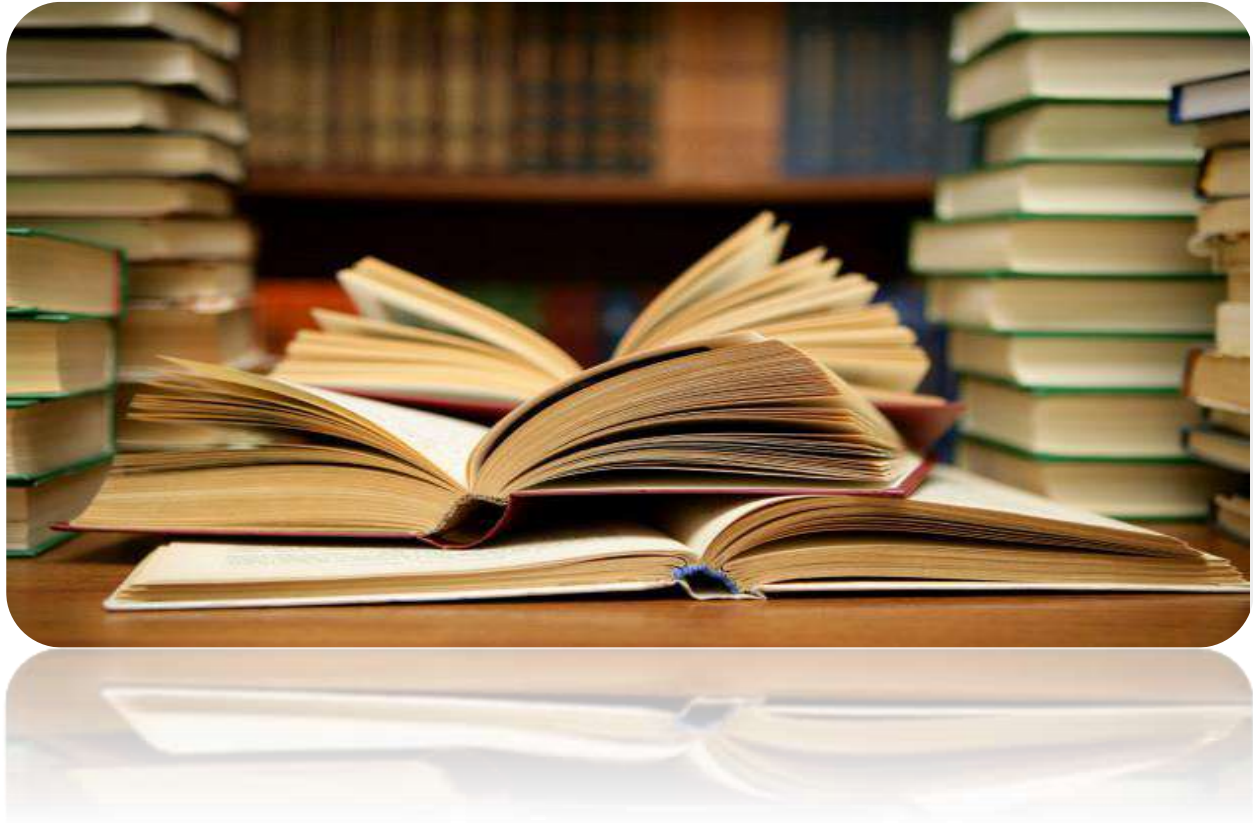


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GENERAL KNOWLEDGE MONTHLY



AUGUST – 2020

NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Girish Chandra Murmu is the new CAG of India

NEW DELHI: Girish Chandra Murmu has assumed office as the Comptroller and Auditor General of India from August 8, 2020, an official statement said on Saturday. Earlier in the morning, the former Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor was sworn in as the Comptroller and Auditor General at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Murmu made and subscribed to the oath of office before President Ram Nath Kovind, according to a Rashtrapati Bhavan statement. A former bureaucrat, Murmu is a 1985-batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre. His tenure as the new CAG will be up to November 20, 2024.

Maharashtra ties-up with Google for Virtual Classes

Maharashtra government on Thursday tied up with Google to provide online education to students in the state. Students and teachers will get access to Google Classroom and G Suite for Education that will provide solutions to support remote learning. The tools allow interactive sessions, which will allow teachers to explain lessons, and students can also ask their doubts while sitting at home. Homework can be uploaded, and teachers can check them online, said state officials.

Start-ups come under Priority sector as per new lending norms

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is revising the Priority Sector Lending (PSL) norms to enable higher lending to start-ups and renewable energy firms, as well as to correct regional disparities. It intends to align them with emerging national priorities and bring a sharper focus to inclusive development. The revised guidelines also aim to encourage and support environment-friendly lending policies to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the RBI said in a statement. Detailed guidelines in this regard will be issued shortly. PSL guidelines were last reviewed in April 2015.

RBI increases Gold loan amount to 90% of pledged gold value

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday relaxed gold lending norms, allowing lenders to give up to 90% of the value of the gold pledged as loans. Currently, banks can lend up to 75% of the value of gold jewellery and ornaments. On the day of the monetary policy outcome, the central bank increased the loan-to-value (LTV) ratio for gold loans to 90%. LTV indicates the proportion of the collateral's value that the lender can finance through the loan. This will provide better liquidity to cash-strapped borrowers opting for gold loans. The relaxation in LTV will be available on loans availed of till 31 March 2021.

Google joins hands with Prasar Bharati for AI-enabled Independence Day celebration

Independence Day with Google: Google India has a special plan for Independence Day, and it has sought the participation of the people. In a statement issued on Tuesday, the technology giant's Indian arm announced that it was looking at Artificial Intelligence to make the Independence Day celebrations this year more unique. In an appeal that reminds people of the feeling of singing the National Anthem in school assemblies during their childhood.

RBI keeps Repo Rate Unchanged at 4%

NEW DELHI: The six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India, headed by Governor Shaktikanta Das, on Thursday maintained status quo on the policy rates after delivering 115 basis points repo rate cuts since March. The repo rate stands at 4 per cent, and the reverse repo rate at 3.35 per cent. Various economists had expected the central bank to overlook a 6 per cent-plus inflation rate and bat for reviving growth with a 25 basis points repo rate.

SEBI Chairman's tenure extended till 2022

Government on Wednesday extended the term of Ajay Tyagi as the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) by 18 months till February 2022. Tyagi's term was due to end on August 31, after his tenure was extended by six months in February. "The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension of term of appointment of Ajay Tyagi, as Chairman, Securities & Exchange Board of India for a further period of 18 months w.e.f 01.09.2020 upto 28.02.2022 of until further orders, whichever is earlier,".

Airtel and Amazon Web Services partner to provide cloud solutions to businesses

EW DELHI: Bharti Airtel Ltd and Amazon Web Services (AWS), the cloud services subsidiary of e-commerce giant Amazon.com, on Wednesday announced a strategic partnership to provide a basket of cloud solutions to large, small and medium businesses. The partnership will enable Airtel and AWS integrate their capabilities to offer customers cloud services at a large scale. It will focus on developing products that secure remote working.

Google to launch file-sharing feature 'Nearby Share'

Google on Tuesday launched Nearby Share for Android users to share files seamlessly with other users in close range. Android users can now share content with others in proximity, using Nearby Share. They just have to simply tap one device, from a list of near by devices, to share files instantly. "Our goal was to make sure that for each Android phone combination we can establish a strong and secure connection, so photos and videos are shared quickly," Daniel Marcos Schwaycer, Product Manager, Android, said in a blog post

India rejects the new political map unveiled by Pakistan

New Delhi: Hours after Pakistan unveiled a new political map that laid claim to Indian territory in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh union territories as well as parts of the Indian state of Gujarat, India rejected it and termed it “an exercise in political absurdity”, adding that these “ridiculous assertions have neither legal validity nor international credibility”. India said Islamabad’s move “confirms the reality of Pakistan’s obsession with territorial aggrandisement supported by cross-border terrorism”

Axis Bank to launch AI-powered multilingual voice bot ‘AXAA’

Bengaluru startup Vernacular.ai, an AI-based SaaS voice automation platform, announced its partnership with Axis Bank, one of the leading banks in the country, to optimise voice AI solutions and help automate customer interactions through intelligent human-like dialogue. Being one of the earliest adopters of Voice AI technology, Axis Bank has already recorded massive success in resolving over 250,000 additional calls per month.

Women Entrepreneurship and Empowerment (WEE) cohort initiative awards

Eleven women entrepreneurs have been shortlisted for cash awards amounting to Rs 25 lakh under ‘Women Entrepreneurship and Empowerment’ initiative supported by the Department of Science and Technology, a statement said on Wednesday. Among the winners are Priyanka Prabhakar who has created STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics based) toys and board games to engage young minds during the coronavirus-induced lockdown.

RBI approves Sashidhar Jagdishan as MD & CEO of HDFC Bank

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved Sashidhar Jagdishan as the next chief executive officer of HDFC Bank, sources said. The private sector lender received the RBI’s approval letter last night. Jagdishan is currently additional director and head of finance, human resources, at the bank. He will take over from Aditya Puri who will step down as the bank’s longest serving CEO ever since he took charge 26 years ago. Puri is set to retire by October this year.

‘Gramodyog Vikas Yojana’ programme launched by MoMSME

The government has approved a programme for the benefit of artisans involved in manufacturing of agarbatti and to develop village industry under the ‘Gramodyog Vikas Yojana’. Initially four pilot projects will be started as part of the programme, including one in the North East. The MSME Ministry said “this decision will help to boost the indigenous production of agarbatti and will pave way to generate rural employment”. “This will also start the process of mitigating the gap between the indigenous production and demand.

Hyderabad ranks 16th in CCTV Surveillance globally

Hyderabad has been ranked 16th among the "Top 20 Most Surveilled Cities globally" according to a report published by a UK-based firm. According to a tweet by the Director-General of Police of Telangana, M Mahender Reddy, the firm Comparitech conducted a survey of cities, in which Hyderabad with its 3 lakh CCTV cameras being used to keep tab on a city that has a population of a little over 1 crore, figured 16th in the most surveilled cities.

IPL 2020 tournament to be held in UAE

IPL 2020: When asked whether it had all the permissions, Patel said the BCCI had the go-ahead in writing from both the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). IPL 2020: The BCCI has formally received permission from the government to hold the 2020 edition of the Indian Premier League in the United Arab Emirates, IPL Chairman Brijesh Patel said on Monday.



One Nation One Card scheme kick-started in four more states

Scheme now implemented in 24 States/UT The Ministry of Consumer Affairs said that the Department of Food & Public Distribution has enabled the integration of four additional states Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Nagaland and Uttarakhand to the One Nation One Ration Card scheme from Saturday. With this move, the Central government scheme has now been enabled in 24 States/UTs.

Flipkart's Samarth supports 6 lakh artisans in India

New Delhi: Walmart-owned Flipkart on Friday said it supports over six lakh artisans, weavers and craftsmen across the country through its Samarth programme and is working on onboarding more such sellers to the platform. The Samarth programme was launched last year, wherein the e-commerce major had partnered with five non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to help artisans use the online marketplace to sell their products. Samarth supports the livelihood of over six lakh artisans, weavers and craftsmen.

Govt. notifies e-invoicing for companies with Rs 500-crore turnover

NEW DELHI: The government will notify a new GST e-invoice scheme under which businesses with turnover of Rs 500 crore and above will generate all invoices on a centralised government portal starting October 1, an official said on Thursday. Earlier, the turnover threshold for businesses was set at Rs 100 crore. CBIC Principal Commissioner (GST) Yogendra Garg said the existing Goods and Services Tax (GST) return filing system would be improved further by incorporating the features propose.

Reliance Industries to buy Big Bazaar

The acquisition has been done as part of the scheme in which Future Group is merging certain companies into Future Enterprises Limited (FEL). Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries' subsidiary Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL) announced to acquire the Retail & Wholesale Business and the Logistics & Warehousing Business from the Future Group in a mega transaction for Rs 24,713 crore. The acquisition has been done as part of the scheme in which Future Group is merging certain companies including Future Retail.

India's longest ropeway service opened in Guwahati over Brahmaputra

Guwahati: Guwahati has got its first ropeway over River Brahmaputra. It is said to be India's longest ropeway and is expected to become a major tourist spot in the state. The Passenger Ropeway Project at Guwahati was the dream project of Finance minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. The ropeway connects North Guwahati to Guwahati City traversing over the 1.8 KM stretch on the mighty Brahmaputra river.

What is the significance of AI in detecting illegal cryptocurrency mining?

Researchers at US-based Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) have developed an artificial intelligence (AI) algorithm to detect illicit cryptocurrency miners who use research computers for mining. "Our deep learning artificial intelligence model is designed to detect the abusive use of supercomputers specifically for the purpose of cryptocurrency mining," said Gopinath Chennupati, a researcher at Los Alamos National Laboratory

Kerala to build country's first International Women Trade Centre

Kerala will set up India's first international women's trade centre (IWTC), in consonance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at Angamaly. This initiative aims to accelerate women entrepreneurship and secure gender parity while providing women with a safe place away from home to start new businesses, set up or expand, and get their products marketed globally, said Biju Prabhakar, Secretary, Department of Social Justice, Women & Child Development.

BSE partners with Gujarat's iHub to help start-ups

Leading stock exchange BSE on Friday said it has joined hands with iHub, an incubation set-up established by the Gujarat government, to encourage and support start-ups in raising capital. Besides, the exchange will offer multiple benefits in terms of gaining visibility, branding, credibility and unlocking the value, the BSE said in a statement. "Through this association with iHub, (government of Gujarat) we believe we can offer a favourable ecosystem for the start-ups to raise capital and succeed," said Ashishkumar Chauhan, MD and CEO of the BSE.

Google announces new Digital Education tool 'Assignments'

Google announced new education tools for teachers, and students to facilitate learning in the virtual education space. The new tools will be available through Google's various products such as Meet, G Suite, and Classroom. While some of the features will be rolled out in the coming months, others will be available later this year, Google said in a blog post. "As educators worldwide have reinvented their practice online, we're also adapting our tools to meet the evolving needs of their new educational landscape," Avni Shah.

Swachh Survekshan report 2020: Indore bagged the award for fourth time in a row

The government on Thursday announced the results of annual survey of cleanliness, Swachh Survekshan 2020 and Indore once again retained the top spot as the cleanest city of India. The city has bagged the spot fourth time in a row. Gujarat's Surat on second spot and Maharashtra's Navi Mumbai on third. Union Housing Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said, "I visited Indore a few years ago, along with a member of a Japanese delegation.

Care Health Insurance is the new name of Religare Health Insurance

Name of Religare Health Insurance Company Ltd has been changed to Care Health Insurance Ltd with effect from August 19, 2020. Religare Enterprises has changed the name of its health insurance subsidiary to Care Health Insurance. "Name of Religare Health Insurance Company Ltd, subsidiary of the company, has been changed to Care Health Insurance Ltd with effect from August 19, 2020," Religare Enterprises said in a regulatory filing.

NPCI International Payments Limited (NPIL): set up by NPCI for international market operations

Mumbai: The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched its international subsidiary NPCI International to take its hugely popular instant payment service Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and card network RuPay to international markets. NPCI's expansion plans have been on the cards since last year. The formation of the new entity is the first definitive step taken by the umbrella entity for retail payments to mark the impending foray. The setup of the new unit also comes.

YES Bank to completely sell its mutual fund business operations

Shares of YES Bank closed 1.2 per cent lower at Rs 15.57 on the BSE on Friday after the bank said it has signed an agreement for the sale of 100 per cent stake in two of its subsidiaries, YES Asset Management Limited (YES AMC) and YES Trustee Limited (YTL), to GPL Finance for an undisclosed amount. YES AMC is the asset management company of YES Mutual Fund and YTL is the trustee of YES Mutual Fund.

ICICI Lombard to merge with Bharti Axa General Insurance

ICICI Lombard General Insurance Co. Ltd and Bharti AXA General Insurance Co. Ltd, last week, announced a merger to form the country's third-largest general insurance entity. The merger is subject to approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai), Competition Commission of India, stock exchanges, Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) and other shareholders and stakeholders. "The merger of Bharti AXA General Insurance with ICICI Lombard General Insurance is an outgrowth of efforts.

Aarogya Setu team launches 'Open API Service' for better operation

The team handling the Aarogya Setu application has rolled out a new feature to enable businesses to resume their operations while following protocols amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the ministry of electronics and IT said on Saturday. The Open API Service will help organisations check the status of Aarogya Setu users and integrate it into its various work from home features, according to the ministry's statement. Any organisation or entity registered in India with more than 50 employees can use the Open API Service of Aarogya Setu.

Businesses, with an annual turnover of up to Rs 40 lakh are exempted from GST

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry on Monday posted a series of tweets, on the first death anniversary of former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, remembering his contribution towards the successful implementation of the Goods and Services Tax. As we remember Arun Jaitley today, let us acknowledge the key role he played in the implementation of GST, which will go down in history as one of the most fundamental landmark reforms in Indian taxation, the Ministry tweeted.



Negative inflows in Equity mutual funds, for first time in over four years

For the first time in over four years, the equity schemes of mutual funds registered an outflow of ₹2,489 crore in July, on the back of huge redemption and negative returns delivered by most schemes. In fact, about 78 per cent of the active equity schemes had given a negative return this year. In March, 2016 equity funds (including ELSS) logged a outflow of ₹900 crore. The outflow from equity in July comes after investments in these schemes hit a new low of ₹240 crore in June.

Indian flag to be hoisted at New York's Times Square

New Delhi: The Indian Independence Day celebrations reached its pinnacle on Saturday morning at the iconic Times Square in New York City. For the first time, the Indian flag was hoisted with pride and patriotism alongside the US flag at Times Square. Over two hundred Indian Americans participated in the event to witness the flag soaring high and wide in the skies of New York.



Reliance Industries at 96th rank in Fortune Global 500 list

NEW DELHI : Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries has been ranked 96th in 2020 Fortune Global 500 list released today. The Indian firm jumped 10 places to break into the world's top 100 companies on the list. This is the highest any Indian company has been ranked on the Fortune Global 500 list ever. Walmart topped the Fortune 2020 list with a revenue of \$524 billion, followed by three Chinese firms - Sinopec Group (\$407 billion), State Grid (\$384 billion), and China National Petroleum (\$379 billion).

Israel provides AI-based technology and equipment to AIIMS

Israel on Tuesday contributed state-of-the-art artificial intelligence (AI) based technologies and equipment to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi with the aim to assist in India's Covid-19 containment efforts and also enhance country's overall healthcare facilities, according to a statement attributed to the Israeli embassy. "The technologies include contactless monitoring applications, advanced medical management systems, and AI-based solutions such as AI assistant robots that can help medical teams.

Reliance Foundation to launch W-GDP WomenConnect Challenge

Mumbai: Reliance Foundation on Wednesday said it has partnered US Agency for International Development (USAID) to launch the W-GDP WomenConnect Challenge across India this year with an aim to bridge the gender digital divide in India. The Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) challenge supports private sector-led approaches that close the gender digital divide, expand business opportunities, and empower women. "At the heart of this partnership, is our shared goal to help bridge both the gender divide and the digital divide in India," Nita Ambani, founder and chairperson of Reliance Foundation, said.

Paytm Money launches stock trading service

Paytm launched the Stock Trading services last week on Monday. The stock trading is available in its beta version of Paytm Money App for a few android users as part of its early access program. The launch is making a news for the competitive charges of trading. The cash delivery trades are free on the app, and only ₹10 is charged for intraday trades, said a release from the company. Paytm Money Stock Trading allows a fully digital KYC and 100% paperless account opening process. The stock trading option will be rolled out in a phased manner. In the early access stage, a limited number of users will be given access every day.

Zydus Cadila launched the cheapest generic version of Remdesivir in India

Zydus Cadila launches the generic version of Remdesivir, under the brand name Remdac, for treating patients suffering from severe symptoms of Covid-19. Priced at Rs 2,800 per 100 mg vial, Remdac is the most economical Remdesivir brand as on date. Zydus is the fifth company to launch generic version of Remdesivir and other pharma companies who have launched include Hetero's Covifor at Rs 5,400 for 100 mg vial, Mylan's Desrem is at Rs 4,800 and Cipla's Cipremi is priced at Rs 4,000 and Jubilant Life Sciences' Jubi-R at Rs 4,700 per vial.

Mi India pledges 2500 smartphones to children, to promote online education

Chinese smartphone major Xiaomi on Thursday said its arm MI India will distribute 2,500 handsets worth Rs 2 crore to support online education of children who are worst affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in the country. "MI India distribution and retails came up with a fantastic idea. Together they will be contributing 2,500 smartphones to enable children most impacted by the pandemic to access quality education. In this endeavour we found the right partner Teach for India who is committed to the cause," its chief operating officer Muralikrishnan B said in an online video. The company's managing director Manu Jain said MI India is committed to digital India initiative and has always supported education for all.

INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Russia to Launch First COVID 19 Vaccine

As the number of coronavirus cases continues to rise at an alarming rate across the globe, scientists and medical experts are making accelerated efforts to develop a vaccine fit for human use. Currently, there are more than 160 vaccine candidates in different stages of production and 27 of these have reached the human trials.



Mukesh Ambani now Fourth-Richest Person in the World

Hong Kong: Mukesh Ambani has surged past Europe's wealthiest man, making him the world's fourth-richest person. Reliance Industries Ltd.'s chairman is now worth \$80.6 billion, after amassing \$22 billion this year, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. That gives him a bigger wealth pile than France's Bernard Arnault.



US bans transactions with TikTok and WeChat

In what is the latest of a series of American measures against China, U.S. President Donald Trump signed executive orders (EOs) barring transactions with Chinese video sharing app TikTok and messaging service WeChat. The bans, which will come into effect after 45 days, were ostensibly in response to concerns that the Chinese Communist Party (CPC) could retrieve private data on Americans from these apps and CPC censorship on the apps. One of the EOs bans any WeChat-related transaction with its owner Tencent Ltd. or its subsidiaries. The other bans any transactions with ByteDance, the owner of TikTok.

SpaceX's Mars test rocket makes first successful flight and upright landing

SpaceX launched a prototype of its Mars rocketship hundreds of feet into the air, then landed it upright in a successful test flight. The flight lasted barely 45 seconds and reached just 500 feet (150 meters) Tuesday night at the southeastern tip of Texas near Brownsville, but was an important first for SpaceX's Starship.



Irfaan Ali is the new President of Guyana

Following allegations of vote tampering, a recount and a lengthy legal battle, the election commission declared Mr Ali the winner on Sunday and he was sworn in hours later. His rival, outgoing president David Granger, said he would take his allegations of fraud to the high court. Oil giant Exxon Mobil recently began producing oil off Guyana's coast.



Trump signs order to restrict use of H1B visa

President Donald Trump on Monday signed an executive order restricting federal agencies from contracting or subcontracting foreign workers, hurting Indian IT professionals who work in the US on the H-1B visa. The move came over a month after the Trump administration in June 23 suspended the H-1B visas along with other types of foreign work visas until the end of 2020 to protect American workers in a crucial election year. The new restrictions took effect from June 24. "Today I am signing an executive order to ensure that the federal government lives by a very simple rule.

Education of 1.6 billion students affected due to Covid-19: UN

UNITED NATIONS: The COVID-19 pandemic has created the largest disruption of education in history, affecting nearly 1.6 billion students in all countries and continents and an additional 23.8 million children and youth could drop out or not have access to school next year due to the pandemic's economic impact alone, the UN Secretary General's policy brief on education said. "Education is the key to personal development and the future of societies. It unlocks opportunities and narrows inequalities.

Facebook launched its second phase of 'More Together' campaign for India

Facebook has rolled out the next phase of its consumer marketing campaign in India – 'More Together'. The campaign aims to showcase how people across the country can do more together by harnessing the power of their connections on the platform. The latest campaign is inspired by real stories and celebrates the people who came together in these trying times to help and support one another. The campaign has been conceptualised and executed by Taproot Dentsu, the creative agency from the house of Dentsu Aegis Network (DAN) India.

UAE starts operation of Arab world's first nuclear power reactor

The United Arab Emirates switched on the Arab world's first commercial nuclear power plant after loading fuel and conducting comprehensive tests, the prime minister said. With the start-up of the Barakah reactor,



Apple becomes the world's most valuable publicly listed company

Apple Inc's surged over 10% to a record high on Friday after reporting blockbuster quarterly results, helping the iPhone maker eclipse Saudi Aramco to become the world's most valuable publicly listed company. Apple's stock ended the session at \$425.04, putting its market capitalization at \$1.82 trillion, according to the share count provided by Apple in a regulatory filing on Friday. It was Apple's largest one-day percentage gain since March 13, and it added \$172 billion in market capitalization during the session, greater than the entire stock market value of Oracle Corp.

Why is China considering to set up 'BRICS innovation base' on 5G?

China is considering establishing a BRICS innovation base to strengthen cooperation among the five-country bloc including India in sectors like 5G, AI and digital economy, industry and information technology minister Xiao Yaqing has said.



Is the re-infection of Covid-19 in Hong Kong dangerous?

Hong Kong scientists are reporting the case of a healthy man in his 30s who became reinfected with coronavirus four and a half months after his first bout. They say genome sequencing shows the two strains of the virus are "clearly different", making it the world's first proven case of reinfection. The World Health Organization warns it is important not to jump to conclusions based on the case of one patient. And experts say reinfections may be rare and not necessarily serious. There have been more than 23 million cases of coronavirus infection around the world.

UNESCO to revamp Lebanon's heritage buildings

The UN's cultural agency UNESCO vowed Thursday to lead efforts to protect vulnerable heritage in Lebanon after last week's gigantic Beirut port blast, warning that 60 historic buildings were at risk of collapse. The effects of the blast were felt all over the Lebanese capital but some of the worst damage was in the Gemmayzeh and Mar-Mikhael neighbourhoods a short distance from the port. Both are home to a large concentration of historic buildings. "The international community has sent a strong signal of support to Lebanon.

E-commerce Giant Amazon launches online pharmacy in India

Amazon Pharmacy will make its debut in Bangalore and it may be trialled in other Indian cities. The move comes as the online drugs business has been given a major boost during the coronavirus pandemic. This year US technology giants have invested billions of dollars in the Indian economy. The Amazon Pharmacy service offers prescription, over-the-counter and traditional Ayurveda medication as well as basic health devices. "This is particularly relevant in present times as it will help customers meet their essential needs while staying safe at home," an Amazon spokesperson said.

Russia and Brazil to partner in production & marketing of Sputnik V vaccine

In a Statement Russian Direct Investment Fund said that the agreement was reached with Brazilian State of Parana on Wednesday. As part of the signed strategic cooperation agreement, RDIF, together with pharmaceutical companies in the state of Parana, is organizing the production of Sputnik V vaccine and its distribution in Brazil and other Latin American countries. On Tuesday, the Russian Health Ministry registered the world's first Sputnik V vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19.

UAE became the first Gulf country to establish diplomatic relations with Israel

President Donald Trump said on Thursday that the United Arab Emirates and Israel have agreed to establish full diplomatic ties as part of a deal to halt the annexation of occupied land sought by the Palestinians for their future state. The announcement makes the UAE the first Gulf Arab state to do so and only the third Arab nation to have active diplomatic ties to Israel. Mr. Trump tweeted a statement from the countries, acknowledging the deal. He then told reporters in the Oval Office that it was "a truly historic moment".

Iran displays locally made ballistic and cruise missiles in the light of U.S. tensions

DUBAI (Reuters) - Iran displayed a surface-to-surface ballistic missile on Thursday that Defence Minister Amir Hatami said had a range of 1,400 kilometres and a new cruise missile, ignoring U.S. demands that Tehran halt its missile programme. "The surface-to-surface missile, called martyr Qassem Soleimani, has a range of 1,400 km and the cruise missile, called martyr Abu Mahdi, has a range of over 1,000 km," Hatami said in a televised speech.

China sells its advanced combat ship to Pakistan

China on Sunday launched an advanced warship for Pakistan, the largest it has built for any country, and the first among the four most sophisticated naval platforms it is readying for the Pakistan navy amid deepening military and strategic ties with Islamabad. Also read: India rejects J&K reference in joint Pak-China statement. Local media said the Type 054A/P, a guided missile frigate, is the largest combat ship China has sold to a foreign navy and is "an important milestone" for China's military export sector.

China sends fighter jets amidst US's support for Taiwan

Chinese air force jets briefly crossed over the mid-line of the Taiwan Strait on Monday and were tracked by Taiwanese missiles, Taiwan's government said, as US health chief Alex Azar visited the island to offer President Donald Trump's strong support. Azar arrived in Taiwan on Sunday as the highest-level US official to visit in four decades, a trip condemned by China which claims the island as its own, further irritating Sino-US relations.

US provides military airwaves for 5G wireless networks

The Pentagon plans to free up a big chunk of its military airwaves in the U.S. for high-speed internet service, part of a broader push to get ahead of China in the deployment of 5G wireless technology. The Trump administration announced Monday that it has identified radio spectrum used for radar defense systems that can be shared with commercial telecommunications providers without compromising national security.

Indian-origin Kamala Harris nominated as US Vice President

Democratic nominee Joe Biden has named Indian-origin senator Kamala Harris as his running mate, making history by selecting the first black woman to compete on a major party's presidential ticket. In choosing Harris, Biden is embracing a former rival from the Democratic primary who is familiar with the rigour of a national campaign. Harris, a 55-year-old first-term senator, is also one of the party's most prominent figures and quickly became a top contender for the No.

Russia to start COVID-19 vaccine production in 2 weeks

The first batch of Russia's coronavirus vaccine will be released in two weeks, Sputnik News reported, citing Russian Health Minister Mikhail Murashko. The Russian minister said that vaccination against coronavirus will be voluntary for everybody, including healthcare workers. Russia is developing a special tracing app that will allow Russian citizens to confirm the state of their health. The app will also monitor possible adverse effects of the drug for those who took the vaccine.

Israel tests advanced missile defense system Arrow-2

JERUSALEM: Israel's Defense Ministry said Thursday it conducted a successful test of the country's advanced missile defense system against long-range ballistic attacks. Defense Minister Benny Gantz said the successful flight test of the Arrow-2 interceptor was part of Israel's technological effort that "ensures that we will always be one step ahead of our enemies." The test was conducted overnight in central Israel, jointly with the U.S. Missile Defense Agency.



**Thank
You!!!**