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## INTERNATIONAL

### 1) Asian Palm Oil Alliance

- 5 palm oil importing countries in South Asia – India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal, announced the setting up of Asian Palm Oil Alliance. The idea is to gain collective bargaining power and make imports sustainable.
- The alliance would work towards ensuring that palm oil is recognised as a high-quality, economical, and healthy vegetable oil and to change the negative image of palm oil.

### 2) Malawi became the first country in southern Africa to eliminate trachoma

- Malawi became the first country in southern Africa to eliminate trachoma. In 2017, India eliminated trachoma.
- Trachoma is an infection of the eye caused by bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*.

## NATIONAL

### 1) India's first plant-based meat export

- Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority has announced that Greenest, which is a leading plant protein food brand, has shipped India's first plant-based meat export consignment to the USA from Gujarat in India.
- Greenest is India's pioneer in plant-based protein products.

### 2) India's under-5 mortality rate declines by 3 points

- According to the Sample Registration System Statistical Report 2020, India's under-5 mortality rate has dramatically decreased from 35 per 1,000 live births in 2019 to 32 per 1,000 live births in 2020, with the largest fall observed in Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka.
- According to the research, Kerala (6) had the lowest IMR while Madhya Pradesh (43) had the highest.

### 3) Lok Manthan program

- Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar will inaugurate the third edition of the Lok Manthan program at the Srimanta Sankardeva Kalakshetra in Guwahati.





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- The event will be facilitated by the Chief Minister of Assam Himanta Biswa Sharma.
- This year's theme for the Lok Manthan is Lokparampara (Lok Traditions). The Lok Manthan will be a three-day event, and then it will focus on serious discussions, seminars, cultural events.

#### 4) Bharat Vidya

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman will launch the Bharat Vidya, which is an online learning platform for Oriental and South Asian Studies. The Bharat Vidya is designed and developed by the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute.
- Bharat Vidya is a first-of-its-kind online platform, which will offer both free and paid courses covering various aspects of Indology about art, architecture, philosophy, language, and science.

### BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

#### 1) UCO Bank becomes first lender to get RBI's approval for rupee trade

- UCO Bank has received the approval of the Reserve Bank of India to open a special Vostro account with Gazprom Bank of Russia for trade settlement in Indian rupees.
- UCO Bank is the first bank to receive the regulator's approval following the decision of RBI to allow Indian Banks to settle trade in Indian currency in July.
- UCO Bank was formerly known as United Commercial Bank which was established in 1943 in Kolkata.

### BOOKS AND AUTHORS

#### 1) "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas"

- Former Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu released a collection of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's selected speeches at Akashvani Bhawan in New Delhi.
- The book titled "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas" Prime Minister Narendra Modi Speaks (May 2019-May 2020)' was released in the presence of Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan at a function here organized by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.





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## AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

### 1) Hermann Kesten Prize

- Indian author and poet Meena Kandasamy has been announced as this year's recipient of the Hermann Kesten Prize by the PEN Centre in Germany's Darmstadt.
- Meena Kandasamy is a feminist and anti-caste activist whose work revolves around the issue of gender, caste, sexuality, patriarchy, and oppression by the Brahmanical system.