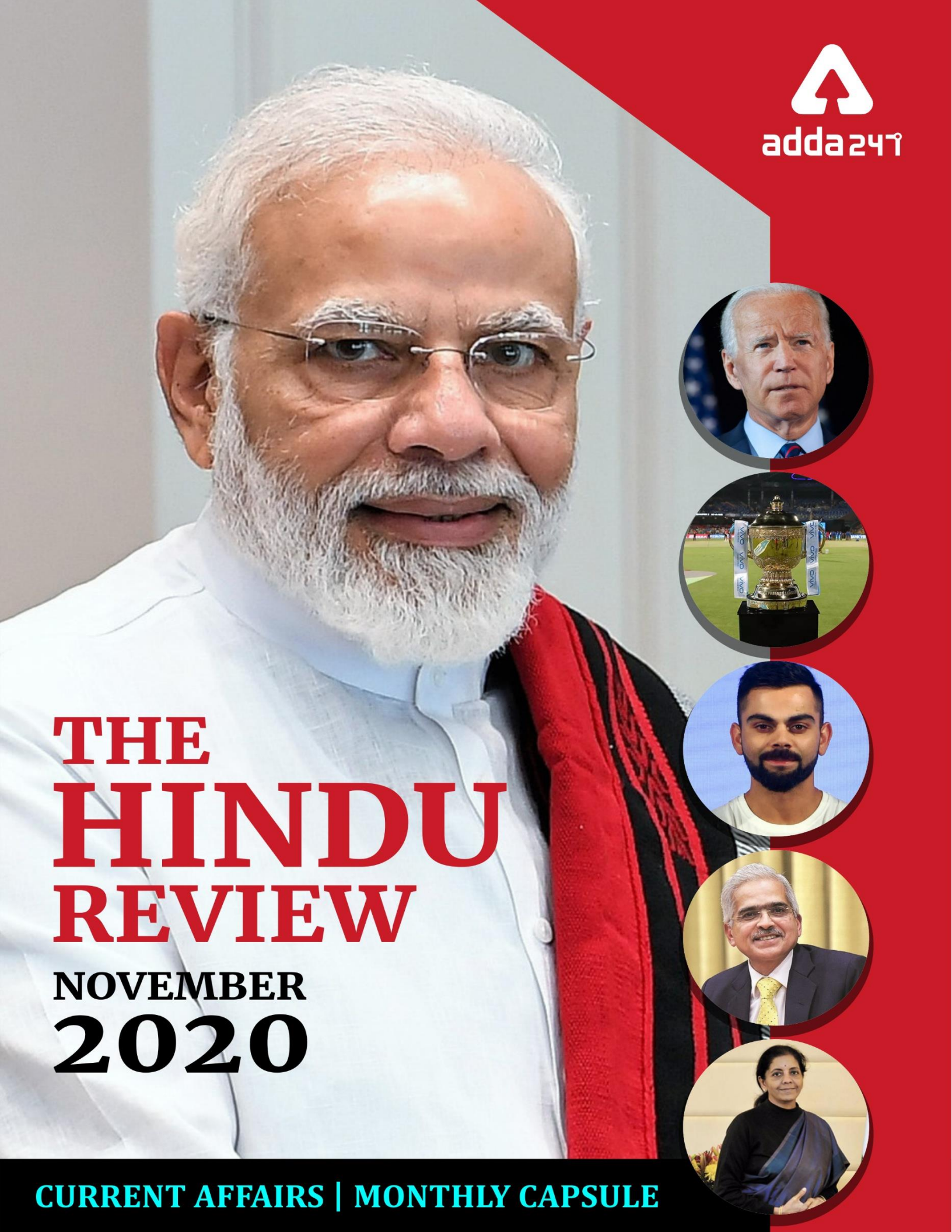




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# THE HINDU REVIEW

NOVEMBER  
2020



CURRENT AFFAIRS | MONTHLY CAPSULE

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## The Most Important Current Affairs November 2020

### PM Modi launches India's first seaplane service in Gujarat

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has launched the country's first seaplane service between the **Statue of Unity** near **Kevadiya** in Gujarat's Narmada district and **Sabarmati** Riverfront in **Ahmedabad**. He travelled in the maiden flight of the twin-engine plane from pond-3 close to Sardar Sarovar Dam and landed at Sabarmati riverfront where a water aerodrome has been set up.

#### About the seaplane service:

- The **19-seater** seaplane will be managed by private airline **SpiceJet**.
- The service will cover the **200km** distance between Sabarmati and Kevadia, in just **45 minutes** by flight, which usually takes 4 hours.
- The flight will be able to accommodate **12 passengers** and tickets will cost **Rs 4,800** per person.
- There will be four flights a day between Ahmedabad and Kevadia on each side, which means four arrivals and four departures.

### PM Modi inaugurates 'Arogya Van' in Gujarat's Narmada district

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the '**Arogya Van**' in the Narmada district of Gujarat. PM Modi was accompanied by Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani and Governor Acharya Devvrat. PM also inaugurated **Arogya Kutir, Ekta Mall, and Children Nutrition Park**.

#### About Arogya Van

- Arogya Van is set up on 17 acres of land in **Kevadia** for spreading awareness on Yoga, Ayurveda and Meditation.
- It features around **380 species** of plants and trees with rich medicinal values.
- The 'Arogya Van' comprises a lotus pond, alba garden, aroma garden, yoga and meditation garden, indoor plant section, digital information centre, souvenir shop and a cafeteria serving Ayurveda foods, among other things.

#### About Arogya Kutir

- Arogya Kutir has a traditional treatment facility named **Santhigiri wellness centre** which will provide healthcare based on **Ayurveda, Siddha, Yoga and Panchakarma**.

#### About Ekta Mall

- The Mall displays a diverse range of handicrafts and traditional items from all over India symbolizing unity in diversity and is spread over **35000 sq ft**.

#### About Children Nutrition Park & Mirror Maze

- Spread over an area of 35000 sq ft, it is the world's first-ever technology-driven nutrition park for children.
- A Nutri Train runs across the park to various exciting theme-based stations namely '**Phalshaka Graham**', '**Payonagari**', '**Annapoorna**', '**Poshan Puran**', and '**Swastha Bharatam**'.
- The park will raise nutritional awareness through various edutainment activities like Mirror Maze, 5D Virtual reality theatre and Augmented reality games.

### Shaktikanta Das Chairs 40th SAARC Central Bank Governors Meet

The **40th Meeting of the SAARCFINANCE Governors' Group** was held virtually, under the Chairmanship of Shri **Shaktikanta Das**, Governor, RBI. The meeting was attended by the Governors from **SAARC central banks**. During the meeting, Mr Das also inaugurated the **SAARCFINANCE Sync**, a closed user group secure communication network.

#### About SAARCFINANCE Sync:

- In his opening remarks, Governor Shri Das highlighted the close partnership and co-operation among the member countries in jointly fighting the pandemic.
- The group took stock of the macroeconomic situation in the SAARC region; discussed the current SAARCFINANCE initiatives; and the way ahead.
- The Governors reaffirmed their commitment to continued co-operation and sharing of central bank experiences.
- SAARCFINANCE is a network of central bank governors and finance secretaries of the SAARC region.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is the current chair of SAARCFINANCE.

#### The meeting was attended by the Governors from SAARC central banks:

- Mr Fazle Kabir, Bangladesh Bank;
- Mr Dasho Penjore, Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan;
- Shri Shaktikanta Das (Chairperson), Reserve Bank of India;



- Mr Ali Hashim, Maldives Monetary Authority;
- Mr Maha Prasad Adhikari, Nepal Rastra Bank;
- Dr Reza Baqir, State Bank of Pakistan;
- Prof. W. D. Lakshman, Central Bank of Sri Lanka.
- Governor, Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) was represented by a senior official of DAB.

### UNESCO allots India's Panna Tiger Reserve 'Biosphere Reserve' status

In **Madhya Pradesh**, the **Panna Tiger Reserve** has been included in the '**World Network of Biosphere Reserves**' list of the **UNESCO**. This is the **12th** biosphere reserve from India to be included in the '**World Network of Biosphere Reserves**', and third from Madhya Pradesh, after **Pachmarhi** and **Amarkantak**. Currently, Panna Tiger Reserve is home to **54 tigers**.

The UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) covers internationally designated protected areas (known as biosphere reserves) that demonstrate a balanced relationship between people and nature (like encourage sustainable development).

### PM Modi Chairs Virtual Global Investor Roundtable (VGIR) 2020

Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** chaired the **Virtual Global Investor Roundtable (VGIR) 2020 Conference**, aimed at attracting investment in the country. It provided a platform for exclusive dialogue between leading global institutional investors, Indian business leaders and the highest decision-makers from the government of India and financial market regulators. The Indian side included business leaders, financial market regulators, finance minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** and RBI governor **Shaktikanta Das**.

### About Virtual Global Investor Roundtable (VGIR) 2020 Conference:

- The conference focused on discussions around India's economic and investment outlook, structural reforms and the government's vision for making the country a **\$5 trillion economy**.
- The Virtual Global Investor Roundtable (VGIR) was organised by the Ministry of Finance and the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund.
- The roundtable witnessed participation from 20 of the world's largest pension and sovereign wealth funds with total assets under management of about **USD 6 trillion**.
- These global institutional investors represent key regions including the **US, Europe, Canada, Korea, Japan, Middle East, Australia, and Singapore**.

### Finance Minister announces 'Aatmanirbhar' Package 3.0

The Finance Minister of India, Smt **Nirmala Sitharaman** has announced the '**Aatmanirbhar**' **Package 3.0**. Addressing a press conference to announce more stimulus measures to boost growth. According to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, PMI rose to 58.9 in October 2020 indicating strong recovery of the economy from COVID-19 crisis. The energy consumption growth was higher in October 2020. This is yet another stimulus package ahead of Diwali. The Union Cabinet approved a **Rs 2 lakh crore** production-linked incentive (PLI) package to boost demand in the country.

1. Boost for Employment
2. Rs. 3 lakh crore existing Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS 1.0)
3. Rs 1.46 lakh crore boost for Atmanirbhar Manufacturing Production-linked incentives for 10 Champion Sectors
4. Rs 18,000 crores additional outlay for PM Awas Yojana (PMAY) –Urban
5. Support for Construction & Infrastructure – Relaxation of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Performance Security on Government Tenders
6. Demand booster for Residential Real Estate Income Tax relief for Developers & Home Buyers
7. Rs 1.10 lakh crore Platform for Infra Debt Financing – Rs 6000 crores Equity infusion in NIIF Debt Platform
8. Support for Agriculture Rs 65,000 crores for subsidised Fertilisers
9. Boost for Rural Employment – Enhanced outlays under PM Garib Kalyan Rozgar Yojana
10. Boost for Project Exports - Rs 3000 crore to EXIM bank for Lines of Credit
11. Capital and Industrial Stimulus
12. R & D grant for COVID Vaccine Development

### Joe Biden wins the US presidential election

**Joseph Robinette Biden Jr.** has defeated **Donald Trump** to become the **46th U.S.** president. Biden will become the oldest president-elect in U.S. history and the first to oust a sitting commander-in-chief after one term since **Bill Clinton** defeated **George H.W. Bush** in 1992. Biden's electoral college vote to **290**, surpassing the **270** needed to win the White House. Biden's running mate, California Senator **Kamala Harris**, becomes the first Black and Indian-American woman to serve as **vice president**.

**About Joseph Robinette Biden Jr:**

Biden Jr. was born November 20, 1942, at St. Mary's Hospital in Scranton, Pennsylvania. A member of the Democratic Party, Biden previously served as the **47th vice president** from 2009 to 2017 and United States Senator for Delaware from **1973 to 2009**.

**About Kamala Harris:**

Harris was born on **October 20, 1964**, in Oakland, California. She has served as the junior United States senator from California since 2017. Her mother, **Shyamala Gopalan**, a biologist whose work on the progesterone receptor gene stimulated work in breast cancer research, had arrived in the U.S. from **Tamil Nadu in India in 1958** as a 19-year-old graduate student in nutrition and endocrinology at the University of California, Berkeley. Her father, **Donald J. Harris**, is a Stanford University professor emeritus of economics, who arrived in the U.S. from British Jamaica in 1961 for graduate study at UC Berkeley, receiving a PhD in economics in 1966.

**Azim Premji tops Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2020**

The founder-chairman of Wipro Ltd, **Azim Premji** has topped the **EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2020**. The 75-year-old made the highest contribution of **Rs 7,904 crore** between April 2019 and March 2020 towards philanthropic causes. It ranks individuals from India who donated Rs 5 crore and above between April 1, 2019, and March 31, 2020, towards philanthropic contributions.

**Shiv Nadar**, founder and chairman of HCL Technologies, ranked second (**Rs 795 crore**) on the list. He topped the list in 2019. India's richest man and the chairman of Reliance Industries, **Mukesh Ambani** stood at the third spot (**Rs 458 crore**). 7 women found a place in the list with **Rohini Nilekani** (donating Rs 47 crore) being India's most generous woman; followed by **Anu Aga & family of Thermax** (Rs 36 crore), and Biocon's **Kiran Mazumdar Shaw** (Rs 34 crore).

**About EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2020:**

The EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2020 is compiled by the EdelGive Foundation and Hurun Research Institute. It is the seventh edition of the annual list. EdelGive Hurun India philanthropy list includes cash and cash equivalents pledged with legally binding commitments for the twelve months between April 1,

2019, to March 31, 2020, and the latest available CSR data filed with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. For 2020, the list features individuals who have donated Rs 5 crore or more during the period under review.

**Mumbai Indians wins IPL 2020 trophy**

**Mumbai Indians** defeated **Delhi Capitals** in the final of **Dream11 Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020** to lift their **fifth** IPL trophy. Chasing **157 runs** for victory, Mumbai were helped by their captain **Rohit Sharma**, who hit 68 runs off 51 balls. Mumbai had defeated **Chennai Super Kings** in the IPL 2019 final. They have now become the only side after Chennai Super Kings to defend the title.

Kings XI Punjab skipper **KL Rahul** bagged the **Orange Cap** for being the leading run-scorer of the IPL 2020. He racked up **670 runs** from 14 games at an astronomical average of 55.83. Delhi Capitals' **Kagiso Rabada** won the Purple Cap after finishing at the top of the table with a total of **30 wickets** at the end of IPL 2020.

**Here are the award winners:**

- **Rohit Sharma** adjudged Game Changer of the Match in the final of IPL 2020.
- **Trent Boult** named the Player of the Match in the final of IPL 2020.
- Kings XI Punjab skipper **KL Rahul** bags the **Orange Cap**.
- Game Changer of the Season: **KL Rahul**.
- Delhi Capitals' **Kagiso Rabada** wins the Purple Cap.
- Emerging Player of the season: **Devdutt Padikkal** (RCB).
- Rajasthan Royals speedster **Jofra Archer** emerges as the Most Valuable Player.



### National Education Day: 11 November

In India, the **National Education Day or Rashtriya Shiksha Diwas** is celebrated on **11 November** every year. The day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**, the first education minister of independent India. According to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, schools are the laboratories that produce future citizens of the country. He is the person behind IITs and various other institutes in India.

### History of National Education Day:

On **11 September 2008**, the **Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD)** has announced to commemorate the birthday of the great person by recalling the contribution of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad in the field of education by celebrating 11 November as National Education Day. Since 2008, every year in India, National Education Day is celebrated without declaring it a holiday.

### About Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's contributions in the field of education, nation-building, and institution-building are exemplary. He is the key architect of education in India. The **first education minister of independent India** from **1947 to 1958**. He was awarded **Bharat Ratna** posthumously, India's highest civilian honour in **1992**.

### RBI puts Lakshmi Vilas Bank under moratorium

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has placed cash-strapped **Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB)** under a moratorium for a period of one month and restricted withdrawals at **Rs 25,000** for depositors, owing to a serious deterioration in the lender's financial position. The central bank also superseded the board of directors of LVB for a period of **30 days** owing to a serious deterioration in the financial position of the bank. The move was announced through an order by the **Ministry of Finance**.

Reserve Bank has come to the conclusion that in the absence of a credible revival plan, with a view to protecting depositors' interest and in the interest of financial and banking stability, there is no alternative but to apply to the Central Government for imposing a moratorium under **section 45 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.

### Lakshmi Vilas Bank to be merged with DBS:

- The RBI has also drafted a scheme of amalgamation for LVB with **DBS Bank India Ltd.** and aims to complete the merger process before the moratorium period ends.

- DBS Bank India Ltd (DBIL)** is a wholly-owned subsidiary of **DBS Bank Ltd, Singapore ("DBS")**, which in turn is a subsidiary of Asia's leading financial services group, **DBS Group Holdings Limited**.
- The bank invited suggestions and objections, if any, from members, depositors and other creditors of transferor bank (LVB) and transferee bank (DBIL), on the draft scheme.
- DBIL will bring in additional capital of **₹2,500 crore** upfront, to support credit growth of the merged entity.

### RBI creates Reserve Bank Innovation Hub to boost financial inclusion

The **Reserve Bank of India** has created a **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)**. The aim of **Innovation Hub** is to promote innovation across the **financial sector** by leveraging on **technology and creating an environment** which would facilitate and foster innovation. RBIH will collaborate with financial sector institutions, technology industry and academic institutions and coordinate efforts for exchange of ideas and development of prototypes related to financial innovations.

### About Reserve Bank Innovation Hub Management:

Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) would be managed by a **Governing Council (GC)** consisting of **10 members** (including a chairperson). **Shri Senapathy (Kris) Gopalakrishnan**, co-founder and former co-Chairman, Infosys, has been appointed as the first **Chairperson of the RBIH**.

### PM Modi Virtually Attends 12th BRICS Summit

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has virtually addressed the **12th (BRICS) Summit**. The Summit was held under the Chairmanship of Russian President **Vladimir Putin**. **India** will be taking over the Chairmanship of the **BRICS in 2021** and host the **13th BRICS Summit** in 2021. It would be the third time that India will take over the BRICS Presidency since its inception. Previously India was the Chair in **2012 and 2016**.

The theme of the 12th edition of BRICS Summit was **"Global stability, shared security and innovative growth"**. The key issues discussed by the leaders included intra-BRICS cooperation and other key issues in the global context, like the reform of the multilateral system, measures to mitigate the impact of the ongoing **COVID-19 pandemic**, **cooperation in Counter-Terrorism**, trade, health, energy and people to people exchanges.



## PM Narendra Modi unveils Swami Vivekananda's statue on JNU

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has unveiled a **statue of Swami Vivekananda** in **Jawaharlal Nehru University Campus, New Delhi** through video conferencing. It took renowned sculptor **Naresh Kumawat** seven months to complete this statue of Swami Vivekananda on the JNU campus. Located about **300 metres** from a statue of India's first prime minister, the statue of Swami Vivekananda is about **three feet taller** than that of Jawaharlal Nehru. The event was also attended by Union Minister for Education **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** and JNU vice-chancellor **Jagadesh Kumar**.

## Cabinet approves RBI's proposal to merge Lakshmi Vilas Bank with DBS Bank

Union Cabinet has approved the merger of capital-starved **Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB)** with **DBS Bank India**. The Reserve Bank of India on 17 November proposed the merger of the lender with the Indian arm of **Singapore's DBS Bank**.

The 94-year-old LVB will now cease to exist and its equity completely wiped out. Its deposits will now be on the books of DBS India. Lakshmi Vilas is the second bank to need a rescue this year, and the third collapse of a major deposit-taking institution in 15 months and the first since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic.

As part of the amalgamation, DBIL will infuse fresh capital of **Rs 2,500 crores** into LVB. This also marks the first instance when India has turned to a foreign entity to bail out a struggling domestic bank. Under the deal, DBS got **563 branches, 974 ATMs and a \$1.6 billion franchise in retail liabilities**. Earlier, the RBI had placed LVB under a one-month moratorium till December 16, during which withdrawals for depositors have been capped at **Rs 25,000**.

### About DBS Bank:

DBS was the first foreign bank to receive a banking licence after the central bank allowed foreign banks to set up a wholly-owned subsidiary in **2014**. "With DBS likely to use digital capabilities to enhance its physical footprint in India, the proposed deal could lead to a **30-40%** increase in Indian assets of DBS.

## Delhi Crime bags Best Drama Series at the International Emmy Awards

The Netflix show, **Delhi Crime** has won the Best Drama Series award at the **48th International Emmy Awards 2020**. Delhi Crime is the **first web-series from India** to win an **International Emmy Award**. The show is written and directed by **Richie Mehta** and features actress **Shefali Shah** as the main character.

### The complete list of 2020 International Emmy Awards winners:

- **Best Drama Series:** Delhi Crime (India)
- **Best Comedy Series:** Ninguém Ta Olhando (Nobody's Looking) (Brazil)
- **Best Actress:** Glenda Jackson, Elizabeth Is Missing (United Kingdom)
- **Best Actor:** Billy Barratt, Responsible Child (United Kingdom)
- **Best TV Movie/Mini-Series:** Responsible Child (United Kingdom)
- **Best Short-Form Series:** #Martyisdead (Czech Republic)
- **Best Non-English Language US Primetime Program:** 20th Annual Latin GRAMMY Awards and Reina Del Sur – Season 2
- **Best Telenovela:** Orfaos Da Terra (Orphans Of A Nation) (Brazil)
- **Best Documentary:** For Sama (United Kingdom)
- **Best Arts Programming:** Vertige De La Chute (Ressaca) (France)
- **Best Non-Scripted Entertainment:** Old People's Home For 4 Year Olds (Australia)

## Department of Fisheries presents first Fisheries Awards

**Department of Fisheries** presents **Fisheries Sector Awards** for the first time on the occasion of the 'World Fisheries Day', to recognise their accomplishments in the field and their contribution into the growth of the sector. The Department of Fisheries under the **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying** awarded best performing States, Organisations and Districts for **2019-20**.

### Top States

- Marine states – Odisha
- Inland states – Uttar Pradesh.
- Hilly and NE states – Assam.

### Top Organisations

- Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation Ltd. (for Marine).

- Telangana State Fishermen Cooperative societies Federation Ltd (for Inland).
- Assam Apex Cooperative Fish Marketing and Processing Federation Ltd. (for Hilly region).

### Top Districts

- Best Marine District – Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh.
- Best Inland District – Kalahandi, Odisha.
- Best Hilly and NE District – Nagaon, Assam.

### Indian Constitution Day: 26 November

In India, **26 November** is celebrated as **Constitution Day or Samvidhan Diwas**. On this day in 1949, the constitution was adopted which came into **force on January 26, 1950**, marking the beginning of a new era in the history of India.

On 19th November 2015, during the year-long celebration of the **125th birth anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar**, Government of India declared November **26th as the Constitution Day**. Previously this day was celebrated as **Law Day**. 26 November was chosen to spread the importance of the constitution and to spread thoughts and **ideas of Ambedkar**.

### Martyrdom Day of 'Guru Tegh Bahadur'

Every year, **November 24** is celebrated as **Martyrdom Day of Guru Tegh Bahadur**, the ninth Guru of Sikhs of Sikh religion. The day is celebrated as **Shaheedi Divas** of Guru Tegh Bahadur across the country. It was on 24 November 1675, Guru Tegh Bahadur sacrificed his life for the sake of people who did not even belong to his community. to protect religion, human values, ideals and principles.

### About Guru Tegh Bahadur:

- Guru Tegh Bahadur had resisted forced conversions of non-Muslims to Islam during **Aurangzeb's rule**
- He was publicly killed in **1675** on the orders of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in Delhi.
- **Gurudwara Sis Ganj Sahib** and **Gurdwara Rakab Ganj Sahib** in Delhi are the sites of his execution and cremation.
- Guru Tegh Bahadur's term as Guru ran from 1665 to 1675.
- In the Guru Granth Sahib, there are **one hundred and fifteen hymns** of Guru Tegh Bahadur.
- Guru Tegh Bahadur is remembered for his selfless service to people. He travelled across the country with the teachings of **Guru Nanak – the first Sikh Guru**.

- Guru Tegh Bahadur had set up **community kitchens** and wells for the local people wherever he went.
- **Anandpur Sahib**, the famous holy city and a global tourist attraction in the foothills of Himalayas, was founded by Guru Tegh Bahadur.

### Thaawarchand Gehlot e-launches National Portal for Transgender Persons

Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment, **Thaawarchand Gehlot** has e-launched a '**National Portal for Transgender Persons**' and e-inaugurated a '**Garima Greh: A Shelter Home for Transgender Persons**' in Vadodara, Gujarat.

### About the National Portal for Transgender Persons:

- This National Portal for Transgender Persons has been developed within 2 months of Notification of **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2020 on 29 September 2020**.
  - This highly useful Portal would help a transgender person in applying for a **Certificate and Identity card** digitally from anywhere in the country.
  - The most important benefit is that it helps the transgender person to get the I-Card without any physical interface and without having to visit any office.
  - Through the Portal, they can monitor the status of their application that ensures transparency in the process. The issuing authorities are also under strict **timelines to process** the applications and issue certificates and identity cards without any necessary delays.
  - Once the Certificate and I-card are issued, the applicant can download them from the Portal itself. In case of delay or rejection, the applicant has the options to submit grievances through the Portal which are forwarded to the concerned person and will be resolved at the earliest.
  - This portal will help a lot of people from the community to come forward and get **Transgender Certificate and Identity Cards** as per their self-perceived identity which is an important provision of **The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019**.
- 'Garima Greh: A Shelter Home for Transgender Persons'**
- '**Garima Greh: A Shelter Home for Transgender Persons**' will be run in association with Lakshya Trust, a Community based organisation entirely run by the Transgenders.



- The purpose of the Shelter Home is to provide shelter to Transgender persons, with basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care and recreational facilities.
- Besides, it will provide support for the capacity-building/skill development of persons in the Community, which will enable them to lead a life of dignity and respect.
- The Scheme of 'Shelter Home for Transgender Persons' includes shelter facility, food, clothing, recreational facilities, skill development opportunities, yoga, meditation/prayers, physical fitness, library facilities, legal support, technical advice for gender transition and surgeries, capacity building of trans-friendly organizations, employment and skill-building support, etc.
- The Nodal Ministry has taken the first step in improving the conditions of Transgender persons and has identified 10 cities to set up the **13 Shelter Homes** and extend the facilities to Transgender persons, in association with selected **13 CBOs** in the country on a pilot basis.
- The cities include **Vadodara, New Delhi, Patna, Bhubaneswar, Jaipur, Kolkata, Manipur, Chennai, Raipur, Mumbai, etc.** The scheme will rehabilitate a minimum of 25 transgender persons in each home identified by the Ministry.
- This is a pilot project, and on its successful completion, similar schemes will be extended to other parts of the country.

### Banking and Financial Current Affairs

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed monetary penalty on **DCB Bank** and **Jio Payments Bank** for various rule violations. The central bank has imposed a penalty of Rs **22 lakh** on **DCB Bank** for non-compliance with certain provisions on marketing/distribution of mutual fund/insurance etc. The penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of **Section 47A(1)(c)** read with **Section 46(4)(i)** of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- Private lender **ICICI Bank** has launched a comprehensive banking programme for its **millennial customers**, (in the age bracket of 18 years to 35 years ), called '**ICICI Bank Mine**'. The 'ICICI Bank Mine' is India's first and unique product launched by the bank to offer a mobile-first, highly personalised and experiential led banking experience to the millennial customers.
- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has finally allowed Facebook-owned messaging platform "**WhatsApp**" to roll out its payments service in the country in a "graded" manner. The announcement by NPCI came after the organisation made a crucial change to its regulations

concerning the use of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). The change puts a **limit on single third parties** such as WhatsApp or its rivals Google Pay and Walmart's PhonePe where they can only handle **30 per cent of overall UPI transaction** volumes.

- The **Reserve Bank of India** will evaluate the impact of multi-media public awareness campaign '**RBI Kehta Hai**', which was launched in **14 languages** to educate the public about safe banking and financial practices. As part of the campaign, messages have been launched on basic savings bank deposit accounts, customer liability in unauthorised electronic banking transactions, safe digital banking practices, banking facilities for senior citizens, banking ombudsman scheme, and cybersecurity, among others.
- **HDFC Bank** has announced the launch of "**SmartHub Merchant Solutions 3.0**" for **Small and mid-size enterprises**. This solution allows merchants and self-employed professionals to instantly open a current account and start accepting payments in-store, online, and on-the-go.
- **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** has conducted a meeting in New Delhi. The IFSC Authority approved the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (Banking) Regulations, 2020** in the meeting. The draft banking regulations approved at the meeting opens the way for making rules for the various aspects of banking operations that would be permissible at the IFSC. As banking plays an important role at IFSC, banking regulations will help it in reaching its desired potential.
- **SBM Bank India**, the wholly-owned subsidiary of **State Bank of Mauritius** has partnered with Fintech **PayNearby** to launch a **neo banking platform**. Both firms signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to build an "open banking" network towards delivering basic banking solutions as well as advanced financial services, to their customers.

• LIVE
BILINGUAL



# SBI PO

## Prelim+Mains

Starts Nov 23, 2020

12 PM to 07 PM

- **The Reserve Bank of India** has imposed a penalty of **Rs 1 crore** on **Punjab National Bank** for violating the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**. Punjab National Bank was operating a bilateral ATM-sharing arrangement with **Druk PNB Bank Ltd., Bhutan**, since April 2010 without prior approval or authorisation from India's banking regulator.
- **Equitas Small Finance Bank** has launched a women-centred product '**Eva**'. The Bank has roped in Indian Woman cricketer **Smriti Mandhana** as the brand ambassador for its newly launched product '**EVA**'. Eva is unique **savings account for women** to address the well-being of Indian women in every aspect such as **health, wealth and prosperity**.
- **Karnataka Bank** launched **CASA (current account, savings account)** mobilisation campaign which will run from November 17 to March 4, 2021. The bank stated that it intends to mobilise over **4.10 lakh current and savings accounts** with an accretion of **650 crores of business**. With this campaign, the bank intends to introduce its attractive and superior line of digitally powered savings and current account products to its customers.
- **HDFC Bank & IndusInd Bank** have been put in the '**red flag**' list, a system used for monitoring **foreign portfolio investor (FPI) limits**. A listed company enters the list when the available legroom for overseas investment is less than **3%** of the permissible limit. FPIs can invest up to **74%** in both HDFC Bank and IndusInd Bank.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has banned the **Manta Urban Cooperative Bank** in **Jalna district of Maharashtra** for **six months** for payment of money and loan transactions. The central bank has given some instructions to this bank, which will be effective for six months since the bank closed on 17 November 2020.
- **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** has launched a low-cost insurance scheme '**Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)**' for its customers to bring large sections of the underserved and unserved population into the financial mainstream. IPPB has collaborated with **PNB MetLife India Insurance Company** for this product.
- Private lender **YES Bank** has launched an '**SMS Pay**' functionality on POS terminals, which would allow merchants to accept contactless and remote payments from their customers. YES Bank has collaborated with French payment services company **Worldline** to launch the new facility.

### Economy Current Affairs

- Rating Agency **Moody's** has projected the **GDP** of India at **-8.9%** for the calendar year **2020**. Earlier this was projected at **-9.6%**. Apart from this, India's GDP growth for Calendar year **2021** is projected at **8.6%** by Moody's from **8.1%** earlier.
- The Investment bank, **Goldman Sachs** has revised upwards the growth forecast for India in **FY21** to **-10.3%** from its earlier projection of **-14.8%** in **September 2020**. For the financial year 2021-22 (FY22), the Goldman Sachs has projected India's GDP at **13%**.
- **Moody's** Investors Service has revised **India's GDP growth** forecast to **-10.6 per cent** for the current **fiscal 2020-21 (FY21)**, in its November 2020 update, from its earlier estimate of **-11.5 per cent** in September 2020. For next fiscal 2021-22, Moody's projected India to grow at **10.8 per cent**, as against the previous estimate of **10.6 per cent**.
- **Barclays** has revised down its GDP forecast for India in the current fiscal year **2020-21 (FY21)** to **-6.4%** from its earlier estimate of **-6%**. However, Barclays has raised its **FY22 (2021-22)** growth forecast to **8.5 per cent** from **7 per cent**.
- **Forecasting firm Oxford Economics** predicts that India's post-COVID-19 scars could be among the worst in the world. It expects India's growth equilibrium to worsen substantially over the medium term, with potential growth averaging just **4.5%** over **2020-2025**, from its pre-pandemic projection of **6.5%**. The fiscal deficit is also expected to widen **7%** of GDP in 2020-21.
- The **National Statistical Office (NSO)** has released the estimates of **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** for the second quarter (**July-September**) Q2 of 2020-21. The GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q2 of 2020-21 is estimated at Rs 33.14 lakh crore, as against Rs 35.84 lakh crore in Q2 of 2019-20, showing a contraction of **7.5%** as compared to **4.4% growth in Q2 2019-20**.
- The **UBS** has projected India's real GDP to contract **10.5%** in FY21, in its Global Economics & Markets Outlook **2021-2022 report**. For the fiscal 2021-22 (FY22) UBS expect India's real GDP growth to

rebound to **+10%** in FY22. UBS also estimates India's GDP to stabilise at **6.2 per cent** YoY in FY23.

### Business Current Affairs

- The **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** has handed over the **Lucknow airport** to the **Adani group** on lease for a period of **50 years**. Apart from this, the Adani group has taken over/will take over operations of 5 more airports.
- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the acquisition of General Insurance Business of **Bharti AXA** General Insurance Company Limited (Bharti AXA) by **ICICI Lombard** General Insurance Company Limited (ICICI Lombard) under **Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002**.
- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has enhanced the investment limits for Mutual Fund companies for overseas investments. **Mutual Funds** can make overseas investments subject to a maximum of **US \$ 600 million** per Mutual Fund, within the overall industry limit of **US \$ 7 billion**. Earlier it was **USD 300 million**.
- **WhatsApp** has partnered with five Indian banks to process its payment services. These are **State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank and Jio Payments Bank**. The Facebook-owned messaging platform, WhatsApp Inc., has received the approval from the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to launch its **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** based payments services in India, to let users send or receive money across the country.
- **Paytm** has launched "**Payout Links**" for businesses, enabling them to instantly process payouts to customers, employees and vendors, without collecting their bank details. It is aimed at helping small businesses in sectors like gaming, retail, export, manufacturing and e-commerce.
- **Life Insurance Corporation of India** has launched a digital application for agents for onboarding to get a life insurance policy. The Digital Application is called "**ANANDA**", which is an acronym for **Atma Nirbhar Agents NewBusiness Digital Application**. The Digital application is a tool for the onboarding process to get the life insurance policy through a paperless module with the help of the agent or intermediary.
- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has given its in-principle approval for the merger of **Bharti AXA General**

**Insurance** with **ICICI Lombard**. The merged entity will have a market share of around **8.7 per cent** on a proforma basis in the general insurance business.

### International Current Affairs

- Super Typhoon **Goni**, claimed as the **world's strongest typhoon of 2020** has hit the south of the **Philippines' main island of Luzon**. Goni is one of the strongest storms to hit the Philippines since **2013's Haiyan**, which killed more than **6,300 people**.
- Portugal MP, **Duarte Pacheco** has won the elections for the post the **President** of the **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)**. The term of the Duarte Pacheco will be from **2020-2023**. He will be the **30th** President of the IPU and will succeed Mexican MP **Gabriela Cuevas Barron** who completed the tenure in October 2020.
- The incumbent President of **Ivory Coast, Alassane Ouattara**, has won a third 5-year term in a landslide victory, gaining more than **94 per cent** of the votes polled.
- **Bangladesh** and **US navies** launched the '**Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Bangladesh 2020**' to expand relationships and broaden maritime awareness between the two countries.
- The President of **Tanzania, John Pombe Magufuli** has been sworn for a **second five-year term**.
- The **United States** has officially withdrawn from the **Paris climate accord** on **04 November 2020**. With this, the US has now **become the only country** to formally pull out of the deal since it was adopted in **2015**.
- The **second World Health Expo** was inaugurated on **November 11**, in **Wuhan**, the capital city of Central China's Hubei Province. This year's Expo will focus on displaying the most cutting-edge science and technology in the global health industry, and help Wuhan build "**city of global health industry**".
- Indian-American **Kash Patel** has been named as the **Chief of Staff to the Acting US Defence Secretary Chris Miller**. The new appointment comes a day after **Donald Trump** fired Defence Secretary **Mark Esper** and designated Chris Miller, as the Acting Secretary. Kash Patel, currently on the **National Security Council staff**. He replaces **Jen Stewart**, who resigned earlier in the day.
- **Myanmar's** ruling party led by Nobel laureate **Aung San Suu Kyi** claimed a resounding victory. **National League for Democracy (NLD)** party has won close to **400 seats** while the opposition Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) has secured only 21 seats.



Around 38 million voted to select the National League of Democracy (NLD) Party for a second term. NLD was required to win at least 2/3rd of the elected seats to win.

- **Japan and Australia** have signed a 'landmark' defence pact in a bid to counter **China's** growing influence in the **South China Sea** and over the **Pacific island nations**. The deal called **Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA)** was signed between Japanese Prime Minister **Yoshihide Suga** and his Australian counterpart **Scott Morrison**.
- **Maia Sandu** has won **Moldova's presidential election** after a run-off vote against the incumbent **Igor Dodon**. Ms Sandu has won 57.7% of the vote compared to Mr Dodon's 42.2%. Sandu is a former **World Bank economist** who favours closer ties with the European Union. **Mr Dodon**, meanwhile, is openly backed by Russia.
- **China** has launched a historic mission '**Chang'e 5**' to the moon to collect '**first lunar samples**'. The mission aims at the investigation of the landing area to obtain the on-site analysis data related to the lunar samples, as well as systematic and long-term laboratory analysis of the lunar samples. It is the world's first moon-sample mission in more than **40 years**. Till date, only two nations, the **US and the Soviet Union** have been able to collect the lunar sample. The last mission was undertaken by Soviet Union's Luna 24 mission in 1976.
- **Russia** successfully test-fired a **Tsirkon hypersonic cruise missile** in the **Arctic**. the frigate Admiral Gorshkov in the White Sea fired a Tsirkon hypersonic cruise missile, hitting a naval target **450 km away** in the **Barents Sea at a speed of over Mach 8**.
- **Cambridge Dictionary** has named '**quarantine**' as **Word of the Year 2020**. The word has been named the word of the year based on data that showed that it was one of the most highly searched words on the **Cambridge Dictionary this year**.
- The first coal-based power plant of **Arab Gulf country** is being developed in Saih Shuaib, **Dubai, United Arab Emirates**. The **2,400MW Hassyan clean coal power station** will be built at an estimated cost of **\$ 3.4 billion**.

### National Current Affairs

- The Chief Justice of India (CJI) **Sharad Arvind Bobde** and Justice **DY Chandrachud** of the Supreme Court, jointly inaugurated India's first-ever E-resource centre and the virtual court called "**Nyay Kaushal**" at **Judicial Officers Training Institute** in Nagpur.

- As a part of **Mission Sagar-II**, the Indian Naval Ship (INS) **Airavat** has reached **Sudan** with 100 tonnes of **food aid**. Under Mission Sagar-II, INS Airavat will deliver food aid to **Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea** amid the **COVID-19 pandemic**.
- Union Minister of State (IC) for Tourism & Culture, **Prahlad Singh Patel** virtually inaugurated the "**Tourist Facilitation Centre**" facility at **Guruvayur, in Kerala**. The facility has been constructed under the project "**Development of Guruvayur, Kerala**" under **Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive** (PRASHAD) Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism, at the cost of **Rs. 11.57 Crores**.
- The Chief of Army Staff General, **MM Naravane** was conferred the honorary rank of **General of the Nepali Army** by President **Bidya Devi Bhandari**. He was honoured at a special ceremony at the President's official residence '**Shital Niwas**' in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has constituted a four-member committee, to assess the existing **Television Rating Points (TRP)** of TV channels. The committee will be chaired by **Prasar Bharati CEO, Shashi S Vempati**. The committee will be responsible to address the 'needs of the stakeholders' and make necessary recommendations for a rating system which shall be 'robust, transparent and accountable'.
- The **Ministry of Shipping** is being expanded and renamed as the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**. This information was given by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** on 8 November 2020, during a launch event of Ro-Pax terminal at Hazira and flagging off the Ro-Pax ferry service between **Hazira and Ghogha in Gujarat**, which will reduce the 370-km road distance between the two places to 90-km by sea route.
- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** has issued a notification that **FASTags** will become mandatory for all four-wheelers, including old vehicles, from **January 1, 2021**.
- **Digital/Online media** has been brought under the purview of the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**. Currently, there is no law or autonomous body governing digital content. The **2nd Schedule of the Government of India** (Allocation of Business) Rules 1961 has been amended to include following entries viz. **Films and Audio-Visual programmes, News and current affairs content**. This means that digital content providers such as **Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, and Hotstar** will now

be regulated by the Union ministry headed by Prakash Javadekar.

- Union Jal Shakti Minister, **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** has launched India's first solar-based **Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project (IMVWSP)** in **Arunachal Pradesh**. The solar-based lift water supply project is 'first of its kind' in the country, and has been commissioned at a cost of **Rs 28.50 crore**. However, such projects will be carried out in other parts of the country too.
- **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** Chairman **M. Ajit Kumar**, along with members of the Board inaugurated the **GST Bhawan, Panchkula, Haryana**. The state of the art building will house the offices of Central GST at Panchkula. It has been built at a cost of about **31 crores rupees**.
- The **Government of India, the Government of Meghalaya** and the **World Bank** has signed a **\$120-million project** to improve and modernize the transport sector of **Meghalaya**. This will help Meghalaya to harness its vast growth potential for high-value agriculture and tourism. The \$120 million loans from the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**, has a maturity of **14 years** including a grace period of six years. The **International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** is a **development bank** administered by the **World Bank**.
- Union Minister of Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Law and Justice, **Ravi Shankar Prasad** has released a **"My Stamp on Chhath Puja"**. My Stamp is an innovative concept initiated by the Department of Posts. Any common person or corporate organisation can now book order and get a personalised photograph or an image of a Postage Stamp.
- The Union Health Minister **Dr Harsh Vardhan** has addressed the **33rd Stop TB Partnership Board meeting** in New Delhi through Video Conference. During the meet, the minister has stressed on the need to create a mass movement for the elimination of TB with strategized advocacy, thought leadership, disruptive social entrepreneurship, powerful, societal and political commitment. It must be noted that India is running the **"TB Harega, Desh Jeetega"** campaign that targets to achieve the **Sustainable Development Goal** target related to **TB by 2025**, five years ahead of the global target of **2030**.
- Prime Minister of India **Narendra Modi** and Bhutan Prime Minister **Lotay Tshering** virtually launched **RuPay card Phase-II**, to allow Bhutanese

cardholders to access RuPay network in India. In August 2019, PM Modi and his Bhutanese counterpart jointly launched Phase-I of the project. Phase-II will now allow Bhutanese cardholders to access RuPay network in India.

- **India** will host the **Summit of the G20 Group** in **2023**. India was earlier slated to host the summit in 2022. India and Indonesia have swapped their respective hosting year of G20 as Indonesia would also chair the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** in **2023**. However, now the G20 Summit be hosted by **Italy in 2021, Indonesia in 2022, India in 2023 and Brazil in 2024**.
- Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, **Ravi Shankar Prasad** has launched the **UMANG mobile app International version** in coordination with Ministry of External Affairs for select countries that include **USA, UK, Canada, Australia, UAE, Netherlands, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand**.
- The **2020 Afghanistan Conference** was organized in Geneva from 23-24 November 2020 virtually. The External Affairs Minister of India, **Dr S. Jaishankar** led the Indian delegation at the conference. India has introduced a brand new section of over 100 high-impact neighbourhood initiatives in Afghanistan value **USD 80 million (Rs 592 crore)** because the nation's growth portfolio within the war-ravaged nation has reached over **USD three billion (Rs 22,200 crore)** to this point.
- The **Union Territory of Ladakh** has got the largest solar power project set up under the Centre's 'Make In India' initiative at Leh IAF station to provide sustainable energy alternative to fossil fuel and traditional methods of energy generation. The project namely **'Provision of Solar Photo Voltaic Powerplant 1.5 MW'** has been completed within 12 months well before the completion deadline of **March 31, 2021**.
- Union Minister **Nitin Gadkari** has inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of **16 National Highway projects** in **Uttar Pradesh**. The construction cost of these infra projects is estimated to be around **Rs 7477 crore**.

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- Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Prakash Javadekar** has launched the "**India Climate Change Knowledge Portal**". The portal will have all the major steps the Government is taking at both national and international levels to address the climate change issues.
- Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** embarked on a three-city visit on 28 November 2020, to personally review the COVID-19 vaccine development and manufacturing process at facilities in these cities. Facilities visited by PM Modi are: **Zydus Biotech Park in Ahmedabad, Bharat Biotech in Hyderabad and Serum Institute of India in Pune.**
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has chaired the **33rd PRAGATI** meeting to review multiple projects, grievances and programmes. PRAGATI stands for "**Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation**".

## States Current Affairs

- In West Bengal, **Kolkata** will soon feature India's first "**Tyre Park**", where artworks made from scrap and defective parts will be on display. The **West Bengal Transport Corporation** will launch this Tyre Park.
- India's first of its kind solar energy-driven **miniature train** was inaugurated at the **Veli Tourist Village, Kerala** by Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan**. The train, which would be an attraction for children especially, was part of a string of projects totally worth **Rs 60 crore** taken up to elevate the facilities at the panoramic destination to international standards.
- The Chief Minister of Assam, **Sarbananda Sonowal** has laid the foundation stone of **Indo-Israeli Centre of Excellence (CoE)** for Vegetables Protected Cultivation at **Khetri** on the outskirts of **Guwahati**. The Indo-Israeli Centre of Excellence for Vegetables

Protected Cultivation is estimated to be set up at an investment of **Rs 10.33 Crore.**

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved **USD 132.8 million loan** to **Meghalaya**, to improve and upgrade the power distribution network in the state. The fund will help in improving the distribution system & financial sustainability of the Meghalaya Power Distribution Corporation Limited (MePDCL).
- In Uttarakhand, **Dehradun Municipal Corporation (DMC)** has launched an initiative named **Plastic Lao MASK LE JAO** to fight against the menace of plastic waste and contain the spread of Covid-19. It has distributed Five thousand face masks in exchange for plastic waste.
- The **government of Kerala** has launched a pioneering eco-sustainable programme called '**Parivarthanam**', to improve the livelihood of the fishing community. The scheme aims at improving the livelihood skills of youngsters along the coastline and also enable socio-economic uplift of the fishermen community.
- Pakke Tiger Reserve (PTR)** in **Arunachal Pradesh** has become the first in the eight-State northeast to provide insurance cover against Covid-19 for "**green soldiers**". Eight-State northeast includes **Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.**
- Nagaland govt** decides to celebrate **Hornbill Festival** virtually this year, amid the surge in COVID-19 cases in the country. This festival is also called the **Festival of Festivals**. It is held every year from **December 1 to 10**, showcases the culture, heritage, food and customs of Naga tribes.
- India's **longest single-lane motorable suspension bridge** has been inaugurated in **Tehri-Garhwal district of Uttarakhand**. The **Dobra-Chanti Jhula (suspension) bridge**, was inaugurated by the Chief Minister **Trivendra Singh Rawat** to mark the **20th** foundation day of the state on **9th November 2020.**
- Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** has launched '**Secha Samadhan**', a bilingual mobile application, to address the irrigation problems faced by farmers without them having to visit the offices concerned.
- Haryana Chief Minister (CM), **Manohar Lal Khattar** has virtually unveiled '**Project Air Care**' to combat rising Air Pollution in Gurgaon. **65 Wing Augmentation Air Purifying Units (WAYU)** would be set up at areas with high **Air Quality Indices (AQI)** in Gurgaon to improve the air quality.



- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has launched a roadmap to “**Aatma Nirbhar Madhya Pradesh 2023**” through a virtual event. Under the roadmap, a special focus will be on health and education in the state.
- The Chief of **Janata Dal (United)**, **Nitish Kumar** has taken an oath as the **Chief Minister of Bihar** and he will begin his **7th term** on 16th November 2020. Bihar Governor **Phagu Chauhan** administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr Kumar at Raj Bhavan in Patna. BJP legislature party leader **Tarkishore Prasad** and Deputy leader **Renu Devi** have been made the new **Deputy Chief Ministers**.
- The Madhya Pradesh government, led by Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, has decided to set up a ‘**Gau Cabinet**’ for the protection, conservation and promotion of cows in the state. The Cabinet will comprise of the departments of **animal husbandry, forests, panchayat and rural development, revenue, home and farmers welfare**.
- The world heritage site of **Hampi**, the erstwhile capital of the **Vijayanagar empire**, will soon be part of a new district. The Karnataka Government has approved to carve out Vijayanagara as a new district of the state. Vijayanagara will be the **31st district** of the State. The new district would be carved out of **Ballari** and named after the Vijayanagara empire that ruled from this region.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has laid the foundation stone of rural drinking water supply projects in **Mirzapur and Sonbhadra** districts of **Vindhyachal region** in **Uttar Pradesh** via video conference. The total estimated cost of the projects is around **Rs 5,555.38 Crore**.
- The **5th India International Cherry Blossom Festival** has been cancelled due to **COVID-19** pandemic. The festival is held every year in **Shillong**, the capital of **Meghalaya**, to celebrate the unique autumn flowering of the Himalayan cherry blossoms and mark the beginning of India’s version of autumn.
- **Himachal Pradesh government** has launched ‘**Him Suraksha Abhiyan**’ to sensitize the people regarding **Covid-19 pandemic** and also to collect information regarding symptoms of diseases like **TB, Leprosy, sugar and blood pressure by the door to door campaign throughout the State**.
- Union Food Processing Industries Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** has virtually inaugurated the **Rs 107.83 crore mega food park** at **Phagwara in Kapurthala district of Punjab**. So far, 37 mega food parks have

been sanctioned across the country, of which 20 have started functioning.

- The **Uttarakhand forest department** has dedicated the newly-built **Moss Garden** to the people, claiming that it is the country’s first such garden, spread over 10 hectares in Kumaon’s **Nainital district**.
- **Uttar Pradesh Cabinet** has cleared the proposal to rename the **Ayodhya airport** as **Maryada Purushottam Sri Ram Airport**, Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh. The proposal for the same will be sent to the **Ministry of Civil Aviation** after it is passed by the state Assembly.

### Schemes/Committees

- The Union Minister of Science and Technology, **Harsh Vardhan** has launched the ‘**SERB – POWER**’ schemes which aim to encourage and support emerging as well as eminent women researchers to undertake R&D activities in frontier areas of science and engineering. **SERB-POWER** stands for **Science and Engineering Research Board – Promoting Opportunities For Women in Exploratory Research**.
- **Ganga Utsav-2020** has been organised by the **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** jointly with the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**. The three-day-long Ganga Utsav-2020 has been organised from 02 to 04 November 2020, virtually amidst **COVID-19 precautions**.
- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, **Narendra Singh Tomar** has virtually inaugurated the capacity building component of the **Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises scheme (PM-FME Scheme)**. **PM-FME Scheme** has been launched with an outlay of **Rs 10,000 crore** for a period of five years from **2020-21 to 2024-25**. He also launched the **GIS One District One Product (ODOP) digital map of India**.
- India’s first **Sandalwood Museum** is being established in **Aranya Bhavan** in **Ashokapuram, Mysuru, Karnataka**. The museum is set up by the Regional Forest Department to educate farmers about the significance of cultivation of sandalwood. This will also provide technical support, information on the availability of saplings, marketing facilities, pest control measures, incentives and schemes provided for sandalwood growers by the government.

### Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- **ICICI Lombard** in partnership with **Freepaycard**, an online pre-paid card trading platform, has launched **Group Safeguard Insurance**. This strategic

partnership will make the bite-sized health insurance solutions, designed specifically for Freepaycardmembers, available at its multi-category partner retail outlets. Freepaycard members can add these health solutions on the go while shopping for other essential goods or services.

- Tech giant **IBM** stated it has collaborated with **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL)** to transform the latter's customer experience using digital tools. Around **12,400 IOCL distributors** covering about **130 million consumers** can now use the **IndianOil One mobile app** and portal, developed by **IBM Services**.
- The **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** and the **Research and Development Centre of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)** have signed an MoU to develop and demonstrate biomass gasification-based **hydrogen generation technology**. This technology will be used for producing fuel cell-grade hydrogen at an affordable price.
- The **Bilateral Summit between India and Italy** was held virtually on 6th November 2020. The Summit was attended by the Indian Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** and Prime Minister of Italy **Prof. Giuseppe Conte**. The two leaders reviewed the broad framework of the bilateral relationship and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen cooperation against common global challenges, including the **Covid-19 pandemic**.
- The **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a subsidiary of NTPC Ltd, **NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN)**, to promote usage of electric vehicles and set up solar power plants at the airports managed and operated by AAI.
- **Australia-India Water Centre (AIWC)** has been inaugurated in a virtual event to promote water-related research, teaching, and training between the two countries. This Water Centre is led by **IIT Guwahati** from the Indian side and the **University of Western Sydney** from the Australian side. Along with this, the centre has 21 partners from India and Australia.
- **India and the Maldives** have signed four agreements, during the visit of Foreign Secretary **Harsh Vardhan Shringla** to the Maldives. Shringla is on a two-day visit to the Indian Ocean archipelago. These MOUs will help to improve the relations between the two countries. Maldives tourism industry has been greatly affected by **COVID-19** and because of this India provided a loan of \$250 million to the country in September 2020. The Indian foreign

secretary appreciated the "**India First**" policy of **Maldives** and also said that it is strongly reciprocated by India through "**Neighborhood First**" policy.

- **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)** has signed an agreement with the **World Bank**, to provide advisory services to DIPAM for asset monetization. DIPAM is mandated with facilitating monetization of non-core assets of government CPSEs under strategic disinvestment or closure and enemy property of the value of 100 crore and above. DIPAM has a framework for monetizing non-core assets.
- The **Government of India** and the **New Development Bank(NDB)** have signed a loan agreement for lending **USD 500 million** for the '**Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System Project**'. This Regional Rapid Transit System provide fast, reliable, safe and comfortable public transport system in the **National Capital Region (NCR)**.
- The National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency, **Invest India** has partnered with **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India** to develop the first-ever '**SDG Investor Map for India**'. The map lays out 18 **Investment Opportunities Areas (IOAs)** in six critical SDG enabling sectors, that can help India to move forward on Sustainable Development path. This initiative is an instrumental stride in India's development trajectory.
- **HDFC Bank** has signed an MoU with **Inventivepreneur Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ICCI)** to support **SMEs and Start-ups**. Through this association, ICCI will engage, enrol and support various **Startups /SMEs /MSMEs** to facilitate inter-alia financial and other facilities to/from HDFC Bank. ICCI and HDFC Bank jointly conduct diverse networking activities, awareness camps and interactive sessions, Business Events.
- **Mercedes-Benz** has joined hands with **State Bank of India (SBI)** to offer financial benefits to the lender's **High Net Worth Individual (HNI) customers**. This collaboration will give the luxury automobile manufacturer access to State Bank of India's High Net Worth Individual (HNI) customer base, while the bank's customers will enjoy exclusive benefits at the time of booking a Mercedes-Benz car.
- **India and Finland** signed an MoU for developing cooperation in the field of **Environment protection and biodiversity conservation**. The MoU was signed by Environment Minister **Prakash Javadekar** from the Indian side and his Finnish counterpart **Krista Mikkonen** through video-mode. Further, advance Indian and Finnish partnership and strengthen

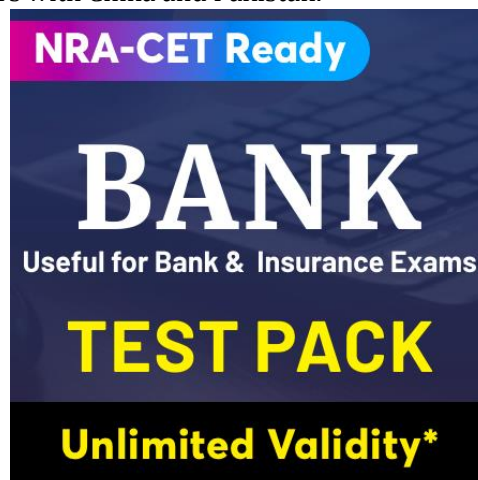
technological, scientific and management capabilities and develop bilateral cooperation in the field of environmental protection and biodiversity conservation. Support, exchange best practices in areas like prevention of air and water pollution, waste management, and promotion of circular economy.

### Appointments/Resignations (National & International)

- Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officer, **Rajiv Jalota** has been appointed as the chairman of **Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT)**.
- The **Electronics Sector Skill Council of India (ESSCI)** announced the appointment of **PVG Menon** as its **chief executive officer**.
- AK Gupta**, the new **Managing Director and CEO of ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL)** took charge. Before this, he was Director (Operations) of the company.
- National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** Chairman, **Dilip Rath** has been unanimously elected to the board of global dairy body **International Dairy Federation (IDF)**.
- Manipur's **Gyanendro Ningombam** was elected unopposed as the **President of Hockey India**, while former President **Mohd Mushtaq Ahmad** is back in the Hockey India Executive Board after being Elected Unopposed for the **Senior Vice President post**.
- Indian diplomat, **Vidisha Maitra** has been elected to the **UN's Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)**. The election was a tightly contested one but Maitra won with **126 UN members** supporting her candidature for the only post for the Asia-Pacific group while **64 voted** for the opposing candidate who was from Iraq.
- Indian Oil Corp (IOC)** director-pipelines **Akshay Kumar Singh** will be the new **managing director and chief executive** of the country's biggest gas importer, **Petronet LNG Ltd**. He will replace **Prabhat Singh** who completed his 5-year term.
- The Union government has extended the tenure of **Enforcement Directorate (ED)** Director **Sanjay Kumar Mishra** by a year after modifying his appointment order that was issued in 2018. His tenure was to end next week as the ED director's post comes with a fixed term of two years.
- Auckland-based commercial lawyer and director of New Zealand Cricket (NZC) since 2012, **Greg Barclay** has been elected as the new **chairman** of the **International Cricket Council (ICC)**, after the second round of voting.
- Lt Gen Harpal Singh** has appointed new **Engineer-in-Chief of Indian Army**. He is presently the

Director-General of **Border Roads Organisation** and would take over his new appointment on 1 December.

- Major Gen Rajeev Chaudhary** has been appointed as the new Director-General of the **Border Roads Organisation**. The BRO is responsible for the construction and maintenance of roads along the borders with China and Pakistan.



### Ranks and Reports

- According to the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Indian supercomputer, **Param Siddhi** has achieved **63rd rank** in the list of **500 most powerful supercomputers in the world**.
- India** is placed at **77th position** in the **TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix 2020**. India has achieved a score of **45** in a global list that measures **business bribery risks of 2020**. India's rank stood **78 positions in 2019**. It was a better performance than neighbouring nations such as **Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and China**. But, **Bhutan** scored better than India and got **48th place** in the list.
- The **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)** has released its biannual '**Worldwide Cost of Living (WCOL)**' report of the **World's Most Expensive Cities in 2020**, based on their cost of living. **Hong Kong (China), Paris (France) and Zurich (Switzerland)** share the top spot as the **most expensive cities** in the list, which comprises of **133 cities**. **Damascus (Syria), Taskent (Uzbekistan), Lusaka (Zambia)** ranked the last three spot as the **most cheapest cities in the list**, which comprises of **133 cities**. The report took into account the price of 138 items, used in every day for survival, and the falling or rising value of that country's currency due to Covid to rank the cities accordingly.
- The **Indian national team** have moved up a spot to **104** in the latest FIFA Rankings. The Indian team were ranked **108th** in the October 2020 rankings. In



two months, India has climbed 5 spots after being **109th** in September. Meanwhile, on the global scene, the top six remain unchanged. **Belgium** continues to lead the rankings followed by **France, Brazil, England, Portugal and Spain**. **Argentina** is seventh, having interchanged spots with eighth-placed **Uruguay**. **Mexico and Italy** complete the top 10.

### Sports Current Affairs

- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has announced **Jio** as the Title Sponsor of the **2020 edition of the Women's T20 Challenge**. The partnership will also have the support of **Reliance Foundation Education** and **Sports For All (RF ESA)**.
- Indian boxers **Amit Panghal, Sanjeet and Ashish Kumar** have won gold medals at the recently concluded **Alexis Valentine International Boxing Tournament** held in **Nantes, France**. The tournament was the first international event that Indian boxers were a part of since the lockdown.
- **Lewis Hamilton** (Mercedes-Great Britain) has won the **Emilia Romagna Grand Prix 2020** at **Autodromo Internazionale Enzo e Dino Ferrari** race track, Italy.
- Australian all-rounder, **Shane Watson** has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. The 39-year-old will hang up his boots after an illustrious career during which he won **two ICC Men's Cricket World Cups** and **two ICC Champions Trophy titles**. He played **59 Tests, 190 ODIs and 58 T20Is**.
- West Indies batsman, **Marlon Samuels** has announced his retirement from professional cricket. The 39-year-old had informed **Cricket West Indies (CWI)** about his retirement in June this year, having last played for his country in **December 2018 against Bangladesh**.
- Russian, **Daniil Medvedev** has won Paris Master 2020 title in tennis when he beat **Alexander Zverev** 5-7, 6-4, 6-1 in Paris. He became the fourth Russian to capture the **Rolex Paris Masters title**.
- The world number one **Chen Meng** beat Chinese compatriot **Sun Yingsha** to win her maiden **International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Women's World Cup table tennis title** in held in **Weihai, China**. The 2020 ITTF Women's World Cup was the **24th** edition of the ITTF-sanctioned event.
- **Lewis Hamilton** (Mercedes-Great Britain) has won the Turkish Grand Prix 2020 at Istanbul Park, Turkey. **Sergio Perez** (Racing Point-BWT- Mexico) secured

the second position and **Sebastian Vettel** of Ferrari finished third.

- Serbian tennis star **Novak Djokovic** has given the **ATP Tour No. 1 trophy** on **15 November 2020**, for finishing 2020 as the year-end No. 1 (world number one). With this, he has become the only second player in tennis history, after Pete Sampras, to receive the trophy **sixth time**.
- Indian cricketer, **Sudeep Tyagi** has announced his retirement from **all forms of the cricket**.
- The **2021 U-17 Women's World Cup**, which was scheduled to be held in **India**, has been cancelled due to the **Coronavirus pandemic**. It has also been decided that India will host the **2022 edition of the World Cup**. While **Costa Rica** will get the chance to host the **2022 U20 Women's World Cup**.
- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has announced its partnership with **Mobile Premier League (MPL) Sports**, the athleisure wear and sports merchandise brand from Mobile Premier League, India's largest esports platform, as the new kit sponsor and official merchandise partner for the Indian Cricket Team.
- In Tennis, **Daniil Medvedev (Russia)** beat **Dominic Thiem (Austria)** to win the **2020 ATP Tour Finals**, held in London. This is the biggest title of his career. The 24-year-old will finish the year at fourth position in the world rankings. In the doubles final, Dutch-Croatian duo **Wesley Koolhof and Nikola Pietrangeli** claimed their first title together after surpassing **Jürgen Melzer and Édouard Roger-Vasselin**.
- Sports Minister **Kiren Rijiju** has launched the **2nd edition** of the **"Fit India School Week"** program in the presence of **Fit India Mission**. Sports Minister encourages school children to participate in the **Fit India movement**.
- Indian cricket team skipper **Virat Kohli** scripted another record in the game. He broke **Sachin Tendulkar's record** and became the quickest batsman to complete **22,000 runs**. He reached the milestone in his **462nd innings**.

### Summits And Conferences

- The **4th High-Level Meeting of the OPEC-India Dialogue** was hosted by the **OPEC Secretariat**. The Meeting was co-chaired by HE Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo, Secretary-General of OPEC and Shri **Dharmendra Pradhan**, India's Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Steel.
- The **13th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference** was organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban

Affairs. It was inaugurated by **Hardeep S. Puri, Minister of State (IC) Housing and Urban Affairs**. The day-long conference was held via Video Conference on the theme "Emerging Trends in Urban Mobility". The conference focused on innovative measures taken at the national and international level to address the challenges posed by **Covid-19 pandemic** to provide accessible and convenient transport to the people.

- The **20th Summit of SCO Council of Heads of State** was held on November 10, 2020, in Video Conference Format. The Meeting was chaired by the **Russian President Vladimir Putin**. **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** led the Indian delegation.
- **India** has extended financial contribution of **USD 1 million** to the **COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund**. This was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the **17th ASEAN-India Summit**, which was held virtually.
- The External Affairs Minister **Dr S. Jaishankar** has represented India at the **15th East Asia Summit (EAS)** on behalf of PM Modi. The Summit was chaired by the Prime Minister of **Vietnam Nguyen Xuan Phuc** because Vietnam is ASEAN Chair in 2020 (ASEAN holds the central role and leadership in the forum). All the 18 EAS countries participated in the virtual Summit.
- The **8th BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial Meeting** was held through a virtual platform for Science and Technology cooperation among the member countries, which are **Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa**. The meeting was held under the Chairmanship of the **Russian Federation**. (Russia is the Chair for 12th BRICS Summit). The Union Minister of Science and Technology, **Dr Harsh Vardhan** represented the Indian delegation at the meeting.
- 15 Asia Pacific countries have signed the world's biggest free trade deal, led by China, on the sidelines of the **37th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit**. The deal called as '**Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)**', is the world's largest trading bloc, comprising of 10 Southeast Asian countries, as well as **South Korea, China, Japan, Australia and New Zealand**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has addressed the **3rd Annual Bloomberg New Economy Forum** through video-conferencing. The forum witnessed discussions on refuelling the economy and charting a course for the future, as the world economy is grappling with the **COVID-19 pandemic**.

- The Prime Minister of India, **Narendra Modi**, and the Prime Minister of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, **Xavier Bettel**, held the first-ever **India-Luxembourg Virtual Summit**. During the Summit, both parties agreed for enhanced cooperation in areas of **trade, finance, steel, space, ICT, innovation, manufacturing, automotive, sustainable development, including through renewable energy**, and the fight against climate change.
- The **15th G20 Summit** was held under the chairmanship of **Saudi Arabia**. King **Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud** of Saudi Arabia chaired the Summit through video-conferencing, due to the **COVID-19 pandemic**. The two-day Summit was held under the theme "**Realising the Opportunities of the 21st Century for All**".
- The 2020 **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting** was held under the Chairmanship of Malaysian Prime Minister **Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin**. The APEC Summit 2021 will be hosted by **New Zealand**. This is the second time Malaysia hosted an APEC meeting, having hosted one in 1998. The theme of the APEC Malaysia 2020 was "**Optimising Human Potential Towards a Resilient Future of Shared Prosperity: Pivot. Prioritise. Progress**".
- Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the **3rd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo (RE-Invest 2020)** through video conferencing. The summit is organised by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. The theme for RE-Invest 2020 is '**Innovations for Sustainable Energy Transition**'. The first two editions of RE-Invest were held in **2015 and 2018**.

#### Awards & Recognition

- Noted Malayalam writer, **Paul Zacharia** has been selected for this year's **Ezhuthachan Puraskaram**, the Kerala government's highest literary honour. Zacharia was chosen for his contribution to Malayalam literature during the past five decades.
- Noted filmmaker **Hariharan** has been selected for the **JC Daniel Award**, the state government's highest honour for **lifetime contributions to Malayalam cinema**. The award carries a purse of Rs 5 lakh, a citation, and a sculpture.
- Malayalam author, **S Hareesh** has won the JCB Prize for Literature 2020 for his novel **Moustache**. It has been translated into English by **Jayasree Kalathil** & published by **HarperCollins India**.

- **Ruskin Bond**, one of India's most cherished authors was conferred **Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award for 2020**. He has a substantial body of work, close to 100 books – across genres for children and adults.
- The Vice President of India, **M Venkaiah Naidu** has presented the **National Water Awards (NWAs) for 2019**. This is the **second edition** of the award. Among the states category, **Tamil Nadu** bagged the Best State Award, followed by **Maharashtra** and **Rajasthan**.
- **Sadat Rahman** from **Bangladesh** has been awarded the prestigious **International Children's Peace Prize 2020**. He was awarded the prize for his involvement in setting up his social organization and mobile app '**Cyber Teens**' to stop cyberbullying. The award was presented to 17-year-old Sadat by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai, during a ceremony in the Netherlands. He was selected out of 142 applicants from 42 countries.
- **Dr Susanta Kar**, Senior Scientist, Molecular Parasitology and Immunology, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research- Central Drug Research Institute (CSIR-CDRI) was honoured with "**Prof. A N Bhaduri Memorial Lecture Award 2020**" by **Society of Biological Chemists (India)**, Bengaluru. The award is given to him for his contribution towards defining the survival tactics of **Leishmania Donovanii**.
- Union Education Minister, **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** will be conferred with the **Vatayan Lifetime Achievement Award**. This award will be conferred to the Minister for **writing, poetry and other literary works**.
- Scottish writer **Douglas Stuart** has won the **2020 Booker Prize for Fiction**. He has been awarded for his debut novel, "**Shuggie Bain**". The 44-year-old Stuart is only the second Scot to have won the prestigious literary prize.
- The **North Police Station in Kohima** was awarded **ISO 9001:2015 certification for Quality Management System**. It is the first government agency of the state that has received such recognition. The ISO certificate helps to ensure that the police personnel routinely evaluates its working and implement remedial measures, as and when required.
- Veteran actor **Naseeruddin Shah** has been honoured with the **2020 Aditya Vikram Birla Kalashikhar Puraskar** at annual **Sangit Kala Kendra Awards**. Alongside, two emerging stars, in the firmament of theatrics – **Neel Choudhary** and **Irawati Karnik** were awarded the Aditya Vikram Birla Kalakiran

Puraskars. "**Theatre**" is the central theme, for this year's awards.

- Karnataka Governor **Vajubhai Vala** presented Doctor of Science honorary doctorate upon ISRO Chairman **K Sivan**. The **Visvesvaraya Technological University** has conferred the doctorate to him.
- The **Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR)** and the **Uttar Pradesh Forest department** have bagged the first-ever international award, "**TX2**" for doubling the number of tigers in four years against a target of 10 years. TX2 stands for '**Tigers times two**', signalling the goal to double wild tigers. In 2014, PTR had **25 tigers** which went up to **65 in 2018**.

### Important Days

- **World Vegan Day** is observed globally on 1st November every year. This day is celebrated to spread benefits of veganism for humans, non-human animals, and the natural environment. Vegan Day is an opportunity to promote the benefits of a vegan diet and veganism in general.
- The **International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists** is an UN-recognized day observed annually on **2 November**.
- **World Tsunami Awareness Day** was observed across the world on **5 November**.
- The **International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict** is an international day observed annually on **November 6**.
- The **National Cancer Awareness Day** is observed annually in India on **November 7**, to spread awareness on cancer, its symptoms and treatment.
- **International Day of Radiology** is observed globally on **8th November** every year. The motto of International Day of Radiology 2020: '**Radiologists and radiographers supporting patients during COVID-19**'.
- In India, **09 November** is celebrated as "**National Legal Services Day**" every year by all **Legal Services Authorities**, to commemorate the enactment of the **Legal Services Authorities Act 1987**.
- **World Urbanism Day**, also known as "**World Town Planning Day**", is celebrated on **8 November** globally, to recognise and promote the role of planning in creating livable communities. WUD is organised by the **International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP)**.
- **World Science Day for Peace and Development** is celebrated each year on **November 10** every year. This day is celebrated to highlight the important role



that science play in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. This year **World Science Day for Peace and Development** theme is “**Science for and with Society**”.

- **World Pneumonia Day** is observed globally on **12th November** every year. The day is celebrated to raise awareness, promote prevention and treatment and produce action to combat the disease. The day was first celebrated in the year **2009**.
- **Public Service Broadcasting Day** is celebrated on **12 November** every year. The day is celebrated to commemorate the first and only visit of the Father of the Nation, **Mahatma Gandhi**, to the studio of All India Radio, Delhi in 1947. On 12 November 1947, Mahatma Gandhi addressed the displaced people (a refugee from Pakistan), who had temporarily settled at **Kurukshetra** in Haryana after partition.
- **World Kindness Day** is observed globally on **13th November** every year. The theme for the **2020 World Kindness day** is **Kindness: The World We Make – Inspire Kindness**.
- **National Ayurveda Day** is being observed every year from **2016**, on the day of **Dhanwantri Jayanti**. This year the **5th Ayurveda Day** falls on **November 13, 2020**. The Potential role of Ayurveda in the management of the **COVID-19 pandemic** will be the focus of this year’s ‘Ayurveda Day’ observation.
- **World Diabetes Day** is observed on **14th November** every year. The campaign aims to raise awareness around the crucial role that nurses play in supporting people living with diabetes. The theme for World Diabetes Day 2020 is “**The Nurse and Diabetes**.”
- The United Nations observes “**International Day for Tolerance**” on **16th November** every year. The United Nations is committed to strengthening tolerance by fostering mutual understanding among cultures and peoples. In **1994**, UNESCO marked the **125th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi’s birth** paving the way for the proclamation of 16 November as the International Day for Tolerance by the UN.
- **National Press Day** is observed on **16th November** every year to celebrate free and responsible press in India. On this day the **Press Council of India** started functioning as a moral watchdog to ensure that the press maintains high standards and is not constrained by any influence or threats.
- The **National Naturopathy Day** is observed in India on **18 November** every year, to promote positive mental and physical health through a drugless system of medicine, called as **Naturopathy**.

- **World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims** is marked every year on **Third Sunday** in the month of **November**. In 2020, World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims falls on **15 November 2020**. The theme of 2020 World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims is “**First Responders**”.
- In India, **November 17** is observed every year as **National Epilepsy Day**, to create awareness about epilepsy. The month of November is observed as ‘**National Epilepsy Awareness Month**’. This National Epilepsy Day is observed by the **Epilepsy Foundation of India**.
- **World Toilet Day (WTD)** is observed globally on **19 November** to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis. The day was established by the **World Toilet Organization in 2001** and officially declared by the **UN General Assembly in 2013**. This year the theme remarks on the importance of “**Sustainable sanitation and climate change**”.
- **World Philosophy Day** is observed on the **third Thursday of November** every year. This year World Philosophy Day falls on **19 November 2020**.
- **World COPD Day** is observed on the **third Wednesday of November** every year to raise awareness about **chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)** and improve COPD care throughout the world. World COPD Day 2020 falls on **18 November 2020**. The 2020 theme: **Living Well with COPD-Everybody, Everywhere**.
- **World Children's Day** is observed globally on **20 November** every year. The day is celebrated to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.
- **Africa Industrialization Day** is celebrated on **November 20** each year. It is a time when governments and other organizations in many African countries examine ways to stimulate Africa's industrialization process. Theme 2020: “**Inclusive and sustainable industrialisation in the AfCFTA era**”.
- **World Television Day** is observed on **21 November** every year. The day is observed to acknowledge the role of broadcast media. On this day, the journalists, writers, bloggers, and others who are associated with the medium promote the role of television in communication and globalization.
- **World Fisheries Day** is celebrated on **21 November** every year throughout the world by the **fisherfolk communities**. It highlights the importance of healthy oceans ecosystems and to ensure sustainable stocks

of fisheries in the world. 2020 is the **fourth** World Fisheries Day.

- In India, the **National Newborn Week 2020** is observed every year from **15 to 21 November**. Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan has chaired an event to mark the National Newborn Week 2020. The theme of National Newborn Week 2020 is **'Quality, Equity, Dignity for every newborn at every health facility and everywhere'**.
- The **59th National Pharmacy Week (NPW)** was celebrated throughout the country from November 16-22, 2020. The theme of the NPW 2020 is **"Pharmacists: Frontline Health Professionals"**.



- **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** is observing the **Aviation Safety Awareness Week 2020** from **23 November to 27 November 2020**. The week-long celebration is being observed at all airports and ANS locations managed by AAI across India.
- The United Nations designated **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women** is celebrated worldwide on **November 25**. The day is celebrated to raise awareness of the fact that women around the world are subject to various forms of violence and the true nature of the issue is often hidden.
- This year's theme for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is **"Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!"**.
- In India, **November 26** is celebrated as **National Milk Day**, since **2014**, to commemorate the birthday of the father of India's White Revolution, **Dr Verghese Kurien** (also nicknamed as Milkman of India). The day was fixed by all the dairy majors of the country including the **National Dairy Development Board**

(**NDDB**), the **Indian Dairy Association (IDA)**, along with 22 state-level milk federations.

- The **'National Organ Donation Day'** is observed in India every year on **27 November**, since past 10 years. The day aims to promote awareness and recognize the selfless contribution made by deceased donors to healthcare and mankind re-instil our faith in humanity. The year 2020 marks the **11th National Organ Donation Day**.
- The United Nation recognised **Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare** on **30th November** every year since **2005**.
- The **International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People** is an UN-organized day held every year on **November 29**.

### Defence Current Affairs

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** successfully test-fired an air-launched version of the **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile** from a **Sukhoi fighter aircraft** in the **Bay of Bengal**. The aircraft took off from an airbase in Punjab & reached the Bay of Bengal after mid-air refuelling.
- The **Navies of India, the US, Japan and Australia** began the four-day-long phase first of the **Malabar naval exercise** in the **Bay of Bengal**. From the Indian side, destroyer **Ranvijay**, frigate **Shivalik**, off-shore patrol vessel **Sukanya**, fleet support ship **Shakti** and submarine **Sindhuraj** will be part of the drill. US Navy Ship **USS John S McCain** (Guided-missile destroyer), Australian Navy Ship **HMAS Ballarat** (long-range frigate) and Japan Maritime Self Defence Ship (JMSDF) Ship **JS Onami** (destroyer) are participating along with Indian Navy units.
- The enhanced version of **PINAKA rocket system** was successfully flight tested by **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** from Integrated Test Range, **Chandipur** off the coast of Odisha. This enhanced version of the Pinaka rocket would replace the existing **Pinaka Mk-I rockets**. While **Mk-1** had a range of 40 km, the new variant can hit a target **45 to 60 km away**.
- India receives the second batch of three **Rafale Aircraft**, bringing total Rafale Jets with IAF to **eight**. The second batch of three Rafale jets landed in **Jamnagar, Gujarat on 4th November 2020**, after flying non-stop from **France**.
- **Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)** has conducted a three-day Tri-Service Combat Exercise code-named **"Bull Strike"** at **Teressa Island in Nicobar Group of Islands**. The exercise focussed on interoperability and synergy among three services –

Army, Navy and Air Force to maximise combat potential.

- A two-day joint coastal security exercise, “**Sagar Kavach**” was launched at **Paradip Coast, Odisha**. The exercise is being carried out by a joint effort of the **state of Odisha and West Bengal governments**.
- A model of **Anti Satellite (A-SAT) Missile** installed inside **DRDO Bhawan** was unveiled by Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh**. The installation of the A-SAT model will inspire the DRDO fraternity to take up many more such challenging missions in future.
- The **Indian Navy** has launched the **fifth Scorpene submarine “Vagir”** at **Mazagon Dock of south Mumbai**. The submarine is capable of taking missions such as anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, mine laying, intelligence gathering and area surveillance.
- **India** successfully test-fired the **Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) system** off the coast of **Balasore in Odisha**. The system achieved a major milestone by a direct hit on to a **Banshee Pilotless target aircraft** at medium range and medium altitude. Indian forces have carried out at least seven tests earlier of the missile system.
- The second phase of **Exercise Malabar 2020** has been organised in the **Northern Arabian Sea** from 17 to 20 November 2020. The first Phase of Exercise Malabar 2020 was conducted in the **Bay of Bengal** from 03 to 06 November 2020. Exercise Malabar 2020 is the **24th edition of MALABAR**. The second phase will witness joint operations, centred around the **Vikramaditya Carrier Battle Group** of the Indian Navy and **Nimitz Carrier Strike Group** of the US Navy.
- The **30th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT)** was held between the **Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy**. The Indian Naval Ship (INS) **Karmuk**, an indigenously built Missile Corvette and Thailand Ship (HTMS) **Kraburi**, a Chao Phraya Class Frigate along with Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both the navies participated in the CORPAT.
- The **2nd edition of India, Singapore and Thailand Trilateral Maritime Exercise SITMEX-20** was conducted from in the **Andaman Sea**. The 2020 edition of the exercise is being hosted by **Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN)**. Indian Navy (IN) Ships including indigenously built ASW corvette **Kamorta** and missile corvette **Karmuk** participated in the exercise.
- **Indian Navy** has got its ninth Boeing **P-8I long-range maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare aircraft**, part of the nearly \$1 billion deal with the US for four additional planes signed in 2016.

- The **27th edition of India – Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise SIMBEX-20** has been organised from 23 to 25 November 2020 in the **Andaman Sea**. Indian Navy (IN) is the host for the 2020 edition of SIMBEX. The SIMBEX series of exercises are being held between the **Indian Navy and Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN)**, annually since 1994.
- **Indian Army** successfully test-fired a land-attack version of the **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile** from the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands territory**. The supersonic cruise missile successfully hit its target, which was on another island.
- The **Defence Research and Development (DRDO)** Chairman **G Satheesh Reddy** has flagged off the first Production unit of **Heavy Weight Torpedo (HWT), Varunastra**. The Varunastra has been designed and developed by **Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL)** of DRDO while **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)**, Vishakhapatnam has manufactured the torpedo for the Indian Navy.
- **Konark Corps of Indian Army** has launched a **1971 kilometres cycling expedition in Gujarat and Rajasthan** to commemorate the commencement of the Golden Jubilee Victory Celebrations of Indian Armed Forces in the **Indo-Pak War of 1971**.

### Science and Technology

- **Indian astronomers** have collaborated with the **2020 Physics Nobel Laureate Prof. Andrea Ghez** for the design of back-end instruments and possible science prospects of the **Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) project**. The Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) is a proposed extremely large telescope (ELT) which is planned to be installed at Maunakea on the island of Hawaii.
- **SpaceX** has launched **Four Astronauts (3 Americans, 1 Japanese)** to the International Space Station on the first full-fledged taxi flight for **NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)** by a private company. They were launched by **Falcon Rocket** from the Kennedy Space Center. The capsule has been named as “**Resilience**”. The crew was led by Commander Mike Hopkins, Shannon Walker, Victor Glover (First Black Astronaut on a long-term space station) mission and Japan’s Soichi Noguchi (First person in 40 years to launch on three types of spacecraft).
- **China** has sent into space the **world’s first 6G experiment satellite**. The 6G satellite was among three Chinese satellites successfully launched into orbit, along with 10 commercial remote sensing satellites developed by **Argentinian company**



**Satelloic.** This was the **351st** rocket of China's **Long March** series.

- The US space agency **NASA** and the **European Space Agency (ESA)** successfully launched '**Copernicus Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich satellite**', to monitor the rising global sea level. The joint US-European satellite lifted off on a **SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket** from Space Launch Complex 4E at **Vandenberg Air Force Base in California**.
- The **Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)** has been recognised by the **International Maritime Organisation (IMO)** as a part of the **World Wide Radio Navigation System (WWRNS)** for operation in the **Indian Ocean Region**. India has become the **fourth** country in the world to have its independent regional navigation satellite system recognised by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). The other three countries that have its navigation systems recognised by the IMO are the **US, Russia and China**.

### Books & Authors

- **Tamal Bandyopadhyay** has authored a book titled "**Pandemonium: The Great Indian Banking Tragedy**" and will be released on November 09, 2020. This book, published by **Roli Books**, provides an understanding of the challenges and economic potential of India.
- A new book titled "**Till We Win**" by AIIMS Director **Randeep Guleria** and two other doctors will give a definitive account of India's fight against **Covid-19** and how to deal with the pandemic in the days to come. The book has been co-written by leading public policy and health systems expert **Chandrakant Lahariya** and renowned vaccine researcher and virologist **Gagandeep Kang**.
- Ex-SPG officer, **Sasindran Kallinkeel's** has penned a novel named "**Rasaathi: The Other Side of a Transgender**". The main character in the novel, published by **BookMitra**, is a transgender named **Rasaathi** born in a well-to-do family in South India.
- **Actor Anupam Kher's** latest book is titled "**Your Best Day Is Today!**". He had announced the book, in which he experiences during the coronavirus-induced countrywide lockdown.
- Vice President of India, **Venkaiah Naidu** has launched the book titled "**Thavaasmi: Life and Skills through the lens of Ramayana**". The book was authored by **Rallabandi Srirama Chakradhar** and co-author by **Amara Sarada Deepthi**.
- Maharashtra Governor, **Bhagat Singh Koshyari** has released the book '**Majhi Bhint**' (**My Wall**) authored by former Maharashtra Minister of Education **Rajendra Darda** at Raj Bhavan, Mumbai.

- '**Boskiyana**', a new Hindi book on **Gulzar**, veteran Indian poet-lyricist has been published by **Radhakrishna Prakashan**. The book portrays the life of Gulzar through his films, poetry, philosophies, lifestyle, likes and dislikes. The 228- page book is edited and compiled by **Yashwant Vyas**. '**Boskiyana**' is the name of the **house of Gulzar in Mumbai**.
- An actor, producer and humanitarian, **Sonu Sood** is set to pen his autobiography titled "**I Am No Messiah**". The book will be co-authored by **Meena Iyer**. The book will account the experience of Sonu Sood during the **COVID-19 pandemic**. The book is set to be published by **Penguin Random House India** and released in December 2020.
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** has unveiled two books '**The Republican Ethic Volume III**' and '**Loktantra Ke Swar**' which are a collection of selected speeches of **President Ram Nath Kovind** during the third year of his presidency. Information and Broadcasting **Prakash Javadekar** unveiled the e-book versions of the two books.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has released a book on the life and ideals of **Guru Nanak Dev**, the founder of Sikhism and **first of its ten gurus**. The book has been penned by **Kirpal Singh Ji**. Minority Affairs Minister **Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi** was also present during the book release.

### Miscellaneous Current Affairs

- The **Indian Railways** has introduced a new initiative called "**Meri Saheli**" to provide safety and security to women passengers during their train journeys. The Meri Saheli initiative has been launched by the **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** of Indian Railways.
- **India's border areas** with Pakistan in **Rajasthan** would soon be illuminated with **renewable energy**. The state government will soon ink an MoU with **National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)** and **Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)** to establish **Ultra Mega Renewal Energy Power Park**. The park to be set up near borders areas will be of **8,000 megawatts (MW)** capacity, which will comprise **4,310 MW** of wind energy; **3,760 MW** of solar energy and **120 MW** of power from biomass.
- Indian-origin New Zealand politician, **Priyanca Radhakrishnan** has created history by becoming the first **Indian-Kiwi woman** to become a minister in **New Zealand**. Radhakrishnan was born in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
- The iconic Indian superhero, **Chacha Chaudhary**, whose brain works faster than a computer has now

come forward to join hands with the **NamamiGangeProgramme**.

- Fast Moving Electrical Goods (FMEG) company **Syska Group**, has roped in actor **Rajkumar Rao** as the new face of the brand. Rao will work closely with the company to promote the Syska products across **LED and fan segments**.
- The **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, a flagship initiative by the **NITI Aayog**, and **Russia's Sirius (Scientific International Research In Unique Terrestrial Station)** have jointly launched '**AIM-Sirius Innovation Programme 3.0**'. AIM-Sirius Innovation Programme 3.0 is a 14-day virtual programme for **Indian and Russian schoolchildren**.
- The Indian film '**Natkhat**', starring and co-produced by **Vidya Balan**, has won the top prize at the third edition of **Best Of India Short Film Festival 2020**. By winning the festival, the film has become eligible for **2021 Oscar qualification**. The film has been directed by **Shaan Vyas** and co-produced by **Ronnie Screwvala and Vidya Balan**.
- The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** has imposed a total **ban on the sale and use of firecrackers in the Delhi-NCR region** from 9 November to 30 November. The ban will be applicable in cities and towns where the air quality is in the "**poor**" category.
- Former West Indies fast bowler, **Michael Holding** has been appointed as a new patron of **Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) Foundation**.
- Marathi film, **Karkhanisanchi Waari** (Ashes on a Road Trip), the 149-minute film tells the story of the Karkhanis, the last joint family of Pune. The movie was directed by **Mangesh Joshi**. The movie will have its world premiere at the **33rd Tokyo International Film Festival**. It is the only Indian entry at the festival.
- The **Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** has announced that Assam's **Tezpur Litchi** has been given the geographical indication (GI) tag, though the litchis name in the GI tag list is there since 2015. The application for GI tagging was made on 28th August 2013 by **North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd (NERAMAC)**.
- **Nepal President, Bidya Devi Bhandari** has released a special pictorial anthology on Mahatma Gandhi to mark the **151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**. This anthology is written in the **Nepali language**. The book was launched at a special function held at in Kathmandu in the presence of Indian Ambassador to Nepal, **Vinay Mohan Kwatra**.

- **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** will be starting '**Bharat Darshan-Dakshin Bharat Yatra**' from December 12. The Bharat Darshan Yatra will start from Hyderabad and Secunderabad from December 12 to 18. The theme of this yatra will be '**Show India to Indians**'.
- The **Lonar Lake** in **Buldhana** district of **Maharashtra** has been chosen as a wetland site of international importance under the **Ramsar conservation treaty**.
- On the occasion of Children's Day, a first-of-its-kind in the world, **library on the tram** for children was launched in **Kolkata, West Bengal**. A tram is a rail vehicle that runs on tramway tracks along public streets.
- The **Keetham lake**, also known as **Sur Sarovar**, in Agra of **Uttar Pradesh** has been added to the list of Ramsar sites. More than 106 species of migratory birds rest in Sur Sarovar lake. The water of the lake is obtained from **Agra Canal**. The canal originates from Okhla barrage on **River Yamuna in Delhi**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has virtually unveiled the '**Statue of Peace**' dedicated to Jain Monk **Acharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwarji Maharaj**. The **151-inch (12.6 ft)** tall statue was inaugurated by PM Modi on the occasion of the **151st birth anniversary of Acharya Shree Vijay Vallabhsuri**, at Vijay Vallabh Sadhana Kendra, Jetpura, in **Pali, Rajasthan**.
- The first solar power-enabled **Textile Mill** in **Asia** is set to be set up in **Parbhani district, Maharashtra**. Spread across 30 acres of land, the **Jai Bhawani women's cooperative textile** mill will be first in Asia that will operate entirely on solar power. The overall cost of setting up the project is around **Rs. 100 crore**.
- **Mastercard** and the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** have collaborated under **Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative (W-GDP)** to launch '**Project Kirana**' in India, to help women entrepreneurs grow and thrive.
- A cow shelter in **Assam's Dibrugarh** inaugurated Northeast's first-ever cow hospital, on the occasion of Gopashtami. The hospital, **Surbhi Aarogyashala**, is set up by Shree Gopal Gaushala at a cost of **Rs 17 lakh**. The hospital will provide services in 30 km radius. There are 368 cows in the shelter.
- The Deep Depression over the **South West Bay of Bengal** has intensified into the Cyclonic Storm "**Nivar**". The cyclone is currently located **410 km east-southeast of Puducherry** and **450 km southeast of Chennai**. As per the **India Meteorological Department**, Cyclone Nivar is very likely to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm in the next 24-hours.

- The **10th edition** of prestigious **National science film festival** kicked off on 24th November 2020 in a virtual mode. The four-day long film festival has been jointly organized by Vigyan Prasar, an autonomous agency under the **Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India and the Tripura State Council of Science and Technology, Govt. of Tripura** from 24 to 27 November 2020.
- Malayalam film "**Jallikattu**", directed by **Lijo Jose Pellissery**, has been selected as India's official entry for the **Best International Feature Film category** for the **93rd Academy Awards**. Jallikattu is the third Malayalam film after **Guru (1997)** and **Adaminte Makan Abu (2011)** to be chosen as the country's official entry for the Oscars.
- **SpiceJet** has launched dedicated freighter services connecting **Leh** with the rest of the country. This is the first time a civil airliner has started freighter services to Leh. Accordingly, the airline operated its first freighter flight from **Delhi to Leh** carrying **13 tonnes of cargo supplies**. **SpiceXpress**, the dedicated cargo arm of SpiceJet, will deploy its **Boeing 737 freighter** on this route.
- Infrastructure major **Larsen and Toubro (L&T)** has bagged an order worth over **Rs 7,000 crore** to construct a part of the **Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR)**, also known as the **Bullet Train Project**.



- The **Bowring and Lady Curzon Medical College and Research Institute** in Bengaluru have been named after former **Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee**. The institute was set up in 2018-19 on the campus of Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital in Shivajinagar in the heart of Bengaluru.
- The **Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar** virtually inaugurated **Honey Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) Programme** in five states, for producing honey. The Honey FPO Programme aims to address the issues faced by the beekeeping industry and also

promote honey production in the country. This will also help in achieving the goal of increasing farmer's income.

- Veteran Politician and former prime minister of Turkey, **Mesut Yilmaz** has passed away.
- The Scottish actor, best known for his portrayal of **James Bond, Sean Connery** passed away.
- Noted actor, filmmaker and voiceover artiste, **Ashish Kakkad**, has passed away.
- Noted violin maestro and Padma awardee, **TN Krishnan** passed away. His full name was **Tripunithura Narayanaier Krishnan**.
- Former Chief Minister and Socialist of Bihar, **Satish Prasad Singh** passed away. He was born on January 1, 1936, in Korchakka(now known as Satish Nagar) Village, Khagaria district, Bihar.
- Bollywood actor **Faraaz Khan** passed away. He had acted in several popular Bollywood films in the late 1990s and early 2000s.
- Bollywood filmmaker **Sudarshan Rattan** passed away due to **COVID-19**.
- American television editor, writer and producer **Ken Spears**, who co-created the beloved animated series "**Scooby-Doo**" passed away.
- Author & Gujarati columnist, **Father Carlos Gonzalez Valles SJ** passed away.
- **Bahrain's Prime Minister Khalifa bin Salman al-Khalifa** has passed away. He was 84. He was not only the longest-serving PM of Bahrain, but he was the world's longest-serving prime minister. He had held the post since independence in **1971**.
- Bollywood actor **Asif Basra**, who was known for his role in the recent thriller series Paatal Lok, has passed away.
- Former Sikkim chief minister **Sanchaman Limboo** passed away. He was 73. He was the fourth Chief Minister of **Sikkim from 17 June 1994 - 12 December 1994** from **Sikkim Sangram Parishad Party**.
- Noted journalist and writer **Ravi Belagere** passed away. He was from Karnataka. He was famous for writings on the crime world and his column '**Paapigala Lokadalli**' was very popular.
- The legendary Bengali actor and Dadasaheb Phalke award recipient **Soumitra Chatterjee** passed away. He became famously known after his collaborations with Oscar-winning film director **Satyajit Ray**, with whom he worked in fourteen films. He had won a number of awards in home and abroad.
- Former Lt Governor of Pondicherry, **Chandrawati** passed away. She has a number of 1st to her credit as



she was the 1st Member of Parliament (1977), the 1st MLA, 1st minister (1964-66 and 1972-74) & 1st leader of Opposition in the Haryana assembly (1982-85).

- Physicist **Masatoshi Koshiba**, who shared **2002 Nobel prize** for the detection of cosmic neutrinos, passed away. Koshiba's most famous work involved detecting neutrinos from a distant **supernova explosion** using a vast detector based in a mine in central Japan. Koshiba, a distinguished professor at the **University of Tokyo**.
- Rajasthan Social Justice and Empowerment Minister **Bhanwarlal Meghwal** passed away. The five-time MLA represented the **Sujargarh assembly constituency of Churu** district of the state.
- Former Governor of Goa and veteran BJP leader, **Mridula Sinha** passed away. She was the **first woman Governor of Goa**.
- Noted Telugu poet, journalist, scriptwriter, and Kendra Sahitya Academy award winner **Shaik Khaja Hussain**, popularly known as **Devi Priya**, passed away. He was born in **Tadikonda in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh**. He bagged the Sahitya Akademi Award 2017, for his book **Gaali Rangu**.
- Three-time Assam Chief Minister from Congress party **Tarun Gogoi** passed away. Tarun Gogoi had served as the Chief Minister of Assam between **2001 and 2015**. He was the longest-serving chief minister of Assam.
- Senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP, **Ahmed Patel** passed away. He was Lok Sabha MP for three terms from **1977 to 1989** and Rajya Sabha MP since **1993** representing **Gujarat**. He also served as the political secretary to Congress president Sonia Gandhi and was one of the party's top negotiators during the UPA regime.
- Television actor **Ashiesh Roy** has passed away. The actor had appeared in a number of TV shows and films in his long acting career which began in **1997**.
- One of the greatest footballers of all time, **Diego Maradona** passed away. He was captain when **Argentina** won the **1986 World Cup**, producing a series of sublime individual performances. Maradona's most iconic moment was arguably his infamous '**Hand of God**' moment during **Argentina versus England** match in the **1986 FIFA World Cup**. His second goal in the match is regarded as the "**Goal of the Century**".
- Founder of **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)**, **Faqir Chand Kohli**, better known as the **Father of the Indian IT industry**, passed away. Besides being the founder, he was also the first CEO of TCS.

- British character actor **David Prowse**, best known for playing '**Darth Vader**' in the original **Star Wars trilogy**, passed away. He was a weightlifter-turned-actor, was selected to portray Darth Vader for his imposing physique of 6-foot-7 inch. However, the role was voiced by **James Earl Jones**. Prowse wore the black suit and helmet to play Darth Vader.

### Static Takeaways

- Prime minister of Nepal: KP Sharma Oli; President: Bidhya Devi Bhandari.
- Capital of Nepal: Kathmandu; Currency: Nepalese rupee.
- Broadcast Audience Research Council Founded: 2010.
- Broadcast Audience Research Council Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Philippines President: Rodrigo Duterte Trending.
- Philippines Capital: Manila.
- Philippines Currency: Philippine peso.
- Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is based in Geneva, Switzerland,
- Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU): founded in 1889.
- It consists of representatives from the National Parliaments of 179 countries.
- Ivory Coast Capital: Yamoussoukro.
- Ivory Coast Currency: West African CFA franc.
- Tanzania Capital: Dodoma Currency: Tanzanian shilling.
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Headquarters: Bonn, Germany.
- ICICI Lombard Headquarters: Mumbai.
- IBM Headquarters: Armonk, New York, United States.
- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd Founded: 30 June 1959.
- Indian Institute of Science Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Indian Oil Corporation Limited Headquarters: New Delhi, India.
- Deputy Governors of RBI: BP Kanungo, MK Jain, MD Patra and Rajeshwar Rao.
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ICICI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ICICI Bank Tagline: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka.
- National Payments Corporation of India Headquarters: Mumbai.
- National Payments Corporation of India Founded: 2008.
- Bharti AXA Co. Ltd Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Bharti AXA Established: 2008.

- Bharti AXA Tagline: Suraksha ka Naya Nazariya.
- ICICI Lombard Co. Ltd Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ICICI Lombard Established: 2001.
- ICICI Lombard Tagline: Quick Easy Smart.
- Electronics Sector Skill Council of India Headquarters: New Delhi.
- ONGC Videsh Limited Founded: 1965.
- ONGC Videsh Limited Headquarters: New Delhi.
- International Dairy Federation Established: 1903.
- International Dairy Federation Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium.
- DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi.
- UNESCO headquarters: Paris, France.
- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945.
- Prime minister of New Zealand: Jacinda Ardern.
- Capital of New Zealand: Wellington.
- The currency of New Zealand: New Zealand dollar.
- Chief of the Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh
- Commander-in-Chief of Indian Armed Forces: Ram Nath Kovind (President of India).
- Chief of Defence Staff of India: General Bipin Rawat.
- World Cancer Day: 4th February.
- Hockey India Founded: 20 May 2009.
- Hockey India Headquarters: New Delhi.
- President of Italy: Sergio Mattarella.
- Prime Minister of Italy: Giuseppe Conte.
- Capital of Italy: Rome; Currency of Italy: Euro.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India Founded: 12 April 1992.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Airports Authority of India Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Airports Authority of India Founded: 1 April 1995.
- The great hornbill is the state bird of Arunachal Pradesh and it is 'vulnerable' under the IUCN Red List.
- Airports in Orissa: Biju Patnaik International Airport, Jharsuguda Airport, Rourkela Airport, Jeypore Airport and Savitri Jindal Airport.
- China Capital: Beijing.
- China Currency: Renminbi.
- China President: Xi Jinping.
- Prime Minister of Australia: Scott Morrison.
- The currency of Australia: Australian dollar.
- Capital of Australia: Canberra.
- President of the Maldives: Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.
- Capital of Maldives: Male; Currency of the Maldives: Maldivian Rufiyaa.
- The tagline of HDFC Bank: We Understand Your World.
- HDFC Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Headquarters of Moody's: New York, United States.
- Paytm Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- Paytm founded: 2010.
- United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA.
- Indian Oil Corporation Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Indian Oil Corporation Founded: 30 June 1959.
- Headquarters of International Table Tennis Federation: Lausanne, Switzerland.
- International Table Tennis Federation founded: 1926.
- King of Bahrain: Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.
- Capital of Bahrain: Manama; Currency of Bahrain: Bahraini Dinar.
- National Green Tribunal Headquarters: New Delhi.
- MCC Foundation in 1993.
- Folk Dance of Assam: Bihu dance, Bagurumba, Bhotal Dance, Jhumur dance.
- Haryana Festivals/Fair: Surajkund International Fair, Pinjore Heritage Festival, Gopal-Mochan Fair, Masani Fair, Gugga Naumi Festival.
- Haryana Dances: Dhamaal, Ghoomar, Gugga, Khorla, Lohar, Phaag.
- IRCTC Incorporated on September 27, 1999.
- Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is a subsidiary organisation of the Indian Railways.
- Headquarters of International Financial Services Centres Authority: Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- Myanmar Capital: Naypyitaw.
- Myanmar Currency: Kyat.
- CBIC Founded: 1 January 1964.
- CBIC Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Moldova Capital: Chişinău.
- Moldova Currency: Moldovan leu.
- Japan Capital: Tokyo.
- Japan Currency: Japanese yen.
- Japan Prime minister: Yoshihide Suga.
- Prime Minister of Australia: Scott Morrison.
- The currency of Australia: Australian dollar.
- Capital of Australia: Canberra.
- Headquarters of World Bank: Washington, D.C., United States.
- SBM Bank (India) Limited Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- SBM Bank (India) Limited Commenced Operations- 1st December 2018.
- SBM Bank (India) Limited Tagline: We make banking convenient for you.
- Punjab National Bank Headquarters: New Delhi.

- Punjab National Bank Founded: 19 May 1894, Lahore, Pakistan.
- Lakshmi Vilas Bank Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Lakshmi Vilas Bank Founded: 1926.
- Equitas Small Finance Bank Headquarter: Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Karnataka Bank Limited Headquarters: Mangaluru(Mangalore), Karnataka.
- Karnataka Bank Limited Incorporated: February 18th, 1924.
- Karnataka Bank Limited Tagline: 'Your Family Bank Across India'.
- Enforcement Directorate Founded: 1 May 1956.
- Enforcement Directorate Headquarters: New Delhi, India.
- Headquarters of FIFA: Zürich, Switzerland.
- Headquarters of BCCI: Mumbai, Maharashtra; Founded: December 1928.
- MPL Founded: September 2018
- Headquarters of MPL: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- World Toilet Organization Headquarters: Singapore.
- World Toilet Organization Founded: 19 November 2001.
- Mastercard Headquarters: New York, United States.
- Prime Minister of Thailand: Prayut Chan-o-cha.
- Thailand Capital: Bangkok.
- Thailand Currency: Thai baht.
- Bhutan Currency: Bhutanese ngultrum.
- New Development Bank Headquarters location: Shanghai, China.
- Afghanistan Capital: Kabul.
- Afghanistan President: Ashraf Ghani.
- Afghanistan Currency: Afghan afghani.
- Afghanistan Official languages: Pashto, Dari.
- Invest India is a non-profit venture under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Invest India Established: 2009.
- Invest India Headquarter: New Delhi.
- Inventivepreneur Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ICCI) Headquarters: New Delhi, India.
- Headquarters of HDFC Bank: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The tagline of HDFC Bank: We understand your world.
- Life Insurance Corporation of India Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Life Insurance Corporation of India Founded: 1 September 1956.
- DBS Bank India Limited Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- DBS Bank India Limited Established: 2014.
- Lakshmi Vilas Bank Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Lakshmi Vilas Bank Founded: 1926.
- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched IPPB in 2018.
- Headquarters of ICC: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- Prime Minister of Thailand: Prayut Chan-o-cha.
- Thailand Capital: Bangkok.
- Thailand Currency: Thai baht.
- Singapore Currency: Singapore dollar.
- Singapore Capital: Singapore.
- Prime Minister of Singapore: Lee Hsien Loong.
- APEC headquarters: Singapore.
- APEC Founded: November 1989.
- Malaysia Capital: Kuala Lumpur.
- Malaysia Currency: Malaysian Ringgit.
- Economist Intelligence Unit Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.
- Economist Intelligence Unit Founded: 1946.
- The Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA) founded in 1939.
- Airports Authority of India Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Airports Authority of India Founded: 1 April 1995.
- World Milk Day is observed on 1 June every year by the United Nations.
- Headquarters of NASA: Washington D.C., United States.
- Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh: Radha Krishna Mathur.
- SpiceJet Founded: 2004.
- SpiceJet Headquarters: Gurugram.
- FIFA Founded: 21 May 1904.
- FIFA Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland.
- Larsen and Toubro Founded: 7 February 1938.
- Larsen and Toubro Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- IRDAI Founded: 1999.
- IRDAI Headquarters: Hyderabad.
- YES Bank Founded: 2004.
- YES Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organization Headquarters: New Delhi.
- National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited Founded: 2 October 1958.
- National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited Headquarters: New Delhi.
- SAARCFINANCE Established- September 9, 1998.



- SAARCFINANCE Current Chair- RBI (Reserve Bank of India).
- Central Banks in SAARCFINANCE- Bangladesh Bank, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Da Afghanistan Bank,

Maldives Monetary Authority, Nepal Rastra Bank, Reserve Bank of India, Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan, State Bank of Pakistan.

### ● States and their Chief Ministers & Governors:

Sr. No.	State	Chief Minister	Governor
1	Andhra Pradesh	YS Jagan Mohan Reddy	Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Pema Khandu	B. D. Mishra
3	Assam	Sarbananda Sonowal	Jagdish Mukhi
4	Bihar	Nitish Kumar	Phagu Chauhan
5	Chhattisgarh	Bhupesh Baghel	Anusuiya Uikey
6	Goa	Pramod Sawant	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
7	Gujarat	Vijaybhai R. Rupani	Acharya Dev Vrat
8	Haryana	Manohar Lal	Satyadeo Narain Arya
9	Himachal Pradesh	Jairam Thakur	Bandaru Dattatraya
10	Jharkhand	Hemant Soren	Droupadi Murmu
11	Karnataka	B. S. Yediyurappa	Vajubhai Vala
12	Kerala	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan
13	Madhya Pradesh	Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Anandiben Patel
14	Maharashtra	Uddhav Thackeray	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
15	Manipur	N. Biren Singh	Najma Heptulla
16	Meghalaya	Conrad Kongkal Sangma	Satya Pal Malik
17	Mizoram	Pu Zoramthanga	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
18	Nagaland	Neiphiu Rio	R. N. Ravi
19	Odisha	Naveen Patnaik	Ganeshi Lal
20	Punjab	Capt. Amarinder Singh	V.P. Singh Badnore
21	Rajasthan	Ashok Gehlot	Kalraj Mishra
22	Sikkim	PS Golay	Ganga Prasad
23	Tamil Nadu	Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami	Banwarilal Purohit
24	Telangana	K Chandrasekhar Rao	Tamilisai Soundararajan
25	Tripura	Biplab Kumar Deb	Ramesh Bais
26	Uttar Pradesh	Yogi Aditya Nath	Anandiben Patel
27	Uttarakhand	Trivendra Singh Rawat	Baby Rani Maurya
28	West Bengal	Mamata Banerjee	Jagdeep Dhankhar

### ● Union Ministers in News in month of November 2020:

Sr. No	Ministry	Union Minister
1	Minister of Jal Shakti	Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
2	Union Minister of Railways	Piyush Goyal
3	Minister of State (IC) of the Ministry of Shipping	Mansukh L. Mandaviya
4	Minister of Road Transport and Highways	Nitin Jairam Gadkari
5	Minister of Information and Broadcasting	Prakash Javadekar
6	Minister of State (IC) of the Ministry of AYUSH	Shripad Yesso Naik
7	Finance minister	Nirmala Sitharaman
8	Union Minister for Education	Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank
9	Union Minister of Science and Technology,	Harsh Vardhan

10	Union Minister of State (IC) for Tourism & Culture,	Prahlad Singh Patel
11	Union Minister of Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Law and Justice,	Ravi Shankar Prasad
12	Union Minister for Food Processing Industries,	Narendra Singh Tomar
13	India's Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Steel	Dharmendra Pradhan
14	Minister of State (IC) Housing and Urban Affairs	Hardeep S Puri
15	External Affairs Minister	Dr S Jaishankar
16	Union Defence Minister	Rajnath Singh
17	Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying	Giriraj Singh

### ● Heads of various organizations in News in month of November 2020

Sr No	Head of Organization	Name of Person
1	Chairman of Broadcast Audience Research Council India .	Punit Goenka
2	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Executive Secretary	Patricia Espinosa
3	ICICI Lombard CEO	Bhargav Dasgupta
4	IBM CEO	Arvind Krishna
5	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd Chairperson	Shrikant Madhav Vaidya
6	Indian Institute of Science Director	Govindan Rangarajan
7	President of FIFA	Gianni Infantino
8	Governor of RBI	Shaktikanta Das
9	ICICI Bank MD & CEO	Sandeep Bakhshi
10	National Payments Corporation of India MD & CEO	Dilip Asbe
11	Bharti AXA MD and CEO	Sanjeev Srinivasan
12	ICICI Lombard MD & CEO	Bhargav Dasgupta
13	International Dairy Federation President	Piercristiano Brazzale
14	DRDO Chairman	Dr G. Satheesh Reddy
15	UNESCO Head	Audrey Azoulay
16	Securities and Exchange Board of India Agency executive	Ajay Tyagi
17	Chairman of Airports Authority of India	Arvind Singh
18	CEO & MD of the HDFC Bank	Sashidhar Jagdishan
19	President & CEO of Moody's	Raymond W. McDaniel, Jr
20	Paytm founder	Vijay Shekhar Sharma
21	Mr is the Secretary-General of the United Nations	Antonio Guterres
22	President of International Table Tennis Federation	Thomas Weikert
23	Chairman of National Green Tribunal	Adarsh Kumar Goel
24	Director of the MCC Foundation	Sarah Fane
25	Chairman of the International Financial Services Centres Authority	Injeti Srinivas
26	President of World Bank	David Malpass
27	SBM Bank (India) Limited MD and CEO	Sidharth Rath
28	Punjab National Bank MD and CEO	S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao
29	Lakshmi Vilas Bank President	Avtar Singh Monga
30	Equitas Small Finance Bank Chairman	Arun Ramanathan
31	Equitas Small Finance Bank MD and CEO	Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan
32	Karnataka Bank Limited MD & CEO	Mahabaleshwara M.S.
33	President of FIFA	Gianni Infantino
34	President of BCCI	Sourav Ganguly
35	Co-Founder and CEO of MPL	Sai Srinivas Kiran G
36	World Toilet Organization Founder and Director	Jack Sim

37	Mastercard President	Michael Miebach
38	Mastercard Chief Executive Officer(CEO)	Ajay Banga(Michael Miebach will take over as CEO by January 2021)
39	President of the New Development Bank	Marcos Troyjo
40	Invest India MD and CEO	Deepak Bagla
41	President of Inventivepreneur Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ICCI)	Ritika Yadav
42	MD and CEO of HDFC Bank	Sashidhar Jagdishan
43	Life Insurance Corporation of India Chairperson	M R Kumar
44	Managing Director & CEO of DBS Bank India Ltd	Surojit Shome
45	Managing Director & CEO of India Post Payments Bank	J Venkatramu
46	CEO of ICC	Manu Sawhney
47	Founder of FIT India	Suparno Satpathy
48	Indian Pharmaceutical Association President	T.V. Narayana
49	Airports Authority of India Chairman	Arvind Singh
50	The administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration	Jim Bridenstine
51	Chairman & Managing Director of SpiceJet	Ajay Singh
52	Larsen and Toubro CEO	S. N. Subrahmanyam
53	IRDAI Chairperson	Subhash Chandra Khuntia
54	YES Bank MD & CEO	Prashant Kumar
55	YES Bank Founder	Rana Kapoor
56	Chairman of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited	Bijender Singh

