



India's No.1 Study Channel

Monthly Current Affairs Capsule

November 2020

www.wifistudy.com



World Vegan Day: 01 November



World Vegan Day is an annual event celebrated by vegans around the world every 1 November.

- The day is observed across the world to encourage people to follow a vegan lifestyle.
- Many prominent vegans believe vegan food benefits human health, protect the well-being of animals, and also helps in protecting the environment.
- Vegan people choose not to consume dairy products including eggs and other products of animal origin. Also like vegetarians, they don't eat meat.

United States reports record over one lakh COVID-19 cases in single day



The United States reported over 100,000 new infections of Covid19 on 30 October to surpass the record total of 91,000 posted a day earlier.

- The daily caseload of 100,233 is also a world record for the global pandemic.
- The United States has crossed 9 million cumulative cases, representing nearly 3% of the population.
- 16 U.S. states reported their highest one-day coronavirus infections while thirteen states were at record levels of hospitalized COVID-19 patients.
- The number of daily infections reported during the past two days indicates that the Country is now reporting more than one new case every second.

International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists: 02 November



The International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists is an UNrecognized day observed annually on 2 November.

- The day draws attention to the low global conviction rate for violent crimes against journalists and media workers, estimated at only one in every ten cases.
- The date was chosen in commemoration of the assassination of two French journalists in Mali on 2 November 2013.

Philippines evacuates a million people ahead of super typhoon

In the Philippines, about a million people were evacuated before super typhoon Goni hit the land.

- Philippines' disaster risk-monitoring agency said 8 lakh people fled their homes in Albay province in the main Luzon island and 2 lakh more were evacuated in nearby provinces.

- Manila's international airport has been shut for 24 hours.
- Goni, the 18th cyclone to hit the Philippines this year and among the strongest typhoons to hit the nation since 2013.
- It is the world's strongest typhoon this year.

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.

- Currently, Panna Tiger Reserve is home to 54 tigers.
- 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.
- A biosphere reserve is where the international agency tries to reconcile the differences between human activity and the preservation of biodiversity.
- Every year, the status of UNESCO sets a few new sites that will come under its umbrella of Biosphere reserves, while others are removed.

1st Phase of Malabar Naval Exercise involving participation by India, US, Japan, Australia begins

The 24th edition of the Malabar Naval Exercise is scheduled in two phases during the current month.

- The First Phase of the Exercise Malabar-20 involving participation by Indian Navy (IN), United States Navy (USN), Japan Maritime

Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) and Royal Australian Navy (RAN) commenced off Visakhapatnam in Bay of Bengal from.

- Malabar series of maritime exercises commenced in 1992 as a bilateral Indian Navy- United States Navy exercise.
- Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force joined Malabar in 2015 and The 2020 edition will now witness participation of the Royal Australian Navy in this joint maritime exercise.
- Phase-2 of Malabar-20 is scheduled to be conducted in the Arabian Sea in mid-November

World Tsunami Awareness Day: 5 November

World Tsunami Awareness Day is observed across the world on 5 November.

- The day is celebrated to spread awareness among people across the world in matters related to the dangers of tsunami.
- In December 2015, the UN General Assembly designated 5 November as World Tsunami Awareness Day, calling on countries, international bodies and civil society to raise tsunami awareness and share innovative approaches to risk reduction.
- World Tsunami Awareness Day was the brainchild of Japan, which due to its repeated, bitter experience has over the years built up major expertise in areas such as tsunami early warning, public action and building back better after a disaster to reduce future impacts.

Bangladesh and US launch joint naval exercise CARAT Bangladesh 2020



The 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 exercise demonstrates U.S. 's continuing commitment to work with the Bangladesh military to address shared maritime security concerns in the region and strengthen partnership to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific region.
- Historically, the CARAT exercises involve people to people interactions and a variety of professional exchanges. These will take place online this year due to the COVID 19 pandemic.
- The sea-phase of the exercise will take place in the Bay of Bengal with ships from both countries.

International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict: 06 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.

- It was established on November 5, 2001 by the United Nations General Assembly, during Kofi Atta Annan's tenure as Secretary-General.

- At the time of war, it affects the ecosystem such as water supply is poisoned, the forest is burnt, animals killed, etc.
- Though humanity has always counted its war casualties in terms of dead and wounded soldiers and civilians, destroyed cities and livelihoods, the environment has often remained the unpublicized victim of war.

US formally exits Paris climate deal



The US formally exited the Paris Climate Agreement amid election uncertainty.

- Donald Trump announced his intent to remove the country from participating in the landmark global pact to reduce greenhouse gas emissions three years ago.
- President Trump originally announced his intention to withdraw from the agreement in 2017 and formally notified the United Nations last year.
- The historic accord seeks to limit global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius, the value that climate scientists have determined will have disastrous consequences if exceeded.
- Trump has repeatedly criticised the agreement as economically detrimental and claimed it could cost the country 2.5 million jobs by 2025.
- The US is the only country to withdraw from the global pact.
- The US is the second leading producer of all carbon dioxide emissions globally, behind China.

Democrat Joe Biden beat Donald Trump to become 46th US President; Kamala Harris to be first woman Vice President



Democrat Joe Biden beat Republican Donald Trump to become the 46th President of the United States.

- The winning moment was decided when the Democrats made a stamping lead in the state of Pennsylvania sealing their victory in one of the most crucial swing states.
- Democratic Party candidate Kamala Harris has also secured her position as the first woman to be the Vice President of the USA.
- Ms. Harris, is also credited to be the first woman of Indian-American and African-American origin to be a member of the United States Senate.
- Amidst the ongoing electoral process, Republican Candidate Donald Trump has challenged the lengthy process of counting mail ballots across many key states.

AIM-Sirius Innovation' programme launched for Indian & Russian school children



Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Sirius, Russia, launched 'AIM-Sirius Innovation Programme' for Indian and Russian school children.

- The AIM-Sirius programme seeks to develop technological solutions for the two countries.
- Over a two-week programme, from 7th to 21st of November, 48 students and 16 educators and mentors will create 8 virtual products and mobile applications addressing global challenges across a range of areas like applied cognitive science, health and well-being, and artificial intelligence.

Legal Services Day: 9 November



Legal Services Day is observed on 9 November in India to raise awareness among the people where Legal Literacy is lacking. On this day, in 1995, the Legal Services Authorities Act was enforced.

- The main aim of this observance is to spread legal awareness among people.
- It also aims as a means to provide free legal aid and advice to the poor and weaker sections of the society, so as to ensure justice for all.

International Day of Radiology: 08 November

The International Day of Radiology (IDoR) is held annually on November 8 to promote the role of medical imaging in modern healthcare.

- The day also marks the anniversary of the discovery of x-rays by Wilhelm Roentgen in 1895.
- The theme for 2020 is ‘Radiologists and radiographers supporting patients during COVID-19’
- World Radiology Day was first celebrated in the year 2012.

World Science Day for Peace and Development: 10 November



World Science Day for Peace and Development is observed every year on 10 November.

- The day highlights the significant role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues.
- It was proclaimed by UNESCO in 2001 and was first celebrated worldwide on 10 November 2002.
- 2020 Theme: “Science for and with Society in dealing with the global pandemic.”

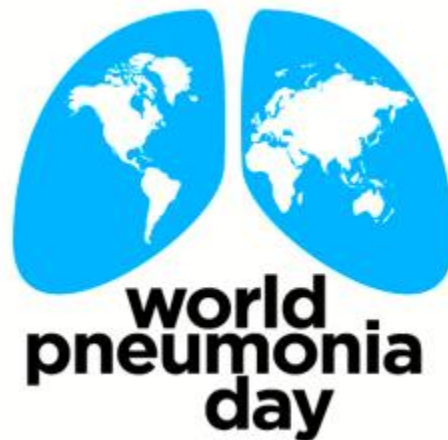
Nepal President Bidhya Devi Bhandari releases special anthology on Mahatma Gandhi



Nepal President Bidhya Devi Bhandari has released a special anthology on Mahatma Gandhi- 'My understanding about Gandhi'.

- The book has been brought out by the Embassy of India along with the BP Koirala India-Nepal Foundation to cherish the values of the Mahatma's universal teachings with Nepali friends.
- The publication hopes to bring the youth of Nepal closer to Mahatma Gandhi, whose life and ideals remain timeless, universal and relevant for today's world.
- The pictorial anthology in Nepalese has been released to celebrate 151st Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and to mark the culmination of the two years long celebrations of '150 years of Mahatma'.

World Pneumonia Day: 12 November



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.
- Pneumonia is an infection that inflames the air sacs in one or both lungs.
- The infection can be life-threatening to anyone, but particularly to infants, children and people over 65.

Public Service Broadcasting Day: 12 November



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.

China launches 'world's first 6G experiment satellite'



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 Satellogic.
- As per the reports, the technology is expected to be over 100 times faster than 5G.

- The 6G communications test satellite was launched into orbit along with 12 other satellites.

2nd World Health Expo kicks off in Wuhan



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".
- During the Expo, more than a hundred high-end forums including a summit forum, academician forum and the roundtable dialogue on epidemic prevention and normalized control, and the Global University Leaders Forum, will be organized.

Peru's President steps down after just 6 days



Peru's fifth president in five years, Manuel Merino, was forced out of power just five days after taking office.

- The turmoil began on November 9, when centrist Martin Vizcarra, Merino's popular predecessor in office, was impeached by the Peruvian legislature on grounds of "permanent moral incapacity" over unproven charges of corruption.
- The countrywide demonstrations that have rocked the nation since have been compared with the unrest that marked the turbulent era of authoritarian President Alberto Fujimori from 1990 to 2000.
- Violent clashes have so far led to two deaths, scores of injured and over 40 missing, and the government's hardfisted response has drawn criticism from several quarters, including a scathing rebuke by Nobel literature laureate Mario Vargas Llosa.
- Peru Capital: Lima
- Currency: Sol

Japan and Australia poised to sign defence pact to counter China



Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and his Australian counterpart, Scott Morrison, may agree to sign a defence agreement in a bid to counter China's growing influence in the South China Sea and over the Pacific island nations.

- This defence agreement has taken six years to negotiate and would need to be ratified by lawmakers of both countries.
- Tokyo and Canberra are seeking closer ties as they worry about Chinese activity in the region, including militarisation in the South China Sea.

World COPD Day 2020: 18 November



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 day is organized by the Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD) in collaboration with health care professionals and COPD patient groups throughout the world.
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is a lung disease that blocks airflow and makes it difficult to breathe.
- 2020 theme: Living Well with COPD- Everybody, Everywhere.

World Philosophy Day: 19 November



World Philosophy Day is observed on the third Thursday of November every year.

- This year World Philosophy Day falls on 19 November 2020.
- The Day encourages academic exchange and highlights the contribution of philosophical knowledge in addressing global issues.
- Philosophy is the study of the nature of reality and existence, of what is possible to know, and of right and wrong behaviour.
- It comes from the Greek word *philosophía*, meaning ‘the love of wisdom.’ It is one of the most important fields of human thought as it aspires to get at the very meaning of life.

World Toilet Day: 19 November



World Toilet Day (WTD) is observed globally on 19 November to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis.

- World Toilet Day celebrates toilets and raises awareness of the 4.2 billion people living without access to safely managed sanitation.
- It is about taking action to tackle the global sanitation crisis and achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030.
- The day was established by the World Toilet Organization in 2001 and officially declared by the UN General Assembly in 2013.

Africa Industrialization Day: 20 November



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.
- It is also an occasion to draw worldwide media attention to the problems and challenges of industrialization in Africa.
- Theme 2020: “Inclusive and sustainable industrialisation in the AfCFTA era”.

30th India-Thai Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT)



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 two navies have been carrying out CORPAT along their International Maritime Boundary Line twice a year since 2005 to enhance bilateral ties and maritime cooperation.

Worldwide Cost of Living 2020



Hong Kong, Paris and Zurich are the world's most expensive cities, according to The EIU's 2020 Worldwide Cost of Living (WCOL) Survey.

- The survey, which compares the price of a basket of 138 items in about 130 cities around the world.
- Damascus (Syria), Taskent (Uzbekistan), Lusaka (Zambia) ranked the last three spots as the cheapest cities in the list.

2nd edition of SITMEX-20 underway in Andaman Sea



Indian Navy Ships including indigenously built ASW corvette Kamorta and missile corvette Karmuk are participating in the 2nd edition of India, Singapore and Thailand Trilateral Maritime Exercise SITMEX-20 in Andaman Sea.

- First edition of SITMEX, hosted by Indian Navy, was conducted off Port Blair in September last year.
- The SITMEX series of exercises are conducted to enhance mutual interoperability and imbibing best practices between Indian Navy, Republic of Singapore Navy and Royal Thai Navy.
- The 2020 edition of the exercise is being hosted by Republic of Singapore Navy.

China's new moon mission to return the first lunar samples since 1976



China's Chang'e-5 lunar mission will become the first probe in over four decades to attempt to bring back samples of lunar rock from a previously unexplored portion of the Moon.

- The spacecraft is set to return to Earth around December 15.
- Chang'e-5 probe is the Chinese National Space Administration's (CNSA) lunar sample return mission that is set to launch on November 24 from the Wenchang Space Launch Center on Hainan Island in China.
- The mission comprises a lunar orbiter, a lander and an ascent probe that will lift the lunar samples back into orbit and return them back to Earth.

Malaysia hosts APEC Summit

The 2020 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Malaysian Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

- This was the first time that all 21 APEC Economic Leaders met virtually due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- The theme of the APEC Malaysia 2020 was “Optimising Human Potential Towards a Resilient Future of Shared Prosperity: Pivot. Prioritise. Progress”.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women: 25 November



The United Nations designated International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is celebrated worldwide on November 25.

- The day aims 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.
- 2020 Theme “Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!”.

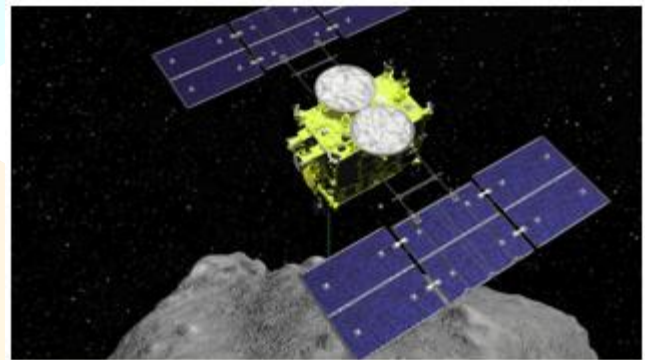
Russia test-launches Tsirkon hypersonic missile in the Arctic



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.
- In early January, the same frigate test-fired a Tsirkon missile for the first time, striking a ground target over 500 km away.
- Last month, the warship deployed in the White Sea destroyed a naval target in the Barents Sea with a Tsirkon missile.

Japanese spacecraft carrying asteroid soil samples nears Earth



A Japanese spacecraft is nearing Earth after a yearlong journey home from a distant asteroid with soil samples and data that could provide clues to the origins of the solar system.

- The Hayabusa2 spacecraft left the asteroid Ryugu, about 300 million kilometers (180 million miles) from Earth, a year ago and is expected to reach Earth and drop a capsule containing the precious samples in southern Australia on December 6.
- Scientists at the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency believe the samples, especially those taken from under the asteroid's surface, contain valuable data unaffected by space radiation and other environmental factors.

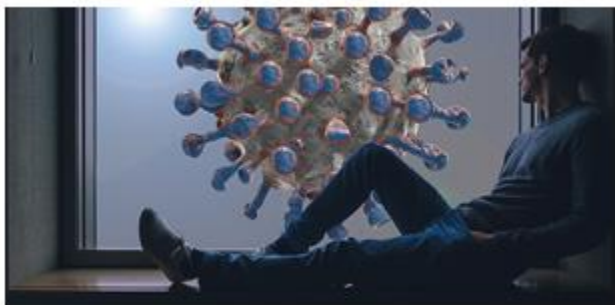
International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People: 29 November

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is a UN-organized day held every year on November 29.

- It is observed to mark the anniversary of resolution 181, wherein the Assembly adopted the resolution on the partition of Palestine on November 29, 1947.
- The date November 29 assumes as on that day in 1947 the United Nations' General Assembly adopted a resolution on the partition of Palestine into two states: one Arab (Palestine) and one Jewish (Israel).
- Palestinian people, who now number more than eight million, live primarily in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including East Jerusalem.
- The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People provides an opportunity for the international community to focus its attention on the fact that the question of Palestine remains unresolved and that the Palestinian people have yet to attain their inalienable rights.

‘Quarantine’ named Cambridge Dictionary’s Word of the Year 2020



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.
- “Quarantine was the only word to rank in the top five for both search spikes and overall views (more than 183,000 by early November), with the largest spike in searches (28,545) seen in the week of March 18-24 .
- Existing meanings of the word include: “a specific period of time in which a person or animal that has a disease, or may have one, must stay or be kept away from others in order to prevent the spread of the disease.”
- Interestingly, ‘Lockdown’ had been named word of the year by Collins Dictionary earlier this month.

4th NSA-level meeting held between India, Sri Lanka and Maldives



The fourth National Security Advisor Level Meeting on Trilateral Maritime Security Cooperation was held between India, Sri Lanka and Maldives in Colombo.

- The participants took stock of the current maritime security environment in the region.
- They have discussed mutual cooperation in an array of areas including Maritime Domain Awareness, Humanitarian Assistance, Disaster Relief, Joint Exercises and Maritime pollution.
- India, Sri Lanka, and Maldives have agreed to broad base cooperation on a host of maritime security related issues.



Prime Minister pays tribute to Iron Man of India Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his 145th Birth Anniversary



Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid floral tributes to Sardar Patel on his 145th birth Anniversary at the Statue of Unity- the world's tallest statue at Kevadia in Narmada district of Gujarat.

- Patel served as the first Deputy Prime Minister of India.
- He is also called the "Unifier of India".
- The Statue of Unity, the world's tallest statue, was dedicated to him on 31 October 2018 which is approximately 182 metres (597 ft) in height.
- The Prime Minister also witnessed the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas parade.
- The Police forces of Gujarat and Central Armed Police Force, Border Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Central Industrial Security Force and National Security Guards took part in the Parade.
- The Prime Minister also witnessed a Rifle drill by female officers of CRPF.

PM Modi pays tribute to Indira Gandhi on death anniversary



Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on her 36th death anniversary.

- She was the first and, to date, only female Prime Minister of India.
- She served as prime minister from January 1966 to March 1977 and again from January 1980 until her assassination in October 1984.
- Gandhi instituted a state of emergency from 1975 to 1977 where basic civil liberties were suspended and the press was censored.
- After Gandhi ordered military action in the Golden Temple in Operation Blue Star, her own bodyguards and Sikh nationalists assassinated her on 31 October 1984.

206th Session of Governing Council of the IPU to be held from 1st to 4th November



The 206th Session of the Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, IPU will be held from 1st to 4th November this year.

- It will be an Extraordinary Virtual Session, which is being organised in place of a full-

fledged in-person Statutory Assembly of IPU due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

- The agenda of the Virtual Session includes the election of the new President of IPU through remote electronic secret ballot since the outgoing President of IPU Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron (MP, Mexico) had completed her term on 19th of this month.
- The term of the new President of IPU will be from 2020 to 2023.
- An Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and consisting of Lok Sabha MP Poonamben Maadam and Rajya Sabha MP Swapan Dasgupta will participate in the Virtual Session and cast their votes.

KVIC launches 'Happy Diwali' printed face masks



Keeping in view the Diwali festival, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has launched a Limited Edition of two-layered "Happy Diwali" printed face masks made of pure Muslin fabric.

- The Diwali Muslin face masks are priced nominally at 75 rupees a piece and are available for sale through the Khadi outlets in Delhi and online through KVIC's e-portal www.khadiindia.gov.in.
- It is a high quality and ultra-fine cotton fabric handmade by traditional Khadi artisans of West Bengal.
- Muslin is a cotton fabric of plain weave.
- It is made in a wide range of weights from delicate sheers to coarse sheeting.
- It gets its name from the city of Mosul, Iraq which the Europeans believed to be its place of origin; however, its origins have now

proved to have been farther east— in particular Dhaka in Bangladesh.

Union Territory of Ladakh celebrating its first raising day



Union Territory of Ladakh celebrated its first raising day on 31 October.

- It was on this day last year, Ladakh became a union territory.
- With a theme of One year of Development, Prosperity and Empowerment the Union Territory administration has planned the first year anniversary celebrations across the region.
- Ladakh Lieutenant Governor R K Mathur participated in these virtual events.
- Until 2019, Ladakh was a region of the state of Jammu and Kashmir.
- In August 2019, the Parliament of India passed an act by which Ladakh became a union territory on 31 October 2019.

Kerala to set up post-Covid treatment clinics across state



In Kerala, the State Health Department has decided to set up post-Covid treatment clinics across the state soon.

- The decision was taken as the number of people who have other health problems after recovering from COVID is increasing as nearly 10 percent of the recovered patients are reporting serious health issues.
- The post-COVID clinics will be opened in hospitals ranging from primary health centres to medical colleges.
- The COVID recovered people should have a check-up in the clinics every month.

In a first, Corbett Tiger Reserve to have women nature guides



Corbett Tiger Reserve (CTR) will have women nature guides for the first time in its history.

- CTR officials said seven women have been selected by the Corbett administration after holding a guide recruitment test.
- These selected women will be registered as guides and given responsibilities after a training and orientation programme.
- Corbett Tiger Reserve, which is spread across 1,288 square kilometers, is one of the most loved tourist destinations in Uttarakhand.

PM Modi flags off Ekta Cruise service to Statue of Unity



Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off Ekta Cruise Service, a ferry ride from Shrestha Bharat Bhavan to the Statue of Unity in Kevadia in Gujarat.

- Through the Ekta Cruise Service one can experience the viewing of Statue of Unity through the Ferry Boat Service from Shrestha Bharat Bhavan to Statue of Unity by covering a distance of 6 km.
- The 40 min ride can be covered by a boat which can ferry 200 passengers at a time.
- New Gora Bridge is built especially for the operation of the ferry service.

27 Maoists surrender in Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh under 'Lon Varratu' campaign



In Chhattisgarh, 27 Maoists have surrendered in Dantewada district in tribal Bastar division.

- Five of these rebels carried rewards on their head.
- The surrendered Maoists were inspired by the 'Lon Varratu' campaign being carried out by the police in the district.
- 'Lon Varratu' means 'Return Home' in the local tribal dialect Gondi. So far more than

170 Maoists have surrendered under the 'Lon Varratu' campaign.

Puducherry celebrates 66th Liberation Day



Union Territory of Puducherry celebrates its 66 th Liberation Day on 01 November.

- The celebrations are on a low-key in the wake of COVID 19 pandemic.
- It was on November 1,1954 the union territory was liberated from French colonialism following a referendum in which all elected members from Puducherry voted against the French and preferred to join India.

Andhra Pradesh marks formation day on Nov 1



Andhra Pradesh celebrated its Formation Day on 01 November with chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy unfurling the national flag at his official residence.

- After becoming the first Chief Minister of a truncated Andhra Pradesh in 2014,

Chandrababu Naidu had decided to celebrate its Formation Day on June 2.

- The Jagan government, however, reverted to the November 1 date to celebrate the Foundation Day.
- Andhra Pradesh is the first state to be formed on a linguistic basis in India on 1 October 1953.
- On 1 November 1956, the States Reorganisation Act combined Andhra Pradesh by merging Andhra State with the Telugu-speaking areas of the already existing Hyderabad State.

UP CM launches special campaign to identify people suffering from TB



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a special 10-day campaign to identify people suffering from tuberculosis (TB) in the state.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has pledged to make India TB-free by 2025.
- Under the door-to-door campaign, which will end on November 11, health workers will reach out to 81 lakh people, identify those suffering from TB, screen them and help them avail treatment at no cost.

BCCI announces Jio as title sponsor of Women's T20 Challenge 2020



Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced Reliance Jio as the title sponsor of the Women's T20 Challenge 2020.

- This is the first time a sponsor is partnering with the BCCI exclusively for the women's counterpart to the IPL.
- The women's T20 challenge is scheduled to run from November 4-9 in Sharjah.

Indian Naval Ship Airavat reaches Port Sudan as part of 'Mission Sagar-II'



Indian Naval Ship, Airavat reached Port Sudan as a part of Mission Sagar-II.

- Indian government is providing assistance to Friendly Foreign Countries to overcome natural calamities and COVID-19 pandemic, and towards the same INS Airavat is carrying a consignment of 100 Tonnes of food aid for the people of Sudan.
- Mission Sagar-II, follows the first 'Mission Sagar' undertaken in May-June 2020, wherein India provided food and medicines to Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros.

- As part of Mission Sagar-II, INS Airavat will deliver food aid to Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea.

Centre releases Rs 2,200 cr as first installment to 15 states for improvement of air quality



The Centre has released 2,200 crore rupees as the first installment to 15 states for the improvement of air quality measures in their million-plus cities.

- The amount has been released based on the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission.
- This will help the beneficiary states to undertake air quality measures, including capacity-building of the local bodies within their million-plus cities.
- The states which have been given the amount include Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Ganga Utsav-2020 begins virtually with COVID-19 precautions



The much-awaited Ganga Utsav-2020 began virtually amidst COVID-19 precautions.

- The festival will continue till 4th of November.
- Several programmes were also held in districts as a part of Ganga Utsav celebrations.
- Ganga Task Force conducted an afforestation drive with NCC cadets and educational tour for youth in the project area.
- The Ganga Utsav is being organised by the National Mission for Clean Ganga celebrating the 12th anniversary of declaring River Ganges as National river.

Rajasthan assembly passes bill to make wearing mask mandatory



Rajasthan assembly has passed the Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases (Amendments bill 2020) making it mandatory to wear masks.

- The bill prohibits the movements of any person in public place, public transport, workplace or at any Social, Political, general function or gathering.
- The bill, however, does not specify the penalties if someone is caught without masks.
- Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Alwar, Nagaur and Ajmer districts are most affected by the infection.

PM Modi greets people on 'Parkash Purab' of Guru Ramdas

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has greeted the people on the occasion of the Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Ramdas Ji.

- Guru Ram Das (1534 – 1581) was the fourth of the ten Gurus of Sikhism.
- His birth name was Jetha. Guru Ram Das became the Guru of Sikhism in 1574 and served as the Sikh leader until his death in 1581.
- Guru Ram Das is credited with founding the holy city of Amritsar in the Sikh tradition.

Assam CM lays foundation stone of Indo-Israeli Centre of Excellence for Vegetables Protected Cultivation near Guwahati



In Assam, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal laid the foundation stone of Indo-Israeli Centre of Excellence for Vegetables Protected Cultivation near Guwahati.

- The Rs. 10.33-crore project is expected to bolster the agricultural activities in the state by providing exposure to latest Israeli technologies.
- The Centre of Excellence would provide a major boost to agricultural and horticultural production in Assam, the Chief Minister said that it would be a value addition to the government's efforts to double farmers' income.

Rupsi Airport at Kokrajhar all set to start commercial operation by January 2021

In Assam, Rupsi Airport at Kokrajhar district is all set to start commercial operation under Regional Connectivity Scheme.

- The airport has been re-developed at an estimated cost of 69 crore rupees and has also received its license by Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

- Spread across 337 acres of land, the newly developed airport has a terminal building with an area of 3,500 sqm.
- Equipped with 10 check-in counters, the terminal is designed to process 200 passengers during peak hours.

Tamil Nadu government rolls out 100% tax exemption for e-vehicles



In a major boost to the adoption of electric vehicles in the State, the Tamil Nadu government has passed an order for 100 per cent exemption of motor vehicle tax for battery-operated vehicles (BOVs).

- The State government had earlier issued orders for a 50 per cent concessional rate of lifetime tax in respect of battery-operated two-wheelers and four-wheelers of non-transport vehicles.
- After establishing itself as a hub for automotive manufacturing, the Tamil Nadu government has been making several efforts to emerge as an attractive centre for electric mobility.
- Delhi has announced an exemption of road tax on all EVs or BOVs while States like Telangana, which recently announced a new EV policy, offer 100 per cent exemption in road tax and registration fees for early adopters in different EV segments.

IIT Madras develops “IITM COVID Game” to create awareness



Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) said its researchers have developed a digital game 'IITM Covid Game' to create awareness about Covid-19 virus among the general public, particularly children.

- This game is browser-based and can be played on any device including Personal Computers, laptops, tablets and mobile phones, among others.
- The game takes inspiration from the famous 'Super Mario' game and consists of a character who encounters various right things, like masks, washing hands and also encounters things to be avoided, like hugs, handshakes.

ISRO to launch Earth Observation Satellite EOS01 on Nov 7



The Indian Space Research organisation ISRO has scheduled the launch of the Earth Observation Satellite EOS01.

- Nine other customer satellites will also be carried into space by the workhorse launch vehicle PSLV-C49.
- This would be the first launch by the ISRO after the Covid-triggered lockdown.
- The ISRO says the earth observation satellite EOS-01 is intended for applications in agriculture, forestry and disaster management support.

Enhanced PINAKA rocket successfully flight tested



Enhanced PINAKA rocket, developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO has been successfully flight tested from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

- Development of the Enhanced Pinaka system was taken up to achieve longer range performance compared to earlier design with reduced length.
- A total of six rockets were launched in quick succession and the tests met complete mission objectives.
- All the flight articles were tracked by Range instruments such as telemetry, radar and Electro Optical Tracking Systems which confirmed the flight performance.
- Enhanced version of the Pinaka rocket would replace the existing Pinaka Mk-I rockets which are currently under production.

Hardeep Singh Puri launches ‘Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge’



Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched the Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge focusing on shaping cities for young children and their families.

- The challenge is conducted with the support of the Bernard van Leer Foundation, Netherlands with technical support from WRI India.
- Through the challenge, selected cities will receive technical assistance and capacity-building to reimagine parks and open spaces, with early childhood-oriented amenities and create accessible, safe, walkable streets for young children and families.
- The challenge will be open to all Smart Cities, other cities with more than five lakh population, and capitals of States and Union Territories.

Dehradun Municipal Corporation launches Plastic Lao MASK LE JAO initiative



Dehradun Municipal Corporation 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.
- It will create awareness in the public against plastic waste and also the importance of masks.

Six women led startups win COVID-19 Shri Shakti Challenge organized by MyGov



Six women led startups have won COVID-19 Shri Shakti Challenge organized by MyGov in collaboration with UN Women.

- MyGov launched the COVID-19 Shri Shakti Challenge in April this year in collaboration with UN Women with an objective to encourage and involve women led startups to come up with innovative solutions that can help in the fight against COVID-19.
- The challenge received an overwhelming response with a total of 1 thousand 265 entries, from across the nation.
- The Jury selected top 3 entries as winners, and in view of the high quality of solutions presented, decided to recognize 3 additional entries as 'Promising Solutions'.
- In addition to the earlier announced reward of Rs. 5 lakh for the top 3 winners, UN Women also rewarded Rs. 2 lakh each to the 3 startups chosen for their promising solutions.

PM Modi to chairs Virtual Global Investor Roundtable Conference



Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the Virtual Global Roundtable Conference.

- The Roundtable is being organized by the Ministry of Finance and National Investment and Infrastructure Fund.
- It is an exclusive dialogue between leading global institutional investors, Indian business leaders and the highest decision makers from the Government of India and Financial Market Regulators.
- Union Finance Minister, Minister of State for Finance, RBI Governor and other dignitaries will also be present on the occasion.

India opposes transfer of Kartarpur Gurdwara management to non-Sikh body



India criticised the Pakistan government's move to transfer the management and maintenance of the Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib to a non-Sikh body.

- Members of the Sikh community expressed concern over the decision.
- The Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, also known as Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib, is located in Pakistan's Narowal district across river Ravi,

about five kilometres from the Dera Baba Nanak shrine in India's Punjab.

- Guru Nanak Dev, the first Sikh Guru, had arrived in Kartarpur between 1520 and 1522, and spent the last 18 years of his life there.
- It was in Kartarpur that he laid the foundations of a Sikh religion.

Dharmendra Pradhan invites OPEC member countries to invest in India



Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has invited OPEC member countries to invest in India.

- The minister co-chaired the 4th high-level meeting of the India-OPEC Energy Dialogue along with Secretary-General of OPEC Secretariat Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo.
- The virtual meeting was also joined by OPEC Member countries, CMD and MDs of India's oil and gas industry from both the public and the private sector.
- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is an intergovernmental organization of 13 nations.
- These 13 countries accounted for an estimated 44 percent of global oil production and 81.5 percent of the world's "proven" oil reserves
- Headquarters: Vienna, Austria

Shaktikanta Das Chairs 40th SAARCFinance Governors' Group Meeting



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.
- 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.

'International Satavadhanam' event launched by the Vice President.



The Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu launched the 'International Satavadhanam' program virtually.

- 'Avadhanam' is like a test of the poet's literary prowess and involves solving tricky literary posers, improvising poems and tests a person's capability of performing such multiple tasks simultaneously.

- The event was organized by Dr. Medasani Mohan under the auspices of Sri Krishnadevaraya Satsang in Tirupati.
- Avadhanam is a literary performance popular from the very ancient days in India.

Regional Cluster concept of economic development playing important role in Indian success story: UNIDO Representative



United Nations Industrial Development Organisations (UNIDO) has been closely working with India to implement UN's activities in harmony with national policy priorities and development strategies.

- The UNIDO Regional Office in New Delhi acts as a focal point to promote UNIDO's mandate of inclusive and sustainable industrial development in India.
- Regional Cluster concept of economic development is playing an important role in Indian success story.
- UNIDO is the specialized agency of the United Nations.
- Headquarters: Vienna, Austria.

Bombay HC hears Arnab Goswami's habeas corpus plea



A division bench of Bombay High Court heard Habeas Corpus plea of senior journalist Arnab Goswami.

- Arnab was arrested in a connection with abetment to suicide case by Raigad Police.
- Goswami is currently under judicial custody till November 18th along with other two accused in this case.
- A writ of habeas corpus (which literally means to "produce the body") is a court order demanding that a public official deliver an imprisoned individual to the court and show a valid reason for that person's detention.
- Both the Supreme Court (under Article 32) and the high courts (under Article 226) can issue the writs of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, certiorari and also the quo-warranto.

Prasar Bharati CEO to head panel to look into TRP system



The Centre announced a four-member committee, to be headed by Prasar Bharati CEO Shashi Shekhar Vempati, to look into the Television Rating Points (TRP) system and recommend any changes required to make it more robust and transparent.

- The News Broadcasters Federation (NBF) wrote to the Prime Minister, seeking a “national-level independent body” to “deal with misconduct by professional journalists”.
- The NBF is an industry body founded last year by Republic TV editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami.
- Incidentally, Republic TV is among media organisations being probed in a case of alleged ‘TRP scam’.

ICICI Bank launches ‘Mine’ for millennials



ICICI Bank announced the launch of India’s first comprehensive banking programme for millennials.

- Inspired by ‘Millennial Network’, the proposition is called ‘ICICI Bank Mine’.
- It offers an instant savings account, a feature driven iMobile application, curated credit and debit card, instant personal loans & overdrafts, and even an experiential branch with social engagement space.

National Cancer Awareness Day: 07 November



National Cancer Awareness Day is celebrated in India on 7 November to educate people about cancer, its treatment, and its symptoms.

- National Cancer Awareness Day was first announced by the Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan in September 2014.
- The day coincides with the birth anniversary of the eminent scientist Madame Curie.
- Marie Curie is remembered for her discovery of radium and polonium, and her huge contribution to the fight against cancer.
- Her work led to the development of nuclear energy and radiotherapy for the treatment of cancer.

PM Modi will lead Indian delegation to 20th Summit of SCO Council of Heads of States on Nov 10



Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the Indian delegation to the 20th Summit of SCO Council of Heads of States, which will be held virtually on 10th of this month.

- The meeting will be chaired by President of Russia Vladimir Putin.
- This will be the first SCO Summit to be held in virtual format and this is the third meeting that India will be participating as a full member.
- India was granted observer status of SCO in 2005 and it became a full member in 2017.
- India is going to host the SCO Heads of Government meeting on 30th of this month in virtual format.

Army Chief General MM Naravane conferred honorary rank of General of Nepali Army by Prez Bidya Devi Bhandari



Army Chief General MM Naravane has been conferred the honorary rank of General of the Nepali Army by President Bidya Devi Bhandari in Kathmandu.

- He was honoured at a special ceremony at the President's official residence 'Shital Niwas' in Kathmandu.
- The practice follows a seven decade old tradition of conferring Army Chiefs of each other's country with the honorary title.
- On behalf of the Indian Government, he presented medical equipment for two field hospitals of the Nepalese Army. It includes equipment such as X-Ray machines, computed radiography systems, ICU ventilators and ambulances.

India -Nordic - Baltic Conclave



External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar said that India will work with Nordic-Baltic countries for a greener, smarter, digital and innovation-led future.

- He was virtually addressing the first India - Nordic - Baltic Conclave.
- The term "Nordic countries" is used unambiguously for Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland, including their associated territories (Svalbard, Greenland, the Faroe Islands and the Åland Islands).
- Baltics, is a geopolitical term, typically used to group the three sovereign states in Northern Europe on the eastern coast of the Baltic Sea: Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

UP govt to hold grand annual Deepotsav celebrations in Ayodhya on Diwali



Uttar Pradesh government will celebrate the annual Deepotsav in Ayodhya on Diwali in a grand manner and this time it is planning to break its own last year record by lighting around 6 lakh diyas, earthen lamps on the ghats of Saryu.

- The celebration will not be scaled down due to the coronavirus pandemic, even though there will be minimal public participation.
- The deepotsav will be celebrated from 11 to 13 november and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will also take part in it.
- Around 10 thousand volunteers of Ram Manohar Lohiya Swasth University will be involved in the attempt of another world record of lighting 6 lakh earthen lamps.
- These diyaas will be lit on 24 Ghats of holy river Saryu.

Baghjan oil well fire in Assam still raging after five months



It has been five months and the Baghjan oil well is still burning in the Tinsukia district of Assam.

- Now, a committee set up by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has reported that the Baghjan oil well and 26 others were being operated illegally in Assam.
- The NGT is headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice AK Goel.
- The blowout site is located next to the Dibru Saikhowa National Park (DSNP) in Tinsukia district.
- The blowout site at the Baghjan oil field has been burning for 160 days which is the longest in India.

WhatsApp Pay goes live on UPI



WhatsApp has finally launched services on the United Payments Interface (UPI) in a major boost for the Facebook-owned app in its biggest market.

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), India's flagship payments processor, permitted WhatsApp to go live on UPI.
- WhatsApp can expand its UPI base in a graded manner starting with a maximum number of registered users at 20 million, the NPCI said in a statement.
- The NPCI runs the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) used for real-time payments between peers or at merchants' end while making purchases.
- The UPI channel has rapidly grown to become India's most favoured mode of digital transactions since its launch in terms of volumes.

India successfully launches Earth Observation Satellite EOS-01, nine other satellites



India's workhorse rocket PSLV-C49 has successfully launched India's latest Earth Observation Satellite EOS-01 and placed into its intended orbit.

- In a copybook style mission, the launch vehicle also put nine other customer satellites into space.
- In just under 15-and-a-half minutes of the ignition of the rocket, the primary satellite EOS-01 was ed in its 575-kilometer Low Earth Orbit.
- The successful PSLV mission has resulted in increased capacity for the user agencies of the nation in viewing the surface of the earth seamlessly for agriculture, forestry and disaster management applications.

Telemedicine service 'eSanjeevani' completes 7 lakh consultations



eSanjeevani, the national telemedicine service set up by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has completed 7 lakh consultations.

- The last one lakh consultations have come up in 11 days.
- With over 10 thousand consultations being recorded on eSanjeevani per day, it is shaping into the largest OPD services set up in the country.
- An innovative intervention to deliver health services, eSanjeevani has started making impact in smaller towns and rural areas.
- eSanjeevani has removed the requirement of doctor to be at a specific location to provide services.
- Each online OPD consultation generates an ePreion which can be used to buy medicines or go for diagnostic investigations.

India's special forces conducted 'Bull Strike' triservice exercise



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.
- The exercise saw participation from three services components of ANC, elements of Indian Army's Parachute Brigade, MARCOS (Marine Commando Force) and Special Forces.
- Search and rescue (SAR) and medical evacuation procedures were also practised by the participating troops.

PM Modi flag off Ro-Pax service between Hazira-Ghogha in Gujarat



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Ro-Pax terminal at Hazira and flag off Ro-Pax service between Hazira and Ghogha in Gujarat.

- Hazira-Ghogha Ro-Pax ferry service will work as a Gateway to South Gujarat and Saurashtra region.
- It will reduce the distance between Ghogha and Hazira from 370 Kilometres to 90 Kilometres.
- The benefits of enhanced connectivity through this ferry service will also result in increased inflow of tourists in the famous Asiatic lion wildlife sanctuary at Gir.

Nagaland decides to celebrate Hornbill Festival 2020 virtually



Nagaland Tourism Department has informed that the state government decided to celebrate the Hornbill Festival 2020 in a complete virtual mode.

- Dubbed as the “Festival of Festivals”, the Hornbill Festival is celebrated every year from December 1 to 10, showcasing the rich cultural heritage and tradition of the Nagas in one platform at Naga Heritage Village Kisama under Kohima District.
- The first festival was held in 2000
- The festival is named after the Indian hornbill, the large and colourful forest bird which is displayed in the folklore of most of the state's tribes.

PM Modi launch development projects of more than Rs 600 Cr in Varanasi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and lay the foundation stone of various development projects worth around 614 crores in his parliamentary constituency Varanasi.

- There is an arrangement of live display of the program at 6 places in the city on big screens and through 5 LED mobile vans.

- The main projects inaugurated include the light and sound show at Sarnath, two passenger boarding bridges (PBB) at Lal Bahadur Shastri international airport, upgradation of Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital in Ramnaga.
- PM Modi also laid the foundation stones for several projects including the redevelopment of Dashashwamedh Ghat and Khidkiya Ghat, upgradation of the multipurpose hall of Cultural Complex, tourism development, barracks for PAC police force and redevelopment of certain wards of Kashi.

PM announces change of name of Shipping Ministry to Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways



Prime Minister Narendra Modi renamed the Ministry of Shipping as the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways.

- He made the announcement during a launch event of Ropax ferry service between Ghogha (Bhavnagar) and Hazira (near Surat) in Gujarat, via video-conferencing.
- The decision to change the name of the Shipping Ministry is part of Modi government's efforts to revamp the ports and create world-class Inland Water Transport.
- This is not the first time the Centre has changed the name of a ministry. The name of the Ministry of Human Resource and Development, in July this year, was changed to the Ministry of education under the New Education Policy 2020.

India and Italy sign 15 agreements in various sectors



India and Italy signed 15 agreements in various sectors following a Virtual Bilateral Summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Italian counterpart Giuseppe Conte.

- The agreements signed will provide for cooperation in a diverse range of areas including energy, green energy, shipbuilding and media sector.
- The Summit provided an opportunity to the two leaders to comprehensively review the broad framework of the bilateral relationship.
- The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen cooperation against common global challenges, including the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The leaders discussed a wide range of issues including political, economic, scientific & technological, space and defence cooperation.

World famous Tourism spot Pangong Tso route gets 4G services at Tangtse



World famous Tourism spot Pangong Tso route now gets 4G services at Tangtse.

- This first-ever Jio mobile tower in the entire Changthang region, connects Tangtse sub division with the rest of the world digitally.
- Mr.Tashi congratulated the people of Tangtse area for having a Jio mobile tower facility for the first time which was one of the pending demands of the area.
- Pangong Tso or Pangong Lake is an endorheic lake spanning eastern Ladakh and West Tibet.

J&K darbar move



The civil secretariat, the seat of Jammu and Kashmir administration, will open in Jammu after functioning in summer capital Srinagar for six months as part of the nearly 150-year-old practice known in the Union territory as ‘Darbar Move’.

- The practice of ‘Darbar Move’, under which the administration functions in Jammu during six months of winter and in Srinagar during summer, was started by Maharaja Gulab Singh in 1872 to escape extreme weather conditions in the two regions of the state.
- However, the practice was continued even after Independence with the aim of providing governance benefits to both Kashmir and Jammu regions for six months by turns.

India's first solar-based water supply project launched in Arunachal Pradesh



India's first solar-based Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project (IMVWSP) was dedicated to the people of Arunachal Pradesh by Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

- The solar-based lift water supply project for 39 villages in Lower Dibang Valley district in northeastern Arunachal Pradesh was commissioned at a cost of Rs 28.50 crore.
- The project is designed to provide drinking water to 17,480 people and has been conceived as an integrated project with an element of drinking water, green energy and tourism component in it.

Kerala launches 'Parivarthanam' scheme for better livelihood of Fishing Community



The government of Kerala has launched a pioneering eco-sustainable programme called 'Parivarthanam', to improve the livelihood of the fishing community.

- Parivarthanam, which means change, will be headed by Kerala State Coastal Area Development Corporation (KSCADC).
- The scheme aims at improving the livelihood skills of youngsters along the coastline and also enable socio-economic uplift of the fishermen community.
- The scheme will promote processing and marketing of clean fish and its fresh products.

15th Finance Commission submits report for 2021-26 to President Ram Nath Kovind



The Fifteenth Finance Commission led by its Chairman N.K. Singh submitted its report for the period of 2021-26 to President Ram Nath Kovind.

- The report has been finalized after wide-ranging consultations with the Union and State Governments, local governments, Chairmen and Members of previous Finance Commissions, Advisory Council to the Commission and other domain experts, academic institutions of eminence and multi-lateral institutions.
- The Finance Commission will also present a copy of the Report to the Prime Minister. The report will be tabled in the Parliament by the Finance Minister along with an Action Taken Report of the government.
- The other members of the commission include Ajay Narayan Jha, Prof. Anoop Singh, Dr. Ashok Lahiri and Dr. Ramesh Chand.

Uttarakhand celebrates its 20th foundation day on 09 November



Uttarakhand celebrated its 20th foundation day on 09 November.

- Governor Baby Rani Maurya, Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat and Assembly Speaker Prem Chand Agrawal have greeted the people on the occasion.
- The demand for the creation of Uttarakhand as a separate state of Uttarakhand arose in the year 1897.
- The demand for a separate state turned into a full fledged mass movement in 1994.
- The movement led to the formation of the Uttarakhand state in 2000.
- The state was earlier named as ‘Uttaranchal’ when it was formed. But in 2007, state was renamed to Uttarakhand.

Pakke Tiger Reserve provide Covid-19 Insurance to Green Soldiers



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”.

- 57 frontline staff (referred to as green soldiers) of the Park have been insured for nine months against health issues due to the infection by the Covid-19.
- The forest guards are rightly the green soldiers in the frontline of India’s wildlife, and the onus of wildlife conservation pretty much falls on them.
- Pakke Tiger Reserve (declared in 1999-2000) lies in the foothills of the eastern Himalaya in the East Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh and is also known as Pakhui Tiger Reserve.

Delhi to adopt Dungarpur’s model of rainwater harvesting



The Delhi government will adopt the cost-effective model of rainwater harvesting currently being implemented in the tribal-dominated Dungarpur district of Rajasthan.

- A seven-member delegation was on an official visit to witness the rainwater-harvesting system that costs just Rs 16,000 as compared to the conventional one, which costs between Rs 50,000 and Rs one lakh per household.
- Dungarpur model was an innovative idea that was centred on routing the rainwater to a bore well, instead of a regular rainwater-harvesting pit.
- The rainwater collected on the rooftop is being routed to the casing of already existing bore wells in households. They have created sand filters in the conduit pipe itself and included a way of backwash too.

UP to develop Vindhyavasini Temple Corridor in Vindhyachal



The Uttar Pradesh (UP) government has decided to develop the Vindhyavasini Mandir Corridor at Vindhyachal in Mirzapur district.

- The Vindhyavasini corridor is modelled on the lines of Kashi Vishwanath Corridor in Varanasi.
- It will have a 50-foot wide parikrama path, or circumambulation route, around the shrine of Goddess Vindhyavasini.
- The UP cabinet had on October 30 approved the decision to develop the religious corridor.
- The Yogi Adityanath-led government seeks to develop religious tourism in the eastern UP region.
- The Vindhyavasini temple is surrounded by buildings and narrow lanes and pilgrims have to walk through them while circumambulating the temple.

Rajnath Singh unveils model of Anti-Satellite Missile at DRDO Bhawan



A model of Anti-Satellite Missile installed inside the DRDO Bhawan premises was unveiled by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

- 'Mission Shakti' was the country's first ever Anti-Satellite (A-SAT) Missile Test successfully conducted on 27th March 2019 from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha, where a fast-moving Indian orbiting target satellite in Low Earth Orbit was neutralised with pinpoint accuracy.
- This was a highly complex mission, conducted at extremely high speed with remarkable precision.
- The successful conduct of Mission Shakti made India the fourth nation in the world with the capability to defend its assets in outer space.

India gifts 20 horses, 10 mine detection dogs to Bangladesh Army



The Indian army gifted 20 horses and 10 dogs to the Bangladesh army.

- These equines and canines were trained by the Remount and Veterinary Corps of Indian Army.
- The fully trained military horses and mine detecting dogs were gifted to Bangladesh in order to further strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries.
- The Indian Army has also trained Bangladesh Army personnel for training and handling these specialist dogs and horses.

Fifth Narrow Gauge locomotive on Kalka-Shimla route manufactured by Central Railway



In Maharashtra, the Central Railway workshop at Parel in Mumbai has manufactured a fifth Narrow Gauge locomotive which will chug between Kalka to Shimla route.

- It is the fifth Narrow Gauge engine that has been manufactured by the Central Railway which will run between Kalka to Shimla, a UNESCO World Heritage Railway.
- A total of 12 locomotives will be produced by Central Railway. Although small in size the engine is strong enough to face the extreme cold conditions in the Sub-Himalayan region.

Hardeep S. Puri inaugurates 13th Urban Mobility India Conference 2020



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 theme of the conference is “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.

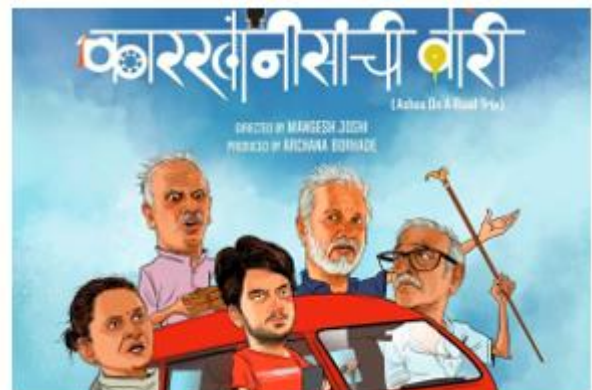
Indian Oil Corp director A K Singh to head Petronet LNG



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.
- Petronet is a joint venture of IOC, GAIL, Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) and BPCL.
- Petronet operates liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminal is at Dahej in Gujarat and Kochi in Kerala.

‘Karkhanisanchi Waari’ only Indian entry at Tokyo Film Festival



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.

Naveen Patnaik launched a mobile app “Secha Samadhan”



Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched ‘Secha Samadhan’, a bilingual mobile application.

- It will address the irrigation problems faced by farmers without them having to visit the offices concerned.
- With the launching of the application, farmers need not run to the offices of the Water Resources department and can send their grievances through photographs or videos.
- The farmers will be informed about the status of their complaints through SMS.
- Odisha Capital: Bhubaneswar
- Governor: Ganeshi Lal
- Chief minister: Naveen Patnaik

Children’s Day: 14th November



On 14th November, Children’s Day is celebrated every year to mark the birth anniversary of India’s first Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru.

- The day aims at increasing the awareness of the rights, care and education of children.
- Jawaharlal Nehru, who was India’s first Prime Minister, was quite famous among children and was popularly known as ‘Chacha Nehru’.
- Following his death in 1964, it was decided that to move the celebrations of Children’s Day to November 14 as a mark of respect to him and to commemorate his fondness for children.

World Diabetes Day: 14 November



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.

- Diabetes is a major cause of blindness, kidney failure, heart attack, stroke and lower limb amputation.
- A healthy diet, physical activity and avoiding tobacco use can prevent or delay type 2 diabetes.
- 2020 theme “The Nurse and Diabetes.”

National Ayurveda Day 2020: 13 November



National Ayurveda Day was observed in 2020 on 13 November.

- The day is observed every year from 2016, on the day of Dhanwantri Jayanti.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the two future-ready Ayurveda institutions in Gujarat and Rajasthan, the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA) at Jamnagar in Gujarat and the National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA) at Jaipur in Rajasthan.

World Kindness Day: 13 November



World Kindness Day is observed globally on 13th November every year.

- The day is celebrated to highlight good deeds in the community focusing on the positive power and the common thread of kindness which binds us.
- World Kindness Day was first celebrated in 1998 by The World Kindness Movement.
- 2020 theme: Kindness: The World We Make – Inspire Kindness.

Ministry of Textiles launches “Local4Diwali” campaign



The Union Ministry of Textiles has launched a campaign for Diwali- “Local4Diwali”.

- The campaign has been launched to promote the Indian handicraft which is the cultural heritage of the country and also a source of livelihood for many.
- As per the available data, the handicrafts sector is a major sector of women empowerment as almost 55% of the workers and artisans are women.
- The main aim of the #Local4Diwali campaign is to urge people to buy and gift Indian handicraft products on this Diwali.

Karnataka’s Mysuru to Get India’s First Sandalwood Museum



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.
- Karnataka governor: Vajubhai Vala
- Chief minister: B. S. Yediyurappa

Haryana CM Launches 'Project Air Care' in Gurgaon



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.
- The Air Purifiers have been developed by CSIR-NEERI (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute), IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) Bombay.
- The project is a result of a public-private partnership between Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) and GSK (GlaxoSmithKline) Consumer Healthcare.

Aung San Suu Kyi's ruling NLD wins 396 seats in Myanmar elections



The ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) has won a majority in the general elections of Myanmar which took place on November 8.

- The NLD secured 396 Union Parliamentary seats, improving upon its 2015 tally of 390 seats.
- The NLD won 258 seats in the lower house Pyithu Hluttaw and 138 seats in the upper house Amyotha Hluttaw. It required 322 seats for the majority.
- This is the second consecutive win for Myanmar State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi's party NLD since 2015.

Prime Minister to unveil Statue of Peace through video conferencing



Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the Statue of Peace through video conferencing to mark the 151st Birth Anniversary celebrations of Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj.

- Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj led an austere life as a Jain Saint working selflessly and dedicatedly to spread the message of Lord Mahavira.
- The Statue to be unveiled in his honour has been named as 'Statue of Peace'.
- The 151 inch tall statue has been made from Ashtadhatu, 8 metals, with Copper being the major constituent, and is being installed at Vijay Vallabh Sadhana Kendra, Jetpura, in Pali, Rajasthan.

Navy's fifth Scorpene class submarine 'Vagir' launched at Mazagon Dock



In yet another boost for the Indian Navy, it's fifth Scorpene class submarine 'Vagir' was launched at Mumbai's Mazagon Dock.

- Two Kalvari-class submarines are already operational in the Navy.
- Vagir is part of the six Kalvari-class submarines being built in India.

- The submarines, designed by French naval defence and energy company DCNS, are being built as part of Indian Navy's Project-75.
- INS Kalvari, the first of the six Scorpene-class submarines, was launched in 2017, followed by Khanderi, Karanj and Vela.

External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar represent India at 15th East Asia Summit



External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar represented India at the 15th East Asia Summit (EAS).

- The summit discussed ways to strengthen the platform and to make it more responsive to emerging challenges on its 15th anniversary.
- The virtual summit was chaired by Vietnamese Prime Minister, Nguyen Xuan Phuc and saw the participation of all eighteen east Asian countries.
- Established in 2005, the EAS is a leaders-led forum that provides a platform for discussion on important strategic issues in the Indo-Pacific region.
- It is a regional grouping of 18 participating countries i.e. 10 ASEAN countries that includes Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam), besides Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russia and the United States. India is a founding member of EAS.

India provides 50 Metric Tons of food aid to people of Djibouti



India has provided 50 Metric Tons of food aid to the people of Djibouti as part of its assistance to friendly countries to overcome natural calamities and the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Ambassador of India to Djibouti Ashok Kumar handed over a gift of food items delivered by INS Airavat.
- The step was part of SAGAR II (Security and Growth for All in the Region) through which the Government of India is providing 270 Metric Tons of Humanitarian assistance to friendly countries in the region.

Lonar lake in Maharashtra and Keetham lake in UP added to Ramsar sites



Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar has expressed happiness that India has added two more Ramsar sites.

- They are Lonar lake in Maharashtra which is the only crater lake of the country while the other is Sur Sarovar, also known as Keetham lake in Agra of Uttar Pradesh.

- The Ramsar Convention signed on 2nd February, 1971, is one of the oldest intergovernmental agreements signed by member countries to preserve the ecological character of their wetlands of international importance.
- Wetlands declared as Ramsar sites are protected under strict guidelines of the convention.

Jharkhand Foundation Day: 15 November



Jharkhand, the 'Land of Forest' celebrates its State Formation Day on November 15 every year.

- The state was carved out of Bihar in 2000 after the Parliament passed the Bihar Reorganization Act, 2000.
- The state's foundation day was made to coincide with the birth anniversary of tribal leader Birsa Munda, who played an important part in the history of the Indian independence movement.
- Birsa Munda About was an Indian tribal freedom fighter, religious leader, and folk hero who belonged to the Munda tribe.

India Post Payment Bank launches doorstep service to submit digital life certificate

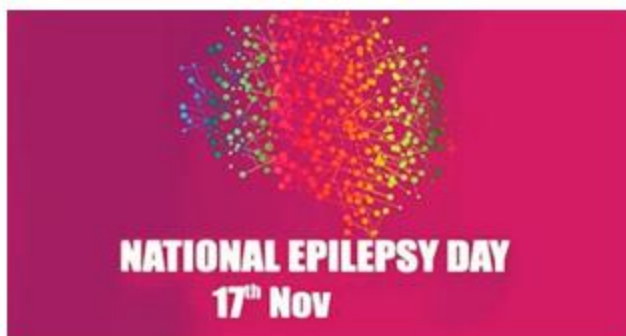
India Post Payments Bank, IPPB have successfully launched the initiative of doorstep service for submission of Digital Life Certificate through Postman.

- The facility to submit life certificates online through Jeevan Pramaan Portal was launched

by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November, 2014 with the objective to provide a convenient and transparent facility to pensioners for submission of Life Certificate.

- The IPPB is utilising its national network of more than one lakh 36 thousand access points in Post Offices and more than one lakh 89 thousand Postmen and Gramin Dak Sevaks with smart phones and biometric devices to provide Doorstep Banking Services.
- As a result a huge number of pensioners across the country shall be able to avail doorstep service through Postmen and Gramin Dak Sevak, without visiting to bank branch or standing in a queue outside the bank branches.

National Epilepsy Day: November 17



Every year, the National Epilepsy Day is celebrated on November 17.

- The day is celebrated to create awareness about epilepsy.
- Epilepsy is a chronic brain disorder. It results in recurrent fits or seizures.
- The seizures occur due to sudden and excessive discharges occurring in brain cells or neurons.
- Mostly epilepsy occurs in patients who are over the age of 65 and in children.

Bharat Biotech starts Phase III trials of COVAXIN



Bharat Biotech has announced commencement of Phase III trials of COVAXIN.

- The Phase III trials will involve 26,000 volunteers across India, conducted in partnership with ICMR.
- It is the largest clinical trial conducted for a COVID-19 vaccine in India.
- This is India's first phase 3 efficacy study for a COVID-19 vaccine, and the largest phase III efficacy trial ever conducted in India.
- The trial has been registered at www.ctri.nic.in and approved by the Drugs Controller General of India.

DIPAM inks agreement with World Bank



Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, DIPAM signed an agreement with the World Bank.

- Under the agreement, the World Bank is 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 value of Rs. 100 crore and above.

- DIPAM has a framework for monetizing non-core assets.

2nd phase of Exercise Malabar 2020 to be conducted in Northern Arabian Sea



The second phase of Exercise Malabar 2020 will be conducted in the Northern Arabian Sea from 17 November to 20th November.

- This phase will involve coordinated operations of increasing complexity between the navies of Australia, India, Japan and the United States.
- Phase Two will witness joint operations, centered around the Vikramaditya Carrier Battle Group of the Indian Navy and Nimitz Carrier Strike Group of the US Navy.
- The two carriers, along with other ships, submarine and aircraft of the participating navies, would be engaged in high intensity naval operations over four days.

PM Modi to attend 12th BRICS Summit to be held in virtual format

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is attending the 12th BRICS Summit.

- Hosted by Russia, the meeting will be held in a virtual format.
- Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth is the theme of the summit.
- During the 12th Summit, leaders would be discussing intra-BRICS cooperation and key

issues in the global context, including the reform of the multilateral system.

- The leaders will also deliberate on measures to mitigate the impact of the ongoing India will be taking over the Chairship of the BRICS. India will host the 13th BRICS Summit in 2021.

IIT Guwahati formulates efficient “pincer” catalytic systems that transform biomass wastes into valuable chemicals



A research team of IIT Guwahati has formulated efficient “pincer” catalytic systems that transform biomass wastes into valuable chemicals.

- Tiny amounts of these “pincer catalysts” repeatedly convert large amounts of industrial waste such as glycerol into lactic acid and hydrogen.
- Such catalysts also efficiently convert bioethanol, a low-energy density fuel, into high-energy density butanol.
- The conversion of valuable intermediates such as glycerol and ethanol, produced during the processing of biomass, into industrially useful chemicals has elicited much interest worldwide.

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims 2020: 15 November



**WORLD DAY
OF REMEMBRANCE**

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 purpose of the day is to remember those killed and injured on the roads, together with their families, friends, and others affected.
- 2020 theme “First Responders”.
- The day was started by the British road crash victim charity, RoadPeace, in 1993 and was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2005.

SpaceX launches 4 astronauts to space



SpaceX launched four astronauts to the International Space Station on the first full-fledged taxi flight for NASA by a private company.

- The Falcon rocket thundered into the night from Kennedy Space Center with three Americans and one Japanese, the second crew to be launched by SpaceX.
- The Dragon capsule on top has been named as ‘Resilience’.

Ministry of AYUSH Observes Third Naturopathy Day



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 Naturopathy.

- The day was declared by the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy), Government of India, on November 18, 2018.
- The 48-day program of webinars will continue till the third National Naturopathy Day.

Four-day celebrations of Chhath Puja begin



The four-day celebrations of Chhath Puja have begun in different parts of the country with the traditional Nahay Khay ceremony.

- Puja will conclude after paying oblation to the rising Sun.
- Chhath Puja is celebrated to worship the Sun God and thank him for supporting life on earth.

- In Bihar, elaborate arrangements have been made at various sun temples including at Aurangabad, Nalanda and Patna.

First solar power-enabled Textile Mill in Asia to come up in Parbhani district



In Maharashtra, the first solar power-enabled Textile Mill in Asia is coming up in Parbhani district.

- The project, once functional, will provide jobs to many women in the district.
- The Jai Bhawani women's cooperative textile mill will be the first in Asia that will operate on solar power.
- Spread across thirty acres of land the mill will process cotton to cloth.
- Ginning, pressing, weaving and spinning of cotton will be done in the mill.
- The cost of the project is 100 crore rupees and with the operationalization of the mill it will certainly give momentum to the industrial sector in the district.

India's AI supercomputer Param Siddhi 63rd among top 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in world



India's Artificial Intelligence supercomputer Param Siddhi has achieved 63rd rank among top 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in the world.

- The AI system will strengthen application development of packages in areas such as advanced materials, computational chemistry and astrophysics.
- It said several packages are being developed under the National Supercomputing Mission for drug design and preventive health care system, flood forecasting package for flood prone metro cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Patna and Guwahati.
- This will accelerate Research and Development in war against COVID-19 through faster simulations, medical imaging, genome sequencing and forecasting and will be a boon for Indian masses and for start-Ups and MSMEs in particular.

India-Luxembourg virtual summit to be chaired by PM Modi & his counterpart



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Luxembourg counterpart Xavier Bettel will hold a virtual summit.

- This will be the first stand-alone Summit meeting between India and Luxembourg in the past two decades.
- The leaders will discuss the entire spectrum of bilateral relationship, including strengthening of India-Luxembourg cooperation in the post-COVID world.
- India and Luxembourg have continued to maintain high level exchanges in the recent past.

Madhya Pradesh govt announces 'Gau Cabinet' for protection of cows



The Madhya Pradesh government has decided to set up a 'Gau Cabinet' for the protection, conservation and promotion of cows in the state.

- The Cabinet will comprise the departments of animal husbandry, forests, panchayat and rural development, revenue, home and farmers welfare.
- The first meeting of the Cabinet will be held on 'Gopashtami' on November 22 at the Cow Sanctuary in Agar-Malwa district named 'Kamdhenu Gau Abhyaranya.
- It is India's first cow sanctuary which was set up by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Madhya Pradesh government in September 2017.

Himachal Pradesh CM flags off Medical Mobile Unit Jeevan Dhara



In order to provide a complete range of health care services for people living in remote and inaccessible areas of Himachal Pradesh, the state government

flagged off the Medical Mobile Unit Jeevan Dhara, from the Ridge in Shimla.

- The van would function as a Mobile Primary Health Centre. He said free medical consultancy and screening would be provided to the patients through Jeevan Dhara Mobile Health and Wellness Centre.
- Jai Ram Thakur also flagged off TB Detection Vans on the occasion.
- The mobile Health and Wellness Van would have basic facilities such as diagnostic, testing facilities for various ailments.
- Jeevan Dhara would also have requisite drugs and supplies as prescribed for a Primary Health Centre.

Government of India launches Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge



Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched 'Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge'.

- It has been launched on the occasion of World Toilet Day for the safety of sewer or septic tank cleaner.
- It will ensure that no person lost their life due to entering a sewer or septic tank.
- It will promote mechanized cleaning and will fend off the hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.
- In 2013, the Government of India had enacted the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act to restrict hazardous cleaning.

Dr Harsh Vardhan addresses 33rd Stop TB Partnership Board meet virtually



The Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan addressed the 33rd Stop TB Partnership Board meet in New Delhi through a Video Conference.

- The minister has stressed on the need to create a mass movement for elimination of TB with strategized advocacy, thought leadership, disruptive social entrepreneurship, powerful, societal and political commitment.
- 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.

India ranks 77 in global bribery risk matrix



India is at 77th position with a score of 45 in a global list that measures business bribery risks of 2020.

- The list by TRACE, an anti-bribery standard setting organisation, measures business bribery risk in 194 countries, territories, and autonomous and semi-autonomous regions.
- According to this year’s data, North Korea, Turkmenistan, South Sudan, Venezuela and Eritrea present the highest commercial bribery risk, while Denmark, Norway,

Finland, Sweden and New Zealand present the lowest.

- In 2019, India’s rank stood 78 position with a score of 48 while in 2020 the country was ranked 77 with a score of 45.

PM Modi to inaugurate RE-INVEST 2020 on Nov 26



Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the virtual 3rd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo (RE-INVEST 2020), on 26th of this month.

- The 3rd RE-Invest will build upon the success of the first two editions held in 2015 and 2018.
- It will provide an international forum for investment promotion in renewable energy.
- RE-INVEST 2020 will include a two-day virtual conference on renewables and future energy choices and an exhibition of manufacturers, developers, investors and innovators engaged in the clean energy sector.

Vijayanagar to be Karnataka’s 31st district



The world heritage site of Hampi, the erstwhile capital of Vijayanagar empire, will soon be part of a new district.

- The State Cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa, gave in-principle approval for creation of the Vijayanagar district, which will be carved out of Ballari district, to become the 31st district in the state.
- It will be named after the Vijayanagara empire that ruled from this region.

Karnataka Bank launches CASA campaign



Karnataka Bank launched CASA (current account, savings account) mobilisation campaign which will run from November 17 to March 4, 2021.

- Campaign intends to mobilise over 4.10 lakh current and savings accounts with an accretion of ₹650 crore 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.
- Karnataka Bank CEO: Mahabaleshwara M. S
- Headquarters: Mangalore

NCRTC and NDB sign USD 500m for Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Rapid Transit System Project



The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, National Capital Region Transport Corporation Limited and the New Development Bank signed a loan agreement for lending 500 million dollars for the 'Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System Project'.

- The Rapid Transit System will provide a fast, reliable, safe and comfortable public transport system in the National Capital Region.
- Due to lack of efficient public transport options, the number of private vehicles in NCR has increased.
- It can take about 3 to 4 hours to travel between Delhi and Meerut in Uttar Pradesh by road during peak hours.
- Fast transit system will support in achieving the goal of sustainable urban development in NCR region including National Capital Territory of Delhi.

PM Modi to attend 5th G-20 Leaders Summit at the invitation of King of Saudi Arabia



Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be attending the 15th G-20 Leaders Summit at the invitation of the King of Saudi Arabia.

- The summit is being chaired by Saudi Arabia on November 21st and 22nd in a virtual format.
- This will be the second G20 leaders meeting in 2020.
- The focus of the upcoming G20 Summit will be on an inclusive, resilient and sustainable recovery from COVID 19.
- The leaders will discuss pandemic preparedness and ways and means to restore jobs.
- The leaders will also share the vision for building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future.

Green Climate Fund approves USD 256 million for Bangladesh



The Green Climate Fund has approved dollar 256 million for Bangladesh in grants and loans to meet its Green House Gas (GHG) emission reduction targets under the Paris agreement.

- The financing is provided as an integrated package for textile and Ready Made Garments (RMG) sectors of Bangladesh are the largest industrial contributors in carbon emission.
- The two sectors combined together contribute more than 27 percent of the industrial carbon emission.
- By 2030, Bangladesh is committed to reduce its GHG emission by 15 percent compared to business-as-usual scenario.
- GCF was set up under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

(UNFCCC) in 2010 as the world's largest dedicated fund to help developing countries reduce their carbon emissions.

PM Modi & his Bhutanese counterpart launched RuPay Card phase-2 in Bhutan



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bhutanese counterpart Lotay Tshering virtually launched RuPay Card phase-2 in Bhutan.

- The two Prime Ministers had jointly launched phase-1 of the project during Mr Modi's visit to Bhutan in August last year.
- The implementation of phase-1 of RuPay cards in Bhutan has enabled Indian visitors in Bhutan to access ATMs and points of sale terminals across Bhutan.
- The phase-2 will now allow Bhutanese cardholders to access RuPay network in India.

Health Minister chairs an event to mark National Newborn Week 2020



Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan chaired an event to mark the National Newborn Week 2020, being observed from 15th to 21st November.

- The day is observed to reinforce the importance of newborn health as a key priority area of the health sector and to reiterate the commitment at the highest level.
- This year, the theme of National Newborn Week is 'Quality, Equity, Dignity for every newborn at every health facility and everywhere.

Mission Sagar II: Indian Naval Ship Airavat arrives at Port of Mombasa, Kenya



In continuation of the ongoing humanitarian mission 'Sagar-II', Indian Naval Ship Airavat arrived at Port of Mombasa, Kenya.

- The Government of India is providing assistance to Friendly Foreign Countries to overcome natural calamities and COVID-19 pandemic, and towards the same INS Airavat is carrying food aid for the people of South Sudan.
- The Mission Sagar-II is aligned with Prime Minister's vision of SAGAR -Security and Growth for All in the Region.
- It reiterates India's position as a dependable partner in Indian Ocean Region with Indian Navy as the principal maritime agency and first responder in the maritime domain.

Sandhya-Arghya offered to the setting Sun by Chhath devotees



Devotees offered their obeisance to the setting Sun on the third day of the ongoing Chhath Puja festival.

- In Bihar, a large number of devotees thronged to Chhath ghat at rivers, ponds and several water bodies to offer their prayers to the Sun God.
- The folk festival will conclude with paying Pratah Arghya to the rising Sun.
- After that the Devotees will break their 36 hours long fast and perform Paran (पारण).

India is the only country to achieve 2°C goal under Paris Agreement among all G20 nations: Prakash Javadekar



Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said India is the only country on track to achieve the 2°C goal under the Paris Agreement among all the G20 nations.

- The 2°C goal aims to keep the global temperature rise below 2°C from pre-industrial levels by 2100.
- The Paris Agreement of 2016 is a historic international accord that brings almost 200 countries together in setting a common target

to reduce global greenhouse emissions in an effort to fight climate change.

- The pact seeks to keep global temperature rise to below 2 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels, and to try and limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

National Cadet Corps 72nd Raising Day: 22 November 2020



National Cadet Corps (NCC), the largest uniformed youth organisation in the world, celebrated its 72nd Raising Day on 22 November 2020.

- The NCC cadets have contributed by participating selflessly during the COVID-19 pandemic as Corona warriors to spread awareness about measures to fight against the pandemic.
- The cadets participated wholeheartedly in 'Swachhta Abhiyan', 'Mega Pollution Pakhwada' and played a pivotal role in spreading awareness about various government initiatives like 'Digital Literacy', 'International Day of Yoga', 'Tree Plantation' and immunisation programs.
- The National Cadet Corps is the youth wing of the Armed Forces with its headquarters at New Delhi, Delhi, India.
- It is open to school and college students on a voluntary basis.

PM Modi lays foundation stone of rural drinking water supply projects in Mirzapur & Sonbhadra districts of Uttar Pradesh



Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of rural drinking water supply projects in Mirzapur and Sonbhadra districts of Vindhyachal region of Uttar Pradesh.

- Mr Modi also interacted with Village Water and Sanitation Committee or Paani Samiti Members during the event.
- The projects will provide household tap water connections in all rural households of 2,995 villages and will benefit about 42 lakh population of these districts.
- Village Water and Sanitation Committees or Paani Samiti have been constituted in all these villages, who will shoulder the responsibility of operation and maintenance.
- Announced on 15th August last year by the Prime Minister from the ramparts of Red Fort, Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide functional household tap connections to every rural home of the country by 2024.

2-day All India Presiding Officers' Conference to be organized at Kevadia in Gujarat on Nov. 25



A two-day All India Presiding Officers' Conference will be organized at Kevadia in Gujarat on 25th November.

- The theme of this year conference is Harmonious Coordination of Legislative, Executive and Judiciary - Key to a Vibrant Democracy.
- President Ram Nath Kovind will inaugurate the two day conference.
- On 26th November which is celebrated as Constitution Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the valedictory session of the conference.

First meeting of 'cow cabinet' held in Madhya Pradesh



In Madhya Pradesh, the first meeting of the cow cabinet made for promotion and conservation of cows in the state concluded.

- 14 experts from all over the country joined this meeting from Gau Sanctuary located in Salaria of Agar Malwa district.
- Meanwhile, like other states, 'cow cess' is also being considered for cow-protection in the state.
- There is a provision for income tax exemption on donations for cows under Section 80-G of the Income Tax.

Karnataka Governor presents Doctor of Science honorary doctorate upon ISRO Chairman



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 Governor highly praised the role of ISRO in defining our Space programme and the social role that it has played in the country.

Kanoor Renewable Village is the 1st Step towards PM's Carbon Neutral Ladakh



The foundation stone of PM Narendra Modi's Dream to Make Ladakh Carbon Neutral has been started from Kanoor Village of Kargil which has been the first Renewable Village in Ladakh.

- This was stated by the MP Ladakh Jamyang Tsering Namgyail while inaugurating the 12 Solar Roof Top 5 Kw Power Plants in different hamlets of Kanoor Village.
- Carbon neutrality refers to achieving net zero carbon dioxide emissions by balancing

carbon dioxide emissions with removal or simply eliminating carbon dioxide emissions altogether.

Nirmala Sitharaman attends G20 Finance Ministers' virtual meeting



Minister for Finance Nirmala Sitharaman virtually participated in the G20 Finance Ministers meeting in New Delhi.

- Finance Ministers of the G20 countries gathered to discuss their views on the global economic outlook and downside risks in wake of the COVID-19 crisis and how G20 could carry forward the collective global action initiated during the crisis.
- Highlighting the Debt Service Suspension Initiative as an important outcome under the G20 Ms Sitharaman also congratulated the Saudi Arabian Presidency for their tireless efforts and exceptional leadership to steer the G20 agenda in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

India becomes 4th nation to get IMO nod for navigation satellite system



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.
- IMO headquarters: London, United Kingdom
- Founded: 17 March 1948

Health Minister Harsh Vardhan addresses Boston Center of Excellence for Health & Human Development



Health Minister Harsh Vardhan addressed the Boston Center of Excellence for Health and Human Development through a Video Conference.

- Saluting millions of front-line health workers who bravely carried on with their duty in spite of risk and adversity, including professionals other than doctors and nurses, Dr. Vardhan elaborated India's strategy to contain COVID-19.
- He also congratulated the Boston Center of Excellence for Health and Human Development for bringing together experts to research a better cure and better healthcare for all.

India International Cherry Blossom Festival in Shillong cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic



India International Cherry Blossom Festival, the calendar event of Meghalaya which attracts record number of tourists annually in Shillong, has been cancelled this year in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic.

- The capital, Shillong hosts the only Cherry Blossoms festival in India.
- These beautiful flowers can be spotted across Meghalaya during this time of the year.
- It is expected that the flowers will continue to bloom till the end of November.
- The beautiful hill station Shillong in Meghalaya has turned pink with blooming cherry blossoms.

Cyclone Nivar likely to make landfall between Karaikal in Puducherry & Mamallapuram in Tamil Nadu



The Low Pressure Area in the south and the central Bay of Bengal is expected to get intensified into a Depression.

- Met Department in Chennai said it will turn into a cyclone in the next 24-hours.

- It is likely to make landfall on 25 November between Karaikal in Puducherry and Mamallapuram in northern Tamil Nadu.
- 12 other districts including Chennai and Puducherry are expected to witness isolated heavy rain.
- As per the naming convention, the cyclone in the Bay of Bengal will be known by the name Nivar, once it is formed.

Kumbh Mela to be held in its divine form at Haridwar in 2021



Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat has asserted that Kumbh Mela will be held in its divine form at Haridwar in 2021 despite the practical problems arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Kumbh Mela works are being reviewed periodically and efforts of the state government will be to ensure that the devotees do not face any inconvenience.
- 35 to 50 lakh people are expected to take the holy dip in Ganga daily during the Kumbh Mela 2021.
- Kumbh Mela is a major pilgrimage and festival in Hinduism.
- It is celebrated in a cycle of approximately 12 years at four river-bank pilgrimage sites: the Prayagraj (Ganges-Yamuna Saraswati rivers confluence), Haridwar (Ganges), Nashik (Godavari), and Ujjain (Shipra).

Martyrdom Day of Guru Tegh Bahadur being observed across country



Martyrdom Day of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Guru of Sikhs, is being observed across the country.

- It was on this in 1675, Guru Tegh Bahadur sacrificed his life to protect religion, human values, ideals and principles.
- The youngest son of Guru Hargobind, he was publicly killed in 1675 on the orders of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in Delhi for refusing to convert to Islam.
- Gurudwara Sis Ganj Sahib and Gurudwara Rakab Ganj Sahib in Delhi are the sites of his execution and cremation

Foreign Secretary H V Shringla to visit Nepal on Nov. 26 & 27



Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla will pay an official visit to Nepal on 26 and 27 November 2020.

- This will be the first visit of the Foreign Secretary to Nepal since he assumed charge.
- The visit is in keeping with the tradition of regular high-level exchanges between the two countries and the priority India attaches to its relations with Nepal.

Ravi Shankar Prasad launches international version of UMANG App



To mark the occasion of 3 years of UMANG and 2000 plus services milestone, an online conference was organized under the chairmanship of Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, Ravi Shankar Prasad.

- On this occasion, Mr Prasad launched UMANG's international version in coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs for select countries that include USA, UK, Canada, Australia, UAE, Netherlands, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand.
- It will help Indian international students, NRIs and Indian tourists abroad, to avail Government of India services, anytime.

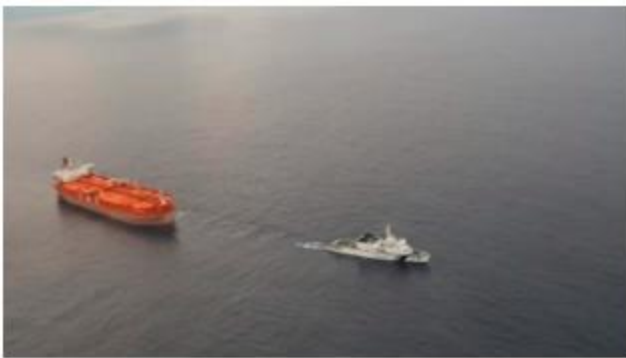
Odisha Assembly passes 'Odisha Essential Services (Maintenance) Amendment Bill-2020'



Odisha Essential Services (Maintenance) Amendment Bill-2020 was passed by the state assembly.

- The bill seeks to amend the existing Act of 1988 to prohibit strikes by employees of essential services in the state.
- Expanding the ambit of essential services, the bill includes services like fire service, excise, forest, prison reforms, electronics and Information and Communication departments.
- According to the provisions of the amended bill, persons resorting to or found instigating or funding illegal strikes may face imprisonment upto one year or a fine upto Rs five thousand or both.
- Trade unions too have opposed it as a ploy to divest the workers of their democratic right to protest.

Indian Coast Guard averts ecological disaster off Nicobar Islands by towing oil tanker to safety



The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) towed a fuel tanker back to safe waters.

- The tanker was dangerously drifting towards the pristine Katchal Island in Nicobar due to power failure.
- The vessel, which had 24 crew onboard, experienced total power failure since November 19.
- Katchal is one of the Nicobar Islands, India.

KSCDL declared winner at ET Govt Global Smart Cities Forum 2020



KOHIMA CITY WIFI PROJECT(PHASE-1)

In Nagaland, Kohima Smart City Development Limited, KSCDL has been declared Winner at the ET Government Global Smart Cities Forum 2020 under the category Best Digital Initiative of the Year (Technology) for Kohima City Wifi Phase-I Project.

- The main objective is to provide internet access for the masses in public locations at a cheaper cost and instant access to data for emergency services with real-time s with better coverage for emergency services.
- IT infrastructure will enable the Internet of Things and establish a platform for smart city with innovative smart solutions such as pan-city fire emergency solutions, smart offices, entertainment, smart street lighting, smart Kiosks, smart traffic management and others.
- KSCDL has activated Wi-Fi Hotspots in 51 locations of Kohima along with two smart Kiosks as part of the Kohima Wi-Fi Phase 1 Project.

President Ram Nath Kovind boards Air India One- B777 aircraft for inaugural flight to Chennai



President Ram Nath Kovind boarded the Air India One- B777 aircraft for the inaugural flight to Chennai.

- The President will be visiting Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh to offer prayers at the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple.
- Air India One is the call sign for the VVIP aircraft used by the president, vice president and prime minister.
- The aircraft is operated as VVIP flight by the Indian Air Force (IAF).

Indian Army Successfully Test Fires Land-attack version of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from Andaman and Nicobar Islands



India successfully test-fired a land-attack version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile.

- The supersonic cruise missile successfully hit its target, which was on another island.
- The BrahMos supersonic cruise missile is the world's fastest operational system in its class.
- DRDO has recently extended the range of the missile system from the existing 298 km to around 450 km.
- Brahmos is a universal long-range supersonic cruise missile system that can be launched from land, sea and air.
- The missile has been jointly developed by DRDO, India, and NPOM, Russia, through the joint venture BrahMos Aerospace.

First cow hospital of Northeast inaugurated in Assam's Dibrugarh



A cow shelter in Assam's Dibrugarh inaugurated Northeast's first-ever cow hospital.

- The hospital, Surbhi Arogyashala, is set up by Shree Gopal Gaushala at a cost of Rs 17 lakh.
- The hospital will provide services in a 30 km radius.

National Milk Day: 26 November



In India, November 26 is celebrated as National Milk Day, since 2014.

- The day is observed to commemorate the birthday of the father of India's White Revolution, Dr. Verghese Kurien.
- 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.
- In 1970, India's National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) started a rural development programme known as Operation Flood.

- It is one of the largest programmes and its aim was to develop a nationwide milk grid.
- At that time the chairman of NDDDB was Dr. Verghese Kurien who gave management skills and necessary thrust to the cooperative sector and is considered as the architect of India's White Revolution or Operation Flood.

Indian Constitution Day: 26 November



Constitution Day (National Law Day), also known as Samvidhan Divas, is celebrated in India on 26 November every year to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India.

- The Government of India under Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi declared 26 November as Constitution Day on 19 November 2015.
- The year of 2015 was the 125th birth anniversary of Ambedkar, who had chaired the drafting committee of the Constituent Assembly and played a pivotal role in the drafting of the constitution.
- On 26 November 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, and it came into effect on 26 January 1950.

All fixed to mobile calls to be dialled with prefix '0' from Jan 15

The Communications Ministry has said all Fixed to Mobile calls will be dialled with prefix '0' from 15th January next year.

- There will be no change in dialing plan from fixed to fixed, mobile to fixed and mobile to mobile calls.

- The Department of Telecommunications has taken the decision of implementing this with the consideration of TRAI Recommendation on "Ensuring Adequate Numbering Resources for Fixed Line and Mobile Services".
- A total of approximately 2539 million numbering series is expected to be generated from this. This will free up sufficient numbering resources for future use.
- The changes have been done in order to have minimum inconvenience to the subscribers and freeing up essential numbering resources.

12th anniversary of 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks being observed



The twelfth anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks being observed.

- On the night of November 26, 2008, ten heavily armed Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists landed in Mumbai and went on a rampage.
- More than 160 people, including foreign nationals, were killed in the attack that lasted for four days.
- Ajmal Kasab, the only terrorist captured alive, was hanged four years later on November 21, 2012.
- The ten Pakistani terrorists who came from the sea targeted the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Nariman House, Leopold cafe, Taj hotel and tower and the Oberoi Trident hotel.

India Post Payments Bank launches PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana



India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has launched a low-cost insurance scheme ‘Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)’ for its customers.

- The scheme aims 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.
- Customers should be at least 18 years old to enroll for the scheme. The maximum age limit will be 50 years for Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana.
- Fixed sum of ₹2 lakh upon the death of the insured member payable to the nominee.
- Customers need to pay a premium of ₹330 per annum.

Narendra Singh Tomar virtually inaugurates Phagwara mega food park



The Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Shri Narendra Singh Tomar virtually inaugurated the Mega Food Park (MFP) at Phagwara in Kapurthala district of Punjab.

- The Phagwara Mega Food Park is built at a cost of Rs 107.83 crores.

- The park is expected to benefit about 25000 farmers and generate employment of about 5000 persons.

Himachal Pradesh Government Launches ‘Him Suraksha Abhiyan’



Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jairam Thakur launched ‘Him Suraksha Abhiyan’.

- The campaign aims at sensitizing the people regarding Covid-19 pandemic and also to collect information regarding symptoms of other diseases like TB, Leprosy, sugar and blood pressure.
- Under this, about 8000 teams would be constituted of Health, Ayurveda, Women and Child Development, Panchayati Raj Departments, District Administration and NGOs.
- They would carry a door to door campaign for data collection of health parameters of the people, including both, symptomatic patients with probable Covid-19 as well as patients with other ailments.

Uttar Pradesh government imposes ESMA for six months



Uttar Pradesh government has imposed Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA) in the state.

- The order released in this regard says that the act will be imposed for 6 months.
- As per the U.P ESMA, the state government now has the power to prohibit strikes in workplaces for the next six months, after which it may be extended for another six months.
- Last time the act was imposed in the state on 22nd May this year and the time period of six months has expired.

UP govt passes ordinance to ban unlawful religious conversions for marriage



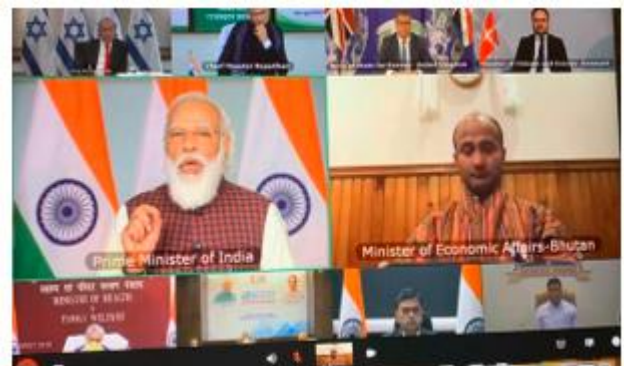
The Uttar Pradesh government has passed an ordinance to ban unlawful religious conversions for marriage.

- Unlawful conversion for the sake of getting married through force, deceit, undue pressure or by way of alluring into marriage will come into the category of non-bailable offence and

can lead to imprisonment of a maximum of 10 years and penalty of 50 thousand rupees.

- The jail sentence for the offence would be 3-10 years if the woman is from the Scheduled cast, Scheduled Tribe community or is seen as part of mass conversion.
- Any marriage entered into after such a conversion can be declared null and void.
- If any couple wants to perform marriage after converting into any other religion, they need to take permission from the relevant district magistrate two months before the marriage.
- He claimed that over 100 incidents of forceful religious conversions were noticed in state.

PM inaugurates Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet & Expo



Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the 3rd Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST 2020).

- During the three-day virtual conference, all the leading companies will display their latest technological development in the field of renewable energy and discuss various options available for energy transition.
- Several world leaders, Energy Ministers of 75 countries and 200 eminent speakers will take part in the event.
- The summit is organised by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- The theme for RE-Invest 2020 is 'Innovations for Sustainable Energy Transition'.

UNDP, Invest India launch SDGs Investor Map for India



United Nations Development Programme, UNDP and Invest India have launched the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Investor Map for India.

- It laid out 18 Investment Opportunities Areas in six critical SDG enabling sectors, that can help the country push forward on the trajectory of Sustainable Development.
- The Map comes at a critical time for India. With the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the financing gap for the SDGs in India has only widened further and decades of development progress is nearly on the verge of a reversal.

PM Narendra Modi chairs 33rd PRAGATI interaction



Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the PRAGATI meeting.

- It marked Prime Minister's thirty-third interaction through PRAGATI - the ICT based multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, involving Central and State governments.
- During the meeting, multiple projects, grievances and programmes were reviewed.

- Grievances related to COVID-19 and to the PM Awas Yojana (Gramin) were taken up.
- PM SVANidhi, agriculture reforms and development of districts as export hubs were reviewed.
- The Prime Minister also asked the States to develop a State Export Strategy.
- In the previous 32 such meetings, a total of 275 projects worth 12.5 lakh crore rupees have been reviewed, along with 47 programmes and schemes and grievances across 17 sectors have been taken up.

India has emerged as fourth largest producer of renewable energy in world: PM Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India's renewable power capacity is the 4th largest in the world and it is growing at the fastest speed among all major countries.

- The renewable energy capacity in India is currently 136 Giga Watts, which is about 36 percent of the country's total capacity.
- The country is expanding generation capacity and network to ensure every citizen has access to electricity to unlock their full potential.
- In the last 6 years, India has increased installed renewable energy capacity by two and half times.

India, Finland sign MoU in the field of Environment protection and biodiversity conservation



India and Finland signed an MoU for developing cooperation between two countries in the field of Environment protection and biodiversity conservation.

- The MoU is a platform to further advance Indian and Finnish partnership and support, exchange best practices in areas like prevention of air and water pollution, waste management, and promotion of circular economy.
- The MoU was signed virtually by Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar from the Indian side and his Finnish counterpart Krista Mikkonen.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang to attend the 19th SCO Heads of Govt meet hosted by India on 30th Nov



China announced that Premier Li Keqiang will attend the 19th meeting of the Council of Heads of Govt of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states to be held under India's chairmanship on Nov. 30th.

- This is the first time after joining the SCO in 2017 that India has got the opportunity to host this meeting which will be held through video link.
- The upcoming meeting of heads of govt is an important event under the SCO framework this year.
- Created in 2001, the SCO is a political, economic, and security bloc comprising eight members – India, China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Pakistan.

Nagarjuna Besha of Lord Jagannath and siblings to be observed in Puri after 26 years



Nagarjuna Besha of Lord Jagannath and his siblings, Goddess Shubhadra and Lord Balaram is being held in Puri's Jagannath Temple after a span of 26 years.

- The last Nagarjuna Besha of Lord Jagannath was held in 1994.
- This year, the celebrations are muted due to the pandemic.
- According to Hindu mythology, Nagarjuna Besha is observed in commemoration of the killing of Kartyavera Arjuna, one of the main king slain by Parsuram.
- On this occasion, the deities are dressed like warriors.

Health Minister seeks help of journalists in eradicating Tuberculosis by 2025



Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan has sought the help of journalists in eradicating Tuberculosis by 2025.

- Addressing the students of Indian Institute of Mass Communication digitally, Dr Vardhan said that the active participation of journalists will help in large scale awareness generation among the public.
- He said that Journalists have worked round the clock from ground zero to provide information to the public.
- He also paid his tribute to those who have sacrificed their lives in an attempt to provide information to the people.

Madras High Court refuses to intervene in merger of Lakshmi Vilas Bank with DBS Bank



The Madras High Court has refused to intervene in the merger of the Lakshmi Vilas Bank-LVB with the DBS Bank.

- The Lakshmi Vilas Bank suffered serious deterioration of its financials leading to the RBI imposing a month long moratorium.

- The RBI also made an amalgamation scheme for the LVB with the DBS Bank.
- It has helped to lift the moratorium for its depositors and its 563 branches and its ATM network are functioning under the DBS banner.
- A case was filed against the merger in the Madras High Court.

Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar launches India Climate Change Knowledge Portal



Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar 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.
- It will be a single-point information resource that provides information on the different climate initiatives taken by various Line Ministries enabling users to access d status on these initiatives.

India, Vietnam sign implementation agreement on hydrography

India and Vietnam signed an implementation agreement (IA) on hydrography.

- The agreement was signed during a virtual bilateral meeting between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Vietnamese counterpart General Ngo Xuan Lich.
- During the bilateral meeting, both the leaders also noted that the defense cooperation

between the two Asian nations have expanded considerably.

- Vietnam and India share a cordial relationship and have repeatedly expressed shared concern relating to China.

Tamil Nadu CM thanks SC for including Pongal festival days in its holidays list



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswamy has thanked the Supreme Court for including Pongal festival days in its holidays list.

- The harvest festival falls on January the 14th and 15th and they are declared as holidays for the Supreme Court.
- Pongal is a multi-day harvest festival of South India, particularly in the Tamil community.
- It is dedicated to the sun god the Surya, and corresponds to Makar Sankranti, the harvest festival under many regional names celebrated throughout India.
- The three days of the Pongal festival are called Bhogi Pongal, Surya Pongal and Maattu Pongal.

Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project: NHRCL signs contract with L&T



The National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) signed a contract with Larsen and Toubro (L&T) for the construction of 237 km of viaduct and other installations for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project.

- At Rs 24,985 crore, this is the country's biggest infrastructure contract for design.
- The company will finish the job in four years.
- The 508-km bullet train project will connect Mumbai with Ahmedabad with trains running at 320 km per hour.

PM visits Serum Institute, inspects vaccine production process



Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Serum Institute in Pune.

- During the 50-minute visit, Prime Minister Modi inspected the vaccine production process. Later, he had a discussion with the scientists and officials.
- The Prime Minister reviewed the production process of Covid 19 vaccines across the country.
- Bharat Biotech's Covaxin is undergoing Phase-3 trials.
- Covishield vaccine is currently in the final stage of clinical human trials.
- The Serum Institute of India has partnered with UK's Oxford University and British-Swedish Pharmaceutical Giant AstraZeneca in the manufacture and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine candidate COVISHIELD in India.

SpiceJet launches dedicated freighter services to Leh in Ladakh



Airline major SpiceJet launched dedicated freighter services connecting Leh with the rest of the country.

- Accordingly, the airline operated its first freighter flight from Delhi to Leh carrying 13 tonnes of cargo supplies.
- The flight was operated by SpiceXpress, the dedicated cargo arm of SpiceJet.
- According to the airline, a Boeing 737 freighter has been deployed on this route.
- Besides, the new flights launched are seasonal and will operate during the winter months when surface transportation is disrupted owing to harsh weather conditions.

Karthigai Deepam festival celebrated in Tamil Nadu



In Tamil Nadu, the famous Kartikai Deepam festival was celebrated.

- In the famous Thiruvannamalai Sri Arunachaleswarar temple, the Bharani dweep was lit up.

- Karthigai Deepam is celebrated on the Pournami (Purnima) Tithi of the Tamil month of Karthigai. And like Diwali, it is a festival of lights.
- The Tiruvannamalai Temple is known for its Karthigai Deepam festival.

LG Manoj Sinha releases Panchayat Newsletter "Parivartan" first ever publication in five official languages of J&K



In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has released Panchayat Newsletter "Parivartan"- a first ever publication in five official languages of J&K at Raj Bhavan, Jammu.

- The LG appreciated the initiative of the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj for coming out with a publication in all the five official languages of J&K, viz Dogri, Urdu, Kashmiri, Hindi and English, highlighting the progress being made under Back to Village-3 and 21 day long Jan Abhiyan programmes.

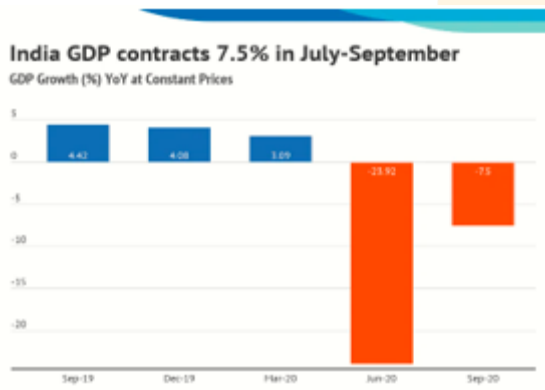
Ladakh LG inaugurates curtain raiser event of IISF-2020



Ladakh Lieutenant Governor, R. K. Mathur has inaugurated curtain raiser event of India International Science Festival (IISF)-2020 in Leh.

- In a virtual event, organised at Defence Institute of High Altitude Research, Mr. Mathur underlined the importance of taking science and technology to remote parts of the country while highlighting the requirements of adaptations of science and technology for sustainability in environmentally fragile places like Ladakh.
- India International science festival launched in 2015 is a celebration to promote science and technology and how science could lead India towards a developed nation.
- IISF 2020 will be organized on a virtual platform.

India enters recession as GDP contracts 7.5% in July-September



The Indian economy has officially entered a technical recession, with two consecutive quarters of negative growth in gross domestic product (GDP).

- Real GDP for the September quarter contracted 7.5 per cent year-on-year, on the back of the steep contraction in manufacturing, construction, and services, data released by the National Statistical Office showed on November 27.
- However, the data also showed that the country has begun its gradual recovery following the nationwide lockdown in April, May, and June which had flatlined the economy.

- The real GDP for April-June 2020 had contracted 23.9 per cent, the steepest fall ever (and the first contraction in 40 years).

Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare: 30 November



The Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare is observed on November 30 every year.

- The day offers the opportunity to honour and remember those who suffered and died in the wake of chemical warfare.
- The day also aims to reaffirm the vision of the United Nations to achieve a world free of the threat of chemical weapons in order to promote and support peace and security for all.

China's first domestically made nuclear reactor, the Hualong One, goes online



China National Nuclear Corp (CNNC) has developed its first Hualong One, a third-generation pressurised water nuclear reactor, has started operations and is connected to the grid.

- Hualong One is designed to have a 60-year lifespan and its reactor core needs refuelling every 18 months.
- The second Hualong One at Fuqing, Unit 6, is scheduled for completion in 2021.
- China currently has six overseas Hualong One projects under construction.
- China has 47 nuclear plants with a total generation capacity of 48.75 million kilowatts — the world's third highest after the United States and France.

Mission COVID Suraksha launched to accelerate COVID19 vaccine development in India



The Indian government has announced the third stimulus package of Rs. 900 crore for the Mission COVID Suraksha – the Indian COVID-19 Vaccine Development Mission.

- This grant will be provided to the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) for Research & Development of Indian COVID19 vaccines.
- Phase-I of the COVID Suraksha Mission has been allotted Rs. 900 crore for a period of 12 months.
- A total of 10 vaccine candidates have been supported by the department of biotechnology so far at both academia and industry.
- As on date, 5 vaccine candidates are in human trials including the Russian vaccine Sputnik-V with at least 3 more in advanced stages of preclinical to enter human trials shortly.

PM take part in world famous Dev Deepawali festival in Varanasi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi visit his parliamentary constituency Varanasi and took part in the world famous Dev Deepawali festival.

- Mr Modi dedicated to the nation the six-lane widening project of the Handia (Prayagraj) - Rajatalab (Varanasi) section of National Highway 19.
- Dev Deepawali, which has become a world famous festival of light and fervour in Varanasi is celebrated on every Poornima of the Kartik month.
- The festival started by the Prime Minister by lighting a diya on the Raj Ghat of Varanasi, which was followed by lighting of more than 15 lakh diyas on various ghats on both sides of River Ganges.
- He also saw the Light and Sound show at the archaeological site of Sarnath, which had been inaugurated by him earlier this month.

Guru Nanak Jayanti being celebrated with traditional fervour across the country & abroad



Guru Nanak Jayanti or Gurburab is being celebrated with religious fervour across India and the world.

- It marks the birth of the first Sikh Guru, Guru Nanak, who laid the foundation of Sikhism.

- This year marks the 551st birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.
- He was born in Rai-Bhoi-di Talwandi present-day Shekhupura District in Pakistan. This place is popularly known as Nanakana Sahib.



IndusInd Bank becomes first bank to go live on RBI's 'Account Aggregator Framework'



IndusInd Bank has become the first bank in India to go live on the new 'Account Aggregator Framework' of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

- IndusInd Bank has announced that it has gone live as a 'Financial Information Provider' (FIP) under the new 'Account Aggregator Framework' of RBI.
- The Account Aggregator framework of RBI will enable customers to avail benefits like viewing statements of their accounts, track deposits, plan investments and avail credit cards on a single window.

Axis Bank revises stake acquisition agreement with Max Life

Axis Bank announced a revised stake acquisition agreement with Max Financial.

- It will acquire 19.002% stake in Max Life as against 17.002% stake decided earlier.

- According to the revised agreement, Axis Bank will acquire upto 9% of the equity share cap of Max Life.
- The decision has been taken after the RBI rejected Axis Bank's proposal to buy 17.002% stake in Max Life.

World's largest IPO halted in China, Ant Group's dual listing postponed in Shanghai & HK exchanges



Chinese fintech giant Ant Group's dual listing at Shanghai and Hong Kong stock exchanges, has been delayed.

- The largest Initial Public Offering in global finance, worth around 35 billion USD, has been delayed just two days ahead from its trading debut.
- Ant was founded by Mr Ma in 2004 as Alipay, an arm of Alibaba, and was spun out as Ant in 2014.
- Since then its payments business has become the largest in the world, outstripping Visa and Mastercard as it processed \$17tn of transactions in the year to June.

HDFC Bank launches SmartHub Merchant Solutions 3.0 for SMEs

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.

- The Bank plans to reach out to more than 20 million small and medium merchants and professional services like doctors, pharmacies, salons and laundry services across the metro, semi-urban and rural India in the next three years.

Paytm launches “Payout Links” for small businesses



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.
- Payout Links will allow businesses to send ‘incentives’ or refunds to the customers’ bank accounts or wallet accounts.
- It can be used for salary payments, vendor payments, commissions and incentive transfers to be done instantly.
- Paytm Payout Links can be easily created and shared with customers, vendors and employees in one go.

Goldman Sachs projects India GDP to shrink 10.3%



Investment bank Goldman Sachs expects India's gross domestic product (GDP) to contract by 10.3 percent in the financial year 2020-21.

- The American firm projected India’s GDP to rebound to 13 percent in the succeeding fiscal, FY22.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expects India's GDP to contract by 9.5 percent on a real basis during the ongoing fiscal due to the impact suffered by the economy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reserve Bank places Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd under moratorium



In view of its weak financials, the Reserve Bank has placed the Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited under moratorium with immediate effect.

- RBI said the moratorium will be effective for thirty days with a view to protect depositors’ interest.
- Accordingly, RBI has capped all cash withdrawals from the bank to twenty five thousand rupees.
- According to the banking regulator, the private sector lender has seen a steady decline

in its financials with it incurring losses over the last three years.

- RBI has appointed the former Non Executive Chairman of Canara Bank, T. N. Manoharan as the banks' administrator for the moratorium period.

Equitas Small Finance Bank launches 'Eva' savings account for women



Equitas Small Finance Bank has launched a women-centered product 'Eva'.

- Eva is a unique savings account for women to address the well-being of Indian women in every aspect such as health, wealth and prosperity.
- It also offers free health check-up and unlimited teleconsultation with women doctors, gynecologists and mental health experts.
- The Bank has roped in Indian Woman cricketer Smriti Mandhana as the brand ambassador for its newly launched product 'EVA'.

World Bank approves 120-mn to improve transport sector of Meghalaya

The Government of India, Meghalaya government and the World Bank signed a 120 million dollar project to improve and modernise the transport sector of Meghalaya.

- This will help the state to harness its vast growth potential for high-value agriculture and tourism.

- The project will improve about 300 kilometres of strategic road segments and stand-alone bridges by using innovative, climate resilient, and nature-based solutions.
- It will also support innovative solutions such as precast bridges to reduce both time and cost of construction.

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



Union Cabinet 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 94-year-old lender with the Indian arm of Singapore's DBS Bank.
- As part of the amalgamation, DBIL will infuse fresh capital of ₹2,500 crore into LVB.
- 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.

HDFC Bank, ICCI join hands to support SMEs, start-ups

ICCI (Inventivepreneur Chamber of Commerce and Industries), in its endeavour to support SMEs (small and medium enterprises) and start-ups, has signed an MoU with HDFC Bank.

- ICCI will engage, enroll, and support various start-ups /SMEs /MSMEs to facilitate inter-alia financial and other facilities to/from HDFC Bank.

- HDFC Bank may offer bank accounts to start-ups that are supported and recommended by ICCI.
- ICCI will evaluate and recommend potential start-ups /SMEs /MSMEs for investments.

YES Bank launches remote payment service 'SMS Pay' for merchants



Private lender YES Bank 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.
- SMS Pay will facilitate merchants to accept remote payments on their POS machines and enable their customers to transact safely without leaving the comfort of their homes.
- Through SMS Pay, local merchants & department stores could request payments from their customers by entering their contact details in the POS terminal following which an SMS would be triggered to the customer's mobile number instantly, with a payment URL link.

IRDAI gives in-principle approval for Bharti AXA-ICICI Lombard deal

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) gave in-principle approval for the merger of Bharti AXA General with ICICI Lombard.

- Marking a major consolidation move in the insurance space, the proposed deal was announced in August this year.

- Bharti Enterprises currently owns 51 per cent stake in Bharti AXA General Insurance, while French insurer AXA has 49 per cent.
- Post demerger, Bharti AXA General Insurance will cease to be a going concern and both Bharti and AXA will be public shareholders.



Duarte Pacheco of Portugal elected as new President of Inter Parliamentary Union



Mr. Duarte Pacheco of Portugal has been elected the new President of Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) for the period 2020-2023.

- The election process to elect the new IPU President took place through remote electronic secret ballot, with a 24 hour window for casting votes.
- Earlier, the Governing Council of IPU, Geneva resumed its business during the 206th Session in virtual format.
- The Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and consisting of Members of Parliament Poonamben Hematbhai Maadam and Swapan Dasgupta attended the meeting.

Rajiv Jalota appointed chairman of Mumbai Port Trust



Maharashtra cadre 1988 batch Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officer Rajiv Jalota has been appointed as the chairman of Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT) under the Union ministry of shipping.

- Jalota, who is the first Goods and Services Tax (GST) commissioner of the state, is currently the additional chief secretary in higher and technical education department of the state government.
- He first served as sales tax commissioner and then as GST commissioner from January 2015 to January 2020.
- The post of MbPT chairman was vacant after former chairman Sanjay Bhatia retired on July 31 and was appointed as up-Lokayukta of the state.

Priyanca Radhakrishnan becomes first Indian-origin minister of New Zealand



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 appointed as Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector, Minister for Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities, Minister for Youth and Associate Minister for Social Development and Employment in Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's cabinet.
- The 41-year-old was one of five new ministers inducted into the Cabinet.
- Radhakrishnan was born in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Former Delhi chief secretary MM Kutty to be chairperson of Air Quality Commission



The Centre has notified the Commission for Air Quality Management for the National Capital Region (NCR).

- An ordinance was issued on October 29 to set up the new agency with sweeping powers to monitor and act against sources of air pollution across five north Indian states.
- The ordinance empowers the agency to make rules, set emission standards, and slap fines of up to Rs1 crore or imprison violators for up to five years.
- Delhi chief secretary MM Kutty will be the Commission's first chairperson. Kutty is also ex-secretary, ministry of petroleum and natural gas.

Indian diplomat Vidisha Maitra elected to key United Nations committee



India's Vidisha Maitra was elected to the UN body - Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) with strong support of the member states.

- India's permanent representative to the UN, Ambassador T. S. Tirumurti expressed gratitude to the member states in reposing faith in India's candidate.
- He added that India has a stellar record of bringing its professional auditing experience to the UN. He affirmed that India takes the responsibility very seriously

Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha takes oath as Chief Information Commissioner



Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha took oath as the Chief Information Commissioner, CIC.

- President Ram Nath Kovind administered the oath to Mr Sinha at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- A former diplomat, Mr Sinha has been serving as Information Commissioner since January last year. He will have a tenure of three years as CIC.

Manipur's Gyanendro Ningombam becomes new president of Hockey India



Manipur's Gyanendro Ningombam was elected unopposed as the President of Hockey India.

- Earlier, Gyanendro Ningombam has been serving as the Officiating President of Hockey India since July 2020.
- Gyanendro becomes the first President from northeast India to spearhead Hockey India. He will serve as Head of the national federation for two years.
- Gyanendro has been associated with the discipline of Hockey in Manipur for the last 40 years, and has impressed with his work at the grassroots level.

West Indies Great Michael Holding Appointed MCC Foundation Patron



West Indies pace legend Michael Holding has been appointed patron of the MCC Foundation.

- The MCC Foundation is the charitable arm of the Marylebone Cricket Club, custodians of the game's laws, and was created with the aim of enhancing lives through cricket.

- The 66-year-old Holding is a passionate advocate for equality in cricket and the wider community.
- Throughout a professional career that spanned 15 years, Holding, nicknamed Whispering Death, carved out a reputation as one of the best fast bowlers of all time.

Nitish Kumar take oath as Chief Minister of Bihar



Nitish Kumar has been elected as the Chief Minister of Bihar for the seventh time.

- Tarkishore Prasad has been unanimously elected as the leader of BJP legislature party while Renu Devi has been elected as the deputy leader.
- Mr. Kumar along with his council of ministers took oath of office and secrecy before the Governor Phagu Chauhan.
- The NDA has secured an absolute majority by winning 125 seats in the recently held assembly elections.
- One independent MLA Sumit Singh has also extended support to the NDA.

Actor Sonu Sood appointed as state icon of Punjab by Election Commission of India

Actor Sonu Sood has been appointed as state icon of Punjab by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

- The decision of honouring Sonu Sood with the title comes after he earned laurels for his humanitarian work during the lockdown.
- Sonu has been helping migrant workers reach their hometowns amid the coronavirus pandemic.

- He also helped people by giving them face masks, food, mobile phones and more.

Maia Sandu Elected as First-Ever Woman President of Moldova



Maia Sandu, a former World Bank economist, has won Moldova's 2020 Presidential election to become the President-elect of the country.

- She is the first woman to be elected as the President of Moldova and would assume office on 23rd December 2020.
- She was the former Prime Minister of Moldova from 8 June 2019 until 14 November 2019.
- Meanwhile the incumbent President of Moldova, Igor Dodon received 42.28% of the vote.
- Capital: Chişinău
- Currency: Moldovan leu

Former CM Jitan Ram Manjhi sworn in as protem speaker of newly elected 17th Bihar Legislative Assembly



In Bihar, former Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi was sworn in as pro-tem speaker of the newly elected 17th Bihar Legislative Assembly.

- Governor Phagu Chauhan administered him the oath of office at a function organized at Rajbhavan in Patna.
- 74 years old Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) Chief Jitan Manjhi who has been elected from Imamganj assembly constituency is among the senior most members of the house.
- Mr Manjhi will administer oath to newly elected members of Bihar assembly on 23rd and 24th November.

Vijay Sinha Becomes Bihar Assembly Speaker



Vijay Kumar Sinha was elected as Speaker of Bihar assembly by majority vote.

- He became the first BJP legislator in the state to occupy the post.
- During the selection of House Speaker, the Rashtriya Janata Party (RJD) members created a ruckus and opposed the selection through voice vote, citing the presence of members of the legislative council.

New Zealand's Greg Barclay elected as new independent chairman of ICC

New Zealand's Greg Barclay has been elected as the new independent chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

- The head of the New Zealand Cricket team, NZC, Barclay beat Imran Khwaja in the second round of voting.

- Imran was interim chairman after Shashank Manohar stepped down from the post in July this year.
- Barclay has served as a director of NZC since 2012. He was a director of 2015 Men's World Cup, held in Australia and New Zealand.

Lt Gen Harpal Singh appointed new Engineer-in-Chief of Indian Army



Lt Gen Harpal Singh has been appointed as the new Engineer-in-Chief of the Indian Army.

- He is presently the Director-General of Border Roads Organisation and would take over his new appointment on December 1.
- Lt Gen Harpal Singh, an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers on 24 December 1982.
- He has also been the Chief Engineer of Project Dantak (BRO) at Bhutan, Chief Engineer (Navy), Mumbai and Chief Engineer HQ Eastern Command.
- Major Gen Rajeev Chaudhary has been appointed as the new Director-General of the Border Roads Organisation.

Prof Sangita Srivastava appointed first woman VC of Allahabad University

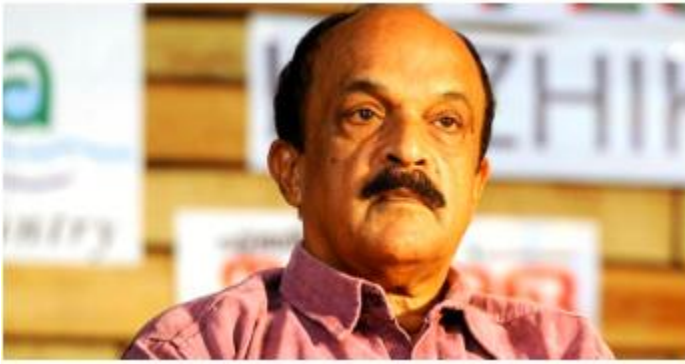
Professor Sangita Srivastava has been appointed as the new regular vice chancellor of Allahabad University (AU).

- She is the first woman chosen for this post at AU.
- Prof Srivastava is a former head of Allahabad University's home science department.

- She served as the head of the department till she was appointed as VC of Prof Rajendra Singh University on June 25, 2018 for a period of three years.



Writer Paul Zacharia selected for Ezhuthachan Puraskaram



Noted Malayalam writer Paul Zacharia has been selected for 2020 Ezhuthachan Puraskaram, for his contribution to Malayalam literature during the past five decades.

- Ezhuthachan Puraskaram is the Kerala government's highest literary honour, named after Ezhuthachan, the father of the Malayalam language.
- The award carries a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh and a citation.
- Zacharia won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award in 1979 and the Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award in 2004.

Ruskin Bond conferred with Tata Literature Lifetime Achievement Award

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.

- He has been recognised by the Indian Council of Child Education for his contribution to the growth of children's literature in India.
- Some of the popular books of Ruskin Bond are: The Room On The Roof, Angry River, The Blue Umbrella, Rusty, The Boy From The Hills,, A Flight Of Pigeons
- He was conferred the Padma Shri & Padma Bhushan.

M. Venkaiah Naidu presents 2nd National Water Awards



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.
- The award ceremony has been organised by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation from 11 & 12 November 2020 through the virtual platform.

Bangladeshi teen wins International Children's Peace Prize

A Bangladeshi teen Sadat Rahman has been awarded the International Children's Peace Prize for his work to stop cyber bullying of teens.

- The award was given away by the Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai during a ceremony in the Netherlands.

- The prize is given away by the international children’s rights organization KidsRights to a child who fights courageously for children’s rights.
- Sadat has created the anti-cyber bullying app ‘Cyber Teens’ to help teenagers who are sufferers of cyber bullying.
- The app provides information to the young people about internet safety.

Education Minister virtually launches AICTE's Lilavati Award-2020



Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal “Nishank” virtually launched the Lilavati Award-2020: AICTE's Innovative education program to empower women.

- With women empowerment as the theme, the objective of the award is to create awareness about issues like sanitation, hygiene, health, nutrition, literacy, and employment among women.
- The Minister emphasized on the necessity to impart quality education to girl child to make them self-reliant, confident and successful.
- The Minister added that with the Lilavati Award-2020, AICTE has once again championed the cause of women empowerment and paved a way towards equality in education and innovation.

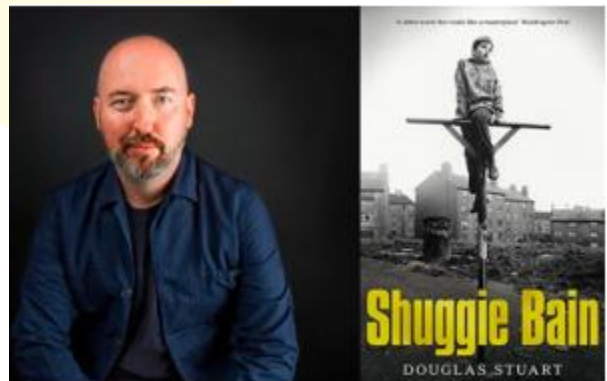
NFDB confers four awards to Assam for success in fishery sector



The National Fisheries Development Board has conferred four awards to Assam for the success in the fishery sector.

- Assam has got the best state award under the category of best hilly and North Eastern state. Assam Apex Cooperative Fish Marketing and Processing Federation Limited (FISHFED) has been selected under the category of best hilly and North eastern government organization.
- On the other hand, Nagaon district has been selected under best hilly and North Eastern district category while a Nalbari based farmer Amal Medhi is selected under hilly and North Eastern fish farmer category.
- The awards will be given on 21st of this month in New Delhi.

Scottish writer Douglas Stuart wins Booker prize for novel Shuggie Bain



Scottish writer Douglas Stuart has won the 2020 Booker Prize for fiction with his debut novel Shuggie Bain.

- The novel described a boy growing up in Glasgow in the 1980s with a mother battling addiction.
- The Booker Prize shortlist also included Indian-origin writer Avni Doshi's novel 'Burnt Sugar'.
- First awarded in 1969, The Booker Prize is considered one of the leading prizes for literary fiction written in English.

ICC postpones 2022 women's T-20 world cup till February 2023



The International Cricket Council has postponed the South African edition of the Women's T20 World Cup by three months to February 2023 to avoid a cluster of big-ticket events in 2022.

- The tournament, which was scheduled in November 2022, will now be held from February 9 to 26, 2023.
- It said, if not postponed, the year 2022 will have three major events including Commonwealth Games and 50 over Women's World Cup.
- In August this year, the ICC had postponed the 50 over Women's World Cup slated in New Zealand from 2021 to 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and women's T20 cricket is also set to make its debut in the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

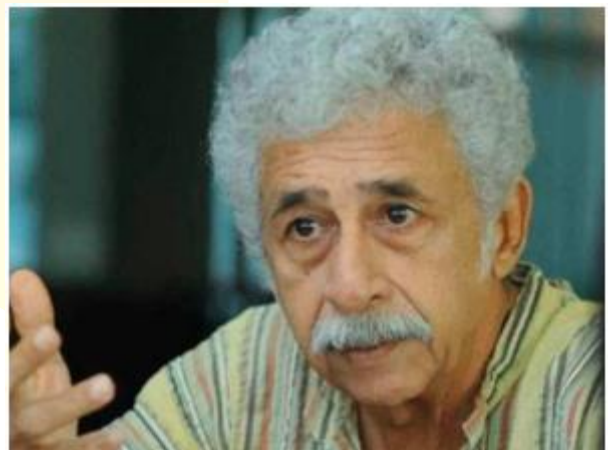
Education Minister RP Nishank receives Vatayan Lifetime Achievement Award



Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has been conferred with the Vatayan Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution in the field of literature.

- Mr Pokhriyal received the award at the Vatayan-UK felicitation ceremony organised through video conferencing by the British Institution Group in England.
- The Vatayan International Awards are being conferred by the Vatayan-UK organization in London honouring poets, writers, and artists for their exemplary work in their respective fields.

Naseeruddin Shah honoured with Aditya Vikram Birla Kalashikhar Puraskar



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.
- The Aditya Vikram Birla Kalashikhar and Kalakiran Puraskar awards, were instituted in 1996 by the Sangeet Kala Kendra (SKK), which was founded in 1973 by Aditya Vikram Birla (former Chairman of Aditya Birla Group), to honor excellence in theatre and performing arts.

Delhi Crime bags Best Drama Series at the International Emmy Awards 2020



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.



Indian boxers Amit Panghal, Sanjeet and Ashish Kumar win gold at the Alexis Vastine International



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 enforced earlier this year in March.
- Apart from this, Kavinder Singh Bisht, won silver in the 57 kg weight category.
- Three Indian boxers namely Shiva Thapa (63 kg), Sumit Sangwan (81 kg) and Satish Kumar (Over 91 kg) secured the bronze medals for India.

Shane Watson formally announces retirement from all forms of cricket



Shane Watson, the former Australia all-rounder and Chennai Super Kings (CSK) opener, formally announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.

- Watson informed about his decision after CSK’s final IPL 2020 match against Kings XI Punjab.

- Watson, who has played 59 Tests, 190 ODIs, and 58 T20s at the international level, has won the ICC World Cup with Australia twice, in 2007 and in 2015.
- Watson had already ended his international career in March 2016 and had only been playing in overseas T20 leagues.

Women's T-20 Challenger gets underway in Sharjah



The Third Season of the Women's T20 Challenge began with defending champions Supernovas taking on Velocity in Sharjah.

- India T20I captain Harmanpreet Kaur led defending champions the Supernovas and take on Mithali Raj-led Velocity.
- This tournament, like previous editions, will take place during the IPL playoffs. The three teams - Supernovas, Velocity and Trailblazers - are set to play three matches in Sharjah, with the final scheduled on 9th of November at the same venue.
- Following the Corona virus pandemic, the Indian Women's team hasn't played any competitive cricket since the T20 World Cup final against Australia which was played on 8th of March.

Sports Ministry sanctions Rs 5 lakh to the family of deceased Manipuri Footballer Manitombi Singh



Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports had sanctioned 5 lakh rupees to the family of deceased Manipuri Footballer Manitombi Singh in an effort to ease the financial crisis of the family.

- Manitombi, who died in August, 2020 at the age of 39, was the only earning member of his family and is survived by his wife and a son.
- Manitombi has contributed significantly to Indian football and also contributed as a coach in Manipur.
- The grant of 5 lakh rupees was sanctioned under the Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for sportspersons.
- The sports ministry has been consistently helping athletes in need of financial support through this fund.

Sports Ministry approves six centres as Khelo India Centre of Excellence



The Sports Ministry has approved six centres as the Khelo India Centre of Excellence.

- The Ministry has also sanctioned over 67 crore rupees in the current financial year to upgrade these six centres.
- The Sports Ministry has said that the financial support will be extended for the next four subsequent years in an effort to identify and groom Olympic level talent in the country.
- The six centres include States Sports Academy in Assam, JNS Complex in Meghalaya, New Sports Complex in Daman & Diu, MP State Academy in Madhya Pradesh, Shree Shivchhatrapati Sports Complex in Maharashtra and Paljor Stadium in Sikkim.
- The Sports Ministry is upgrading existing sporting infrastructure in each State and Union Territory, with their partnership and is creating Khelo India Centres of Excellence with an aim to create a robust sporting ecosystem in the country.

Russian Daniil Medvedev wins Paris Master 2020



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 No. 5 earned his first service break at 4-4 in the second set and charged to the title from that point by winning eight of the final nine games.
- Medvedev joins countrymen Marat Safin, Nikolay Davydenko and Karen Khachanov on the Paris honour roll.

Mumbai Indians clinch 5th IPL title



Mumbai Indians beat Delhi Capitals by five wickets in the final of Indian Premier League 2020.

- With this win, Mumbai added a fifth IPL title to their kitty, more than any other team in the 13-year history of the league.
- Jofra Archer - Most Valuable Player
- KL Rahul - Orange Cap
- Kagiso Rabada - Purple Cap
- Trent Boult - 'Powerplayer' of the season
- Ishan Kishan - Most sixes this season

Trailblazers beat Supernovas by 16 runs to win Women's T20 Challenge title



Trailblazers beats Supernovas by 16 runs to win the Women's T20 Challenge.

- Chasing 119, Supernovas' batters were choked for runs and under the pressure to

keep the scoreboard ticking, they lost wickets.

- The 2020 Women's T20 Challenge, branded as Jio Women's T20 Challenge, was the third season of the Women's T20 Challenge, a Twenty20 cricket tournament established by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in 2018.
- The tournament was originally scheduled to commence in May 2020 in Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur coinciding with the IPL Playoffs.
- The tournament was held from 4 to 9 November 2020 in Sharjah Cricket Stadium in the United Arab Emirates.

China's Chen Meng claims ITTF Women's World Cup 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 held in Weihai, China.

- The 2020 ITTF Women's World Cup was the 24th edition of the ITTF-sanctioned event.
- The women's and men's World Cup events were originally set to take place in Bangkok, Thailand and then Duesseldorf, Germany before the ITTF moved them to China.

Sports Ministry sanctions Rs. 10 lakh towards treatment of hockey Olympian Mohinder Pal Singh



The Sports Ministry has sanctioned Rs. ten lakh towards the treatment of hockey Olympian Mohinder Pal Singh.

- Mr Singh is suffering from a chronic kidney ailment and is currently on dialysis.
- The money, sanctioned under the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya National Welfare Fund for Sportspeople, was given to his wife Shivjeet Singh.
- Mr Singh, who was the coach of the Indian Hockey team, was an outstanding hockey player who represented India at various international events, including the 1988 Summer Olympics.
- He was also a member of the Indian Hockey team that won the Asian Cup in 2007.

FIFA cancels Women's Under-17 football World Cup; India to host 2022 edition



The Women's Under-17 football World Cup in India, which was initially postponed to next year due to COVID-19 pandemic, was cancelled by FIFA, but India was handed the hosting rights of the 2022 edition.

- The FIFA cancelled both the women's U-17 World Cup and U-20 World Cup which were scheduled to be held in India and Costa Rica respectively but handed both the countries the hosting rights of the 2022 editions.
- It has also announced that the FIFA Club World Cup, originally planned for next month, will now be held from February 1st to 11 next year in Doha.

BSF organizes Para-Cycling expedition 'Infinity Ride 2020'



Border Security Force (BSF) is organizing a Para-Cycling expedition "Infinity Ride 2020", in association with Aditya Mehta Foundation.

- The expedition commenced from Srinagar will culminate at Southern tip of India at Kanyakumari Tamil Nadu on 31st December this year.
- The expedition is a part of national campaign to psychologically empower BSF's operational amputees and other Divyangjan (specially-abled).
- 28 participants are taking part in more than 3800 kms cycling, traversing the entire country.

Sudeep Tyagi announces retirement from all forms of cricket



Indian cricketer, Sudeep Tyagi has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.

- The 33-year-old had played for the Indian national cricket team in four ODIs and a lone T20I as a fast bowler.
- Apart from this, the right-arm medium-fast bowler had also featured in 14 games in the Indian Premier League (IPL) for Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH).

BCCI announces MPL Sports as Team India's kit sponsor till 2023



The BCCI formally announced MPL Sports apparel and accessories as the official kit sponsor and merchandise partner of both the national men's and women's sides as well as the U-19 team, replacing Nike.

- Nike had a five-year deal during which they paid Rs 370 crore from 2016 to 2020.
- MPL Sports, the sports merchandise brand from Mobile Premier League, an e-sports platform, offers a wide range of sports wear and cricket equipment, along with other

accessories such as masks, wrist bands, footwear and headgear.

- As per the newly-inked strategic partnership, MPL Sports has entered into a three-year agreement from November 2020 to December 2023.

Daniil Medvedev beat Dominic Thiem to win ATP Tour Finals in London



In Tennis, Daniil Medvedev beat Dominic Thiem to win ATP Tour Finals, the biggest title of his career.

- Medvedev fought back from losing the first set to beat Thiem 4-6, 7-6, 6-4 in a thrilling final in London.
- In the doubles final, Dutch-Croatian duo Wesley Koolhof and Nikola Mektić claimed their first title together edging Jurgen Melzer and Edouard Roger-Vasselin 6-2, 3-6, 10-5.

Sports Ministry recognizes Archery Association of India as National Sports Federation



Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has granted the annual recognition to Archery Association of India as a National Sports Federation (NSF).

- AAI's recognition was withdrawn by the ministry on December 7, 2012 on account of its failure to conduct elections in accordance with the sports code despite the directions of the High Court.
- This comes after AAI's independent elections and revocation of suspension by the World Archery and Indian Olympic Association.
- The recognition will be valid for one year.
- AAI president Arjun Munda welcomed the decision and said that it will start a new chapter in Indian archery.

FIFA World rankings: Belgium No. 1, France and Brazil follows



With Belgium still at No. 1, FIFA released its final rankings list for 2020.

- Defending World Cup champion France is in second place, with Brazil third and England fourth.
- European champion Portugal rounds out the top five, with Spain in sixth.
- FIFA will host the European draw on Dec. 7.

Dutee Chand and K T Irfan to be a part of TOPS Core group



Dutee Chand and K T Irfan included in Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) Core group along with some promising young athletes in the Development Group.

- Eight Track and Field Athletes were included in the core group of the TOPS.
- Seven Track and Field Athletes were included in the TOPS developmental group.
- The decision to include athletes in the TOPS core group was based on their performance progression and their qualification or high probability of qualification for the Tokyo Olympics scheduled next year.
- Dutee Chand is an Indian professional sprinter and current national champion in the women's 100 metres event.
- Sepoy Irfan Kolothum Thodi is an Indian athlete from Malappuram, Kerala.



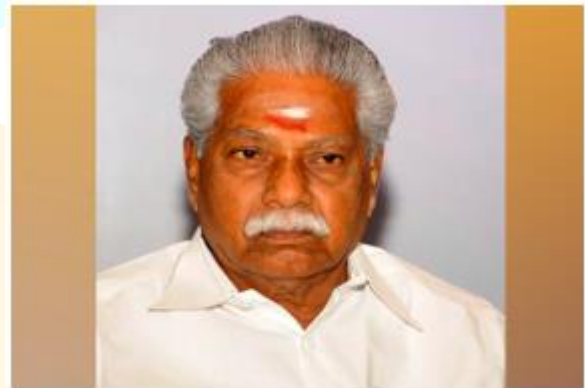
Former Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz passes away



Veteran Politician and former prime minister of Turkey, Mesut Yilmaz has passed away.

- He was the Chief of the now-defunctional centre-right Motherland Party or ANAP from 1991 to 2002.
- He served as prime minister of Turkey three times in the 1990s.
- His first two prime-ministerial terms lasted for just one month, in 1991 and then in 1996, while the third term was from June 1997 to January 1999.
- Turkey Currency: Turkish lira
- Capital: Ankara

Tamil Nadu Agriculture Minister R. Duraikannu passes away



Tamil Nadu Agriculture Minister R. Duraikannu passed away.

- He was confirmed with Covid-19 infection and was put on maximal life support.
- Duraikkannu is the third legislator from Tamil Nadu to succumb to Covid-19 and the complications arising out of it.
- The other two are the Kanyakumari Lok Sabha member H.VasanthaKumar and the state Assembly member J.Anbalagan.

Violinist TN Krishnan passes away



Renowned violinist TN Krishnan breathed his last in Chennai.

- TN Krishnan was born in Tripunithura in Kerala in 1928.
- He started his career as a violinist at a young age and went on to perform with several legendary musicians across generations.
- Apart from performing at concerts, TN Krishnan also taught at the Chennai Music College.
- Later, he was the Dean at the School of Music and Fine Arts of the University of Delhi.
- TN Krishnan was the recipient of Sangeetha Kalanidhi, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan.

Filmmaker-actor Ashish Kakkad passes away



Noted actor, filmmaker and voiceover artist, Ashish Kakkad, has passed away.

- He was one of the most prominent artist from Gujarati film industry.
- As a filmmaker, Ashish was known for his Gujarati projects namely Better Half (2010) and Mission Mummy (2016).

- As an actor, he was seen in several Hindi films such as Kai Po Che! in 2013, and psychological thriller 'Beyond Blue: An Unnerving Tale of a Demented Mind' in 2015, including other Gujarati films.

6th & shortest served CM of Bihar Satish Prasad Singh passes away



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.
- Satish Prasad Singh, the leader of Soshit Samaj Dal became the 6th and the shortest-served CM of Bihar for 5 days (28 January to February 1, 1968) with the support of Indian National Congress (INC).

Veteran author & Gujarati columnist Father Carlos Gonzalez Valles SJ passes away



Veteran author and Gujarati columnist of Father Carlos Gonzalez Valles SJ, popularly known as Father Valles passed away.

- A Jesuit priest born in Spain, he was a Mathematics teacher in Gujarat.
- He wrote extensively in Gujarati, English and Spanish.
- He translated many mathematical concepts into Gujarati and coined terms for them.

Former CM Of Sikkim Sanchaman Limboo passes away



Former Sikkim chief minister Sanchaman Limboo passed away.

- He was the fourth Chief Minister of Sikkim from 17 June 1994 – 12 December 1994 from Sikkim Sangram Parishad Party.
- He became the CM for nearly six months after toppling the Late Nar Bahadur Bhandari's Government of Sikkim Sangram Parishad while he was the cabinet minister in the same government in the year 1994.
- Sikkim Current Governor: Ganga Prasad
- Chief minister: Prem Singh Tamang

Bollywood actor Asif Basra passes away



Bollywood actor Asif Basra, who was known for his role in the recent thriller series Paatal Lok, has passed away.

- Apart from this, Basra had appeared in a number of Bollywood films, including a movie on the 1993 Mumbai blasts Black Friday, the 2002 Gujarat riots Parzania and Kai Po Che.
- He had also starred in several plays in India and abroad, performing in English, Hindi and Urdu theatre productions.

Bahrain's longest serving PM Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa passes away



The world's longest serving Prime Minister, Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa of Bahrain, passed away. He was 84.

- Prince Khalifa, who took office after Bahrain gained independence in 1971, had been receiving treatment at a hospital in the US, the state media said.
- He was an uncle to the Bahraini King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Former Goa Governor Mridula Sinha passes away



Former Governor of Goa and veteran BJP leader, Mridula Sinha passed away. She was the first woman Governor of Goa.

- She was also a proficient writer, making extensive contributions to the world of literature as well as culture. She has served as the head of the BJP's women's wing and Chairperson of Central Social Welfare Board in the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- A native of Muzaffarpur, Sinha will be remembered for starting cultural events called 'Chaand ke Saath' in the lawns of Governor House.

Former CM of Assam Tarun Gogoi passes away



Former Chief Minister of Assam Tarun Gogoi passed away in Guwahati.

- He was undergoing treatment for the past few days in Gauhati medical college and hospital following post COVID-19 complications.
- Born in 1934, Mr. Gogoi served as the Chief Minister of Assam from 2001 to 2016.
- He is the longest serving Chief Minister of the state.
- He represented Jorhat and Kaliabor constituencies in Lok Sabha. Mr. Gogoi also served in various capacities in the Congress party.

Sahitya Academy award winner Shaik Khaja Hussain passes away



Noted Telugu poet, journalist, scriptwriter, and Kendra Sahitya Academy award winner Shaik Khaja Hussain, passed away.

- He was popularly known as Devi Priya.
- He bagged the Sahitya Akademi Award 2017, for his book Gaali Rangu.
- Apart from penning poetry, he has also written several lyrics for Telugu movies.
- He authored several books including Gareebi Geetaalu, Amma Chettu Chepa Chiluka, and others.
- During his journalism stint, Devipriya was instrumental in making noted Telugu poet Sri Sri to write his autobiography.

Veteran TV actor Ashiesh Roy passes away



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
- Some of his famous television shows includes Movers & Shakers, Yes Boss, Remix, Baa Bahoo Aur Baby, Chaldi Da Naam Gaddi, Burey Bhi Hum Bhale Bhi Hum, Sasural Simar Ka, Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise Bhi, Mere Angne Mein, Aarambh.
- Ashiesh Roy was also a voice actor who has been dubbing for foreign films.

Congress veteran Ahmed Patel passes away



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.

Legendary Argentine footballer Diego Maradona passes away



Legendary Argentine footballer, Diego Maradona, widely regarded among the greatest football players of all time passed away following a heart attack.

- Maradona was hospitalised after he complained of regularly being fatigued.
- Maradona had begun his professional career with Argentinos Juniors at the age of 16 and he went on to become one of the greatest players to ever play the game of football.
- The ace footballer represented Boca Juniors, Barcelona, Napoli, Sevilla, and Newell's Old Boys as a player.
- Diego was considered the main player in taking Argentina to their second World Cup title in 1986.
- Maradona also coached Racing Club, Dorados, Gimnasia and the Argentina national team.

Legendary Bangladeshi actor, Liberation War fighter Aly Zaker passes away



Eminent Bangladeshi actor and cultural personality Aly Zaker passed away in Dhaka.

- He tested COVID 19 positive two days back in a Dhaka hospital where he was undergoing treatment.
- Aly Zaker was a towering figure of Bangladesh in theatre, Television and films.
- Aly was involved in the Liberation War movement of Bangladesh against Pakistan.
- He was also a founder trustee of the Liberation War Museum in Dhaka.
- He was awarded the second highest civilian award of Bangladesh 'Ekushey Padak' in 1999 for his contribution in the field of theatre.

Iran's top nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh assassinated



Iranian state television reported that the country's top nuclear scientist - Mohsen Fakhrizadeh - has been "assassinated".

- The high-level nuclear scientist is referred to as "Iran's Robert Oppenheimer" and is known as the "father" of Iran's nuclear programme.
- Fakhrizadeh has long been described by Western, Israeli and Iranian exile foes of Iran's clerical rulers as a leader of a covert atomic bomb programme halted in 2003.
- Iran has long denied seeking to weaponize nuclear energy.

Actor Dave Prowse, who played Darth Vader in 'Star Wars', passes away



Dave Prowse, the British actor behind the menacing black mask of Star Wars villain Darth Vader has died at the age of 85.

- Prowse, who was a weightlifter-turned-actor, was selected to portray Darth Vader for his imposing physique of 6-foot-7 inch.
- Prowse wore the black suit and helmet to play Darth Vader



'Till We Win': Book on Covid-19 by AIIMS Director



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.

- The book deals with the “realization of inner strength and unity” amongst people of all walks of life in a country known for its cultural and linguistic diversity.
- The book delves into how learnings from Covid-19 pandemic can be used to strengthen the Indian health system, for better, forever.

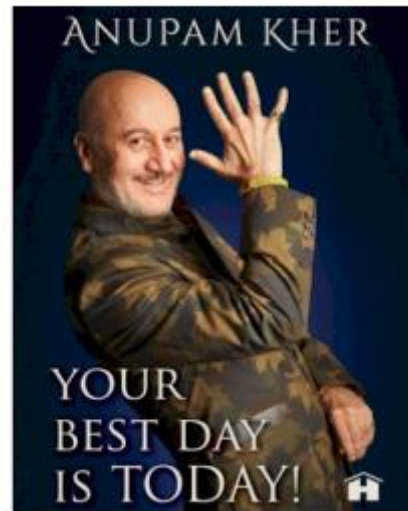
Ex-SPG officer pens novel “Rasaathi” on transgenders



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.
- Rasaathi, meaning princess, is in the late 40s who wants people to treat transgenders like human beings by showering love, affection, sympathy and recognise their pathetic and horrible life.
- Sasindran Kallinkeel was with the Central Reserve Police for 23 years and had a seven-year stint with the Special Protection Group (Prime Minister’s Security) as a senior security officer when Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh were in office.

Anupam Kher’s new book titled ‘Your Best Day Is Today!’



Actor Anupam Kher’s latest book is titled “Your Best Day Is Today!”.

- Through this book, Kher will recount his experiences during the lockdown, several ups and downs, including the time when his mother Dulari and brother Raju Kher had contracted the virus.
- His previous books are his biography Lessons Life Taught Me Unknowingly & The Best Thing About You is You.

Thavaasmi book launched by Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu



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.

- The book presents the story of Ramayana as a dialogue between a father and daughter with a number of exercises making it an interesting learning experience.

Maharashtra Governor releases a book 'Majhi Bhint'



Maharashtra Governor, Bhagat Singh Koshiyari has released the book 'Majhi Bhint' (My Wall) authored by former Maharashtra Minister of Education Rajendra Darda at Raj Bhavan, Mumbai.

- The book is a compilation of selected Facebook posts of Rajendra Darda pertaining to a range of issues written over the last four years.
- Maharashtra's Minister for Revenue Balasaheb Thorat, Minister of Public Works Ashok Chavan, Minister of Water Resources Jayant Patil, Chairman of Lokmat Media Group Vijay Darda, Rajendra Darda and invitees were present on the occasion.

Sonu Sood's autobiography to be titled 'I Am No Messiah'

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.
- The book will feature the stories he heard and his interactions with the migrants and others.

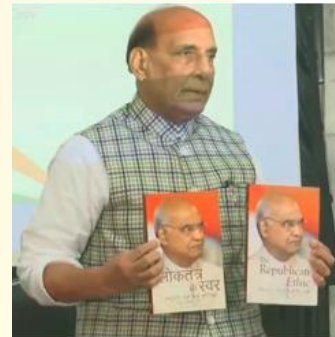
Book on Gulzar "Boskiyana" by Radhakrishna Prakashan



'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.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveils two books consisting of selected speeches of President

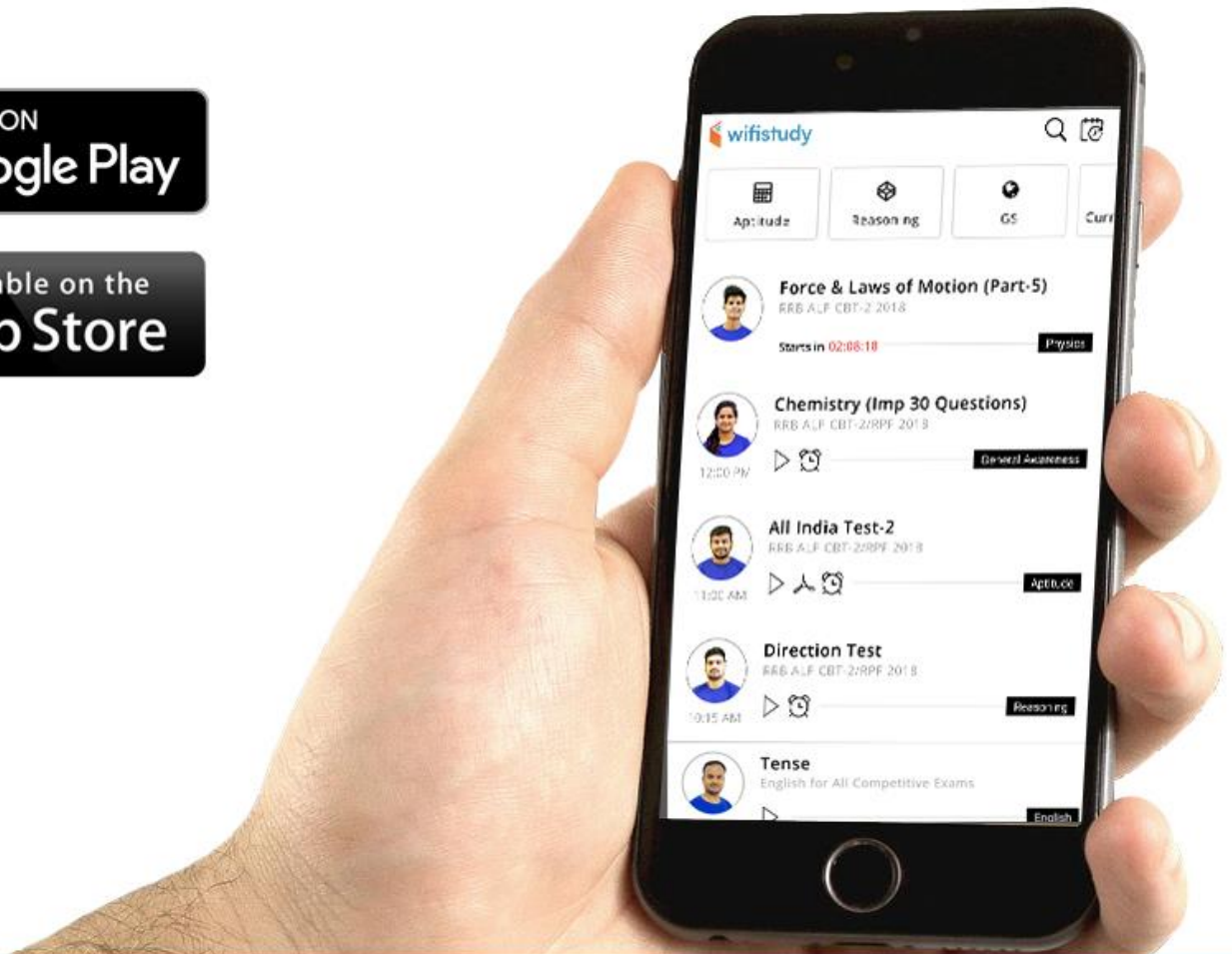


Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled two books 'The Republican Ethic Volume III' and 'Loktantra Ke Swar' which are collections of selected speeches of President Ram Nath Kovind.

- Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar unveiled the e-book versions of the two books.
- This book comprises speeches on the country's efforts to fight COVID19, where India is faring much better than other countries, to bravely defending its borders.



- Watch Videos
- Practise Quizzes
- Performance Analysis



www.wifistudy.com