its mobile or desktop apps. Squad's co-founder and CEO Esther Crawford will join Twitter to lead a "product in the conversation space."



APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Uday Shankar named FICCI President for 2020-21

- Uday Shankar has been named as the President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) for the year 2020-21. He will be succeeding the incumbent President Sangita Reddy.
- Shankar will take over the post during FICCI's 93rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled to be held on December 11th, 12th and 14th. He will become the first-ever media executive in India to lead FICCI, which is India's oldest national industry chamber. He also serves as the Vice President of FICCI.

Flipkart's Binny Bansal set to join PhonePe's Board of Directors

- Flipkart co-founder Binny Bansal to join PhonePe's board of directors, as the digital payments firm separates from parent Walmart owned Flipkart to become an independent entity.
- Bansal will join PhonePe co-founders Sameer Nigam and Rahul Chari and Rohit Bhagat on the board. Flipkart co-founder Binny Bansal had abruptly resigned from the e-commerce major in November 2018.

BBB recommended S Ramann for post of SIDBI Chairman & Managing Director

- The Banks Board Bureau (BBB), the headhunter for state-owned banks and financial institutions recommended S Ramann and Shivendra Tomar for the posts of Chairman and Managing Director of SIDBI and IFCI, respectively.
- The members of the Banks Board Bureau interviewed 20 candidates on December 4 and 5, 2020 for the vacancy of chairman and managing director (CMD) of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), the BBB said in a statement.
- Committee.

Indian-origin Anil Soni appointed inaugural CEO of WHO Foundation

- Indian-origin global health expert Anil Soni has been appointed as the inaugural Chief Executive Officer of the newly launched WHO Foundation. Soni will assume his new role from January 1, 2021.
- Anil Soni, the Indian-origin health expert was previously serving as the Head of Global Infectious Diseases at Viatrix, a global healthcare company. At Viatrix, he had led the development and introduction of medicines to treat HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

Coffee Day founder VG Siddhartha's wife Malavika Hegde appointed as CEO

- Malavika Hegde, the wife of deceased Cafe Coffee Day founder VG Siddhartha, was appointed the CEO of Coffee Day Enterprises. She is the daughter of former Karnataka Chief Minister SM Krishna.
- In July 2019, VG Siddhartha had mysteriously disappeared in Mangaluru and later found dead by suicide. After his death, Coffee Day Enterprises named SV Ranganath as Interim Chairman of the group.

Anindya Banerjee appointed as next the Ambassador of India to Korea

- Anindya Banerjee has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.
- Anindya is presently the Assistant High Commissioner in the Assistant High Commission of India, Chittagong. He is expected to take up the assignment shortly.



RANKINGS

Global Terrorism Index 2020, released

- According to the Global Terrorism Index of 2020, India is the eighth-most impacted countries in the world by terrorism in the last decade. The index is prepared by the Institute of Economics and Peace, an Australia-based nonpartisan non-profit. Afghanistan tops the list followed by Iraq, Nigeria and Syria.
- Further, the report marks South Asia as region worst affected by terrorism for the second year in a row. India ranks better than Pakistan (ranked 7) but lower than the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Philippines, which rank 9th and 10 respectively.

Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2021 report, released

- India is ranked at the 10th position on the Climate Change Performance Index 2021, which was released in Germany. None of the countries is on the path compatible with the Paris climate targets, to implement strategies to limit global warming below 2.
- India slid down by one position, as it was ranked 9th in last year's Index. India received high ratings in all CCPI categories except Renewable Energy, where it had a medium performance.

Sonu Sood topped 50 Asian Celebrities in The World list

- Indian actor, Sonu Sood has topped the first-of-its-kind '50 Asian Celebrities in the World' 2020 list, published by UK based Eastern Eye newspaper.
- The 47-year-old talented Bollywood star has been honoured for his inspiring philanthropic work throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, especially helping migrant workers reach their hometowns.

Human Development Report 2020 by United Nations Development Program, released

- The United Nations Development Programme recently released the Human Development Report. Norway topped the index, followed by Ireland and Switzerland. Hong Kong and Iceland complete the top five.
- India ranked 131 among 189 countries on the Human Development Index (HDI) for 2019, slipping two places from the previous year. This year's index has incorporated new parameters namely CO2 emission and Material foot print and introduced planetary pressures-adjusted Human Development Index (PHDI)

Kylie Jenner tops Forbes' list of highest-paid celebrities of 2020

- American media personality and reality TV star, Kylie Jenner has been crowned the highest-paid celebrity of 2020 by Forbes. Ranked at number 2 on the list by making \$170 million was American rapper and record producer Kanye West, who is also coincidentally Kylie's brother-in-law.



AWARDS & HONOURS

Four sites in India received World Heritage Irrigation Structure tag

- Four sites in India have received the World Heritage Irrigation Structure (WHIS) tag in Dec 2020. The International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) recognises these structures.
- The sites are Cumbum Tank, Kurnool-Cuddapah Canal, Porumamilla Tank (Anantharaja Sagaram) in Andhra Pradesh and 490-year-old Dhamapur Lake in Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district.

Reliance Industries topped Fortune 500 list of Indian firms, IOC at 2nd spot

- Oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries Ltd topped the Fortune 500 list of Indian companies, Fortune India announced. The list was published by Fortune India, which is part of the Kolkata-based RP Sanjiv Goenka Group.
- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC), the nation's biggest oil firm, bagged the second spot, followed by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) at the third.
- The country's largest lender State Bank of India was in the fourth position, while India's second-biggest fuel retailer Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) took the fifth spot.

John Abraham named PETA India's Person of the Year

- John Abraham has been named the Person of the Year for 2020 by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).
- John Abraham had sent a letter urging an E-retailer to stop trading in live animals. He is pushing for a ban on the use of animals in circuses and is part of a campaign against keeping birds in cages.

HCL Tech Chief Roshni Nadar Malhotra is India's wealthiest woman

- With a net wealth of ₹ 54,850 crore, HCL Tech chairperson Roshni Nadar ranked first in the Kotak Wealth Hurun wealthy women list 2020.
- The founder and managing director of Biocon, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, ranked second in the list. She is also the richest self-made woman on the list with an estimated net wealth of ₹ 36,600 crore.

15-Year-old Indian-American Gitanjali Rao named first-ever Time Kid of the Year

- Indian-American teenager Gitanjali Rao has been named as TIME magazines first-ever Kid of the Year. She has been recognised for her works using 'technology to tackle issues ranging from contaminated drinking water to opioid addiction and cyber bullying'.
- The 15-year-old from Colorado, US were selected from 5,000 nominees and were interviewed by Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Indian Navy successfully test-fired naval version of BrahMos missile

- Indian Navy, successfully test-fired the naval-version of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile in the Bay of Bengal. As per the officials, the test-fire was part of a series of trials that are being carried out by the three defence services of India.
- BrahMos Aerospace is an India-Russian collaboration. It produces a supersonic cruise missile that can be launched successfully from aircraft, ships, submarines, or land platforms.

Researchers created World's smallest memory device

- Researchers have created the world's smallest memory device yet. This development may lead to the creation of faster, smaller and more energy-efficient electronic chips for consumer electronics and brain-inspired computing.
- The researchers also discovered the physics that unlocks dense memory storage capabilities for these tiny devices. The research was published recently in a journal called 'Nature Nanotechnology'. The researchers belong to the University of Texas at Austin.

China's spacecraft successfully landed on moon to bring back lunar rocks to Earth

- China successfully landed its spacecraft on the Moon to bring back lunar rocks to the Earth for the first time since the 1970s. China's Chang'e 5 probe "successfully landed" at the planned landing site, as per local media that cited the China National Space Administration. More details are awaited on the same.
- The lander was launched on November 24, 2020 from the Hainan Island in China. The mission is the latest in the Chinese space programme. As per the planned objective, the lander will spend

about two days drilling into the lunar surface and collecting 2 kilograms (4.4 pounds) of rocks and debris.

Indian Air Force test-fired indigenous, Russian air defence missiles

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) carried out a massive exercise in which it test-fired its air defence missiles including the indigenous Akash air defence system and Russian Igla handheld launchers.
- The Akash Missile System was test-fired along with the Russian short-range missiles. The missiles engaged with the Maneuverable Expendable Aerial Target (MEAT), providing near realistic training to the combat crew.

Researchers developed a novel technology for CRISPR-based COVID-19 diagnostic test

- Researchers have developed a novel technology for a CRISPR-based COVID-19 diagnostic test that uses a smartphone camera to provide accurate results in less than 30 minutes.
- The team consists of researchers from the University of California, San Francisco, and UC Berkeley. Jennifer Doudna is one of the researchers who won the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for co-discovering CRISPR-Cas genome editing.



SPORTS

England's Dawid Malan achieved highest-ever rating points in T20I history

- England's Dawid Malan has attained the highest-ever rating points for batsmen in the International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's T20I Player Rankings.
- The 33-year-old left-hander has reached 915 points, the first to cross the 900-point mark after Australian Aaron Finch's 900-point achievement in July 2018.

Referee Stephanie Frappart became 1st woman to officiate men's Champions League

- Stephanie Frappart became the first woman to referee a men's Champions League game on 2 December 2020. She also made her Europa League debut in October 2020.
- Frappart has already made history as the first woman to referee in Ligue 1, and took charge of the 2019 UEFA Super Cup final between Liverpool and Chelsea.

Italian club Napoli renamed stadium in honour of former captain Diego Maradona

- Italian club Napoli renamed its stadium in honour of former captain Diego Maradona. The Naples city council approved the change of name from Stadio San Paolo to Stadio Diego Armando Maradona.
- In a 7-year stint at Napoli from 1984-91, Maradona led the club to its only Serie A titles in 1987 and 1990, the Italian Cup in 1987, and its only major European title, the UEFA Cup, in 1989.

Jehan Daruvala became 1st Indian to win Formula 2 race

- Jehan Daruvala created history by becoming the first-ever Indian to win a Formula 2 race during the Sakhir Grand Prix in Bahrain. Jehan was driving for Rayo Racing and he had a good launch from second on the grid and was up alongside Britain's Daniel Ticktum.
- The 22-year-old Indian emerged at the top after a thrilling battle against F2 champion Mick Schumacher and Daniel Ticktum. The Formula 2 Championship is a second-tier single seater racing championship.

Bala Devi became 1st Indian woman Footballer to score in European football league

- Bala Devi has become the first Indian woman to score in a professional European Football League. She scored in the 85th minute to open her account for Rangers FC.
- She joined the Scottish club in January 2020 and became the first Indian woman to sign a professional football contract overseas.

FIFA announced Japan to host 2021 Club World Cup

- Japan will host the Club World Cup in its existing format in late 2021. Japan has hosted the Club World Cup eight times before, most recently in 2016.
- It means there will be two Club World Cups in the same year, with Qatar hosting the 2020 edition between February 1 and 11, 2021 before another seven-team edition goes ahead in Japan in December 2021.

Virat Kohli became 1st Indian Captain to win T-20I Series in SENA countries

- After clinching the T20I series against Australia in Dec 2020, Virat Kohli became the first Indian skipper to win a T20I series in all SENA countries - South Africa (2018), England (2018), New Zealand (2020) and Australia (2020).
- Under Kohli's leadership, India began 2020 with a 2-0 win over Sri Lanka and followed it up with complete annihilation of New Zealand by 5-0.



BOOKS & AUTHORS

Vice President released a book on Former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam

- Vice President Venkaiah Naidu has virtually released the book, '40 Years with Abdul Kalam Untold Stories' authored by Dr Sivathanu Pillai.
- The book provides a gripping first-hand account of Dr Kalam's life. It has been published by Pentagon Press LLP and the foreword has been written by Pranab Mukherjee, former President of India.

Education Minister presented first copy of his inspirational book on Maharishi Arvind to President

- Union Education Minister presented the first copy of his inspirational book “Pioneer of Humanity: Maharishi Arvind” to President Ram Nath Kovind at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- The book is in Hindi with the title ‘Manavta ke Praneta Maharishi Arvind’. Shri Arvind was a person fully devoted to Indian culture, Indian values, Indian nationalism and Indian philosophy.

A book titled 'Dharma' authored by Amish Tripathi

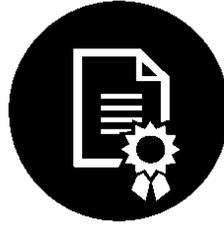
- The 2nd non-fiction book by author Amish Tripathi is titled “Dharma: Decoding the Epics for A Meaningful Life”. His last non-fiction book ‘Immortals India’ was launched in 2017.
- The book offers practical, philosophical lessons drawn from ancient Hindu epics. It is co-authored by his sister Bhavana Roy. It is to be published by Westland.

Om Birla released book on 19th anniversary of Parliament attack

- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has released a book on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of the Parliament attack. As many as 14 people including the five terrorists died during the incident.
- He released the book ‘The Shaurya Unbound’ (English Version) and ‘Samundar Samawe Boond Mein’ (Hindi Version) was released on the 2001 incident.

External Affairs Minister launched ‘Reporting India’ book

- “Reporting India: My Seventy-Year Journey as a Journalist” was released by Jaishankar at Kitaab online book launch event organized by Prabha Khaitan Foundation (PFK) of Kolkata in association with Penguin India.
- A book of veteran journalist and media entrepreneur Prem Prakash who had reported from the ground zero of India-China War in 1962 and had always debunked the Indian romanticism of a brotherly bond with its expansionist communist neighbour.



OBITUARIES

MDH Masala owner Mahashay Dharampal Gulati passed away

- Dharampal Gulati, owner of MDH Spices and the face of the company's advertisements, passed away. He was 97. Popularly called 'King of Spices,' was awarded the Padma Bhushan, the country's third-highest civilian award, in 2019.
- MDH exports spices to countries across the world such as Switzerland, Japan, the US, and Canada. It is one of the biggest brands of spices, and manufactures almost 50 different types of spices.

1st man to fly faster than the speed of sound Chuck Yeager passed away

- US Air Force officer and test pilot Chuck Yeager, who in 1947 became the first pilot in history to have exceeded the speed of sound in level flight, has passed away.
- As a test pilot, on October 14, 1947, Yeager became the first human to officially break the sound barrier, when he flew the experimental Bell X-1 aircraft at Mach 1 (speed of sound) at an altitude of 45,000 feet.