

Weekly Current Affairs

22 Nov-28 Nov 2020

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NATIONAL NEWS

1.First meeting of ‘cow cabinet’ to be held in Madhya Pradesh

- In Madhya Pradesh, the first meeting of the cow cabinet made for the promotion and conservation of cows in the state will be held today.
- Chief Minister Shivraj Singh will virtually join the meeting from Bhopal.
- At the same time, 14 experts from all over the country will join this meeting from Gau Sanctuary located in Salaria of Agar Malwa district.
- AIR correspondent reports, the Chief Minister will visit the cow sanctuary after the cabinet meeting.
- He will hold detailed discussions regarding the protection and promotion of cows with prominent experts. Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Forest, Revenue, Panchayat, and Rural Development and Home Department have been included in this cabinet.

2.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 Namgyal while inaugurating the 12 Solar Roof Top 5 Kw Power Plants in different hamlets of Kanoor Village funded and provided by former Chairman J&K Legislative Council and MLC Kargil Haji Anayat Ali from his Constituency funds and implemented by Kargil Renewable Energy Development Agency (KREDA).
- Besides this in this 200 household village, KREDA has installed 22 PolyCarbonate Green Houses, 18 solar water heaters and are planning to provide benefit to the villagers from other schemes to fulfill the demand of Renewable Village.

3. Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla to pay official visit to Nepal on Nov 26

- Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla will pay an official visit to Nepal on 26th of this month.
- This will be the first visit of the Foreign Secretary to Nepal since he assumed charge.
- External Affairs Ministry said 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.

4.Cabinet Secretary chairs NCMC meeting to review status of impending cyclone in Bay of Bengal

- Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba today chaired a meeting of the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) to review the status of impending cyclone with the Chief Secretaries of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry through video conferencing.
- The Chief Secretaries of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry briefed the NCMC about their preparedness. They mentioned that the authorities are fully prepared to meet any eventuality. They also informed about the coordination with the NDRF and other agencies to meet this challenge
- India Meteorological Department Director General, Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, made a presentation on the present situation and mentioned that the status is being shared with the concerned State Governments. He said, the impending cyclone is going to affect coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry in coming three days.

5. Indian Oil signed MoU with MoPNG for upcoming CBG Plants

- Indian Oil signed MoU with MoPNG for upcoming CBG Plants – An MoU has been signed with the Ministry of Petroleum and gas by the Indian Oil R&D Centre has developed robust technology on Bio-methanation, Government of India as a technology provider for the upcoming CBG Plants.
- This would help to reduce import dependence, create employment & reduce pollution as Production of CBG would increase the green energy mix and also will help in realizing Hon'ble PM's vision of boosting farmers' income mentioned Chairman of IOCL Shri Shrikant Madhav Vaidya while the signing of MOU with Petroleum Ministry for CBG projects.
- Indian Oil is that the first company to plug Compressed Bio-Gas from 10 shops spread across Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat, under the name Indi Green.

6.Country's first moss garden comes up in Uttarakhand's Nainital district

- Uttarakhand's first moss garden was inaugurated by Magsaysay Award-winner Rajendra Singh, also known as the 'Waterman of India', near Khurpatal (lake) in Nainital district on Friday.
- The garden, that houses around 30 different species of mosses — including two which are in red (endangered) list of IUCN — also has a 1.2-km-long moss trail.
- The two endangered species in the garden are — Hyophila involuta (cement moss) and Brachythecium buchananii. The objective behind developing the garden is to conserve various species of moss and other bryophytes and to make people aware of its environmental and ecological significance.

7. Education Minister inaugurates 46 online ATAL Faculty Development Programmes

- Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' today inaugurated 46 online AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs) to train teachers of higher education institutions. The FDPs will be conducted in 22 Indian states. On the occasion, Mr. Pokhriyal said, in the year 2020-21, new thrust areas in the field of Engineering, Management, Life Skills, Design and Media have been incorporated.
- The online Faculty Development Programmes will be conducted according to the new National Education Policy -2020. The Education Minister also informed that the London-based organization has recognized the FDPs as a world record, under which 1,000 online FDPs in over 100 emerging areas will benefit one lakh faculty members across premier institutions like IITs, NITs, and IIITs. This year the online FDP program will cost 10 crore rupees.

8.UP govt passes ordinance to ban unlawful religious conversions for marriage

- 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 offense and can lead to imprisonment of a maximum of 10 years and a penalty of 50 thousand rupees.
- The Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion Ordinance, 2020, recommends 1-5 years imprisonment if an accused fails to prove that the conversion of the woman was not for marriage or by use of force, deceit, and allurement. The jail sentence for the offense would be 3-10 years if the woman is from the Scheduled cast, Scheduled Tribe community or is seen as part of mass conversion.

9.Nitin Gadkari inaugurates Highway projects worth over Rs 7400 Cr in Uttar Pradesh

- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of 16 National Highway projects worth 7477 crore rupees in Uttar Pradesh .
- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was also present at the virtual function. These road projects worth 505 kilometers will enhance better connectivity, convenience and economic growth in the state.
- Speaking on the occasion, Mr Gadkari said that National Highways works worth two lakh crore rupees are being undertaken in UP. Thanking the Central government, the Chief Minister said that National Highways works

done in the state in the last 6 years is more than what was done in 65 years after independence

10. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu calls for mass movement to promote digital literacy

- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu today called for a mass movement to promote digital literacy in the country. Virtually launching Adi Shankara Digital Academy at Kaladi in Kerala, the birthplace of Adi Shankaracharya, Mr Naidu said that information is the main commodity in the present day knowledge society and whoever has quick access to information has the advantage.
- The Vice President said, Online classes facilitate better teacher-student interaction through chat groups, video meetings, voting and document sharing, but it cannot replace the personal touch and warmth of a classroom.
- Calling for putting in place an equitable digital ecosystem in the country, the Vice President said the Governments and private sector need to work on appropriate models for collective effort to enable a digital India which gives every citizen her or his due

INTERNATIONAL NEWS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. India becomes the only country to achieve 2°C goals under the Paris Agreement among all G20 nations

- Union Minister Prakash Javadekar today said India is the only country on track to achieve the 2°C goals under the Paris Agreement among all the G20 nations.
- In a tweet, Mr Javadekar said India is walking the talk on climate change. He added that the 2°C goal aims to keep the global temperature rise below 2°C from pre-industrial levels by 2100.

2. Four Indian-Americans among 32 students chosen from the US as Rhodes Scholars

- Four Indian-Americans are among the 32 students chosen from the US as Rhodes Scholars virtually this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The diverse group, that won scholarships to the Oxford University in England, comprises immigrants and students of colour.
- American Secretary of the Rhodes Trust Elliot Gerson announced the names of the 32 Americans chosen as Rhodes Scholars representing the US on Sunday.
- The four Indian-American students include Swathi R Srinivasan, Vijayasundaram Ramasamy, Garima P Desai and Savarni Sanka.

3. India International Cherry Blossom Festival in Shillong canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic

- India International Cherry Blossom Festival, the event of Meghalaya which attracts record number of tourists annually in Shillong, has been cancelled this year due to the 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.
- But people of Meghalaya celebrate festivals through virtual mode. The beautiful hill station Shillong in Meghalaya has turned pink with blooming cherry blossoms.
- Every year, the Cherry Blossom Festival in Shillong hosts a plethora of events like fitness art, fashion show, rock concerts and much more.



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4. India to host G20 summit in 2023

- G20 leaders announced on Sunday that India will host the summit of the high-profile grouping in 2023 — a year later than what was decided earlier.
- India was earlier slated to host the summit in 2022 with the Osaka declaration of the G20 stating last year that "we look forward to meeting again in Saudi Arabia in 2020, in Italy in 2021 and in India in 2022".
- "We thank Saudi Arabia for hosting a successful Riyadh Summit and its contribution to the G20 process. We look forward to our next meetings in Italy in 2021, Indonesia in 2022, India in 2023, and Brazil in 2024," the G20 Riyadh Summit Leaders Declaration said.

- On India now hosting the summit in 2023, a source said, "The order of the rotating presidency is decided among member states on the basis of consultations and mutual convenience."

5. High Commission of India organizes art exhibition in Dhaka

- A group art-exhibition was inaugurated in Dhaka to pay tribute to the Bangladesh Father of Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. It has been organized by the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre of the High Commission of India in association with the Bangladesh Shilpa Kala Academy. Education Minister Dipu Moni has inaugurated the exhibition as Chief Guest of the function.
- The exhibition is curated by eminent curator Ripon Saha. It features artwork by 12 well known Bangladeshi painters like Abdul Mannan, Md. Muniruzzaman, Syeda Mahbuba Karim Mimi, Quader Bhuyan, and others working in different media.
- Paying tribute to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman during the inaugural ceremony, High Commissioner of India Vikram Doraiswami called him one of the greatest sons of South Asia and among the greatest statesmen of the last century.

6. National Security Advisor Ajit Doval to visit Colombo on November 27

- National Security Adviser Ajit Doval will be in Colombo on Friday for trilateral discussions among India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives.
- Maldivian Defence Minister Mariya Ahmed Didi will also travel to Colombo, while the Sri Lankan side will be represented at the highest levels by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa
- This is Mr. Doval's second official visit to Sri Lanka this year. He was here in January — on the heels of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's resounding election victory last year and New Delhi visit soon after — and held discussions on strengthening military ties and countering a "debt trap", with the Sri Lankan leadership

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

- China today 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.
- Chinese Foreign Ministry today said, the upcoming meeting of heads of govt is an important event under the SCO framework this year. Premier Li Keqiang and other leaders will hold in-depth communication and exchange

at the meeting, on deepening SCO cooperation amid the pandemic and formulate more practical measures to push national economic recovery to promote faster and better development of SCO.

8. Foreign Secretary Shringla and Nepalese leaders discuss boundary issues

- Foreign Secretary Harshvardhan Shringla met his Nepalese counterpart Bharat Paudyal and discussed various aspects of Nepal-India bilateral relations. During their meeting, the two Foreign Secretaries discussed and reviewed various aspects of the bilateral ties between the two countries.
- Foreign Secretary Shringla called on President Bidya Devi Bhandari and conveyed greetings on behalf of the President of India. They discussed the close relationship between both countries and ways to further strengthen it.
- During his call on Prime Minister of Nepal KP Sharma Oli, Mr Shringla conveyed greetings of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mr Shringla apprised the Prime Minister of his productive meetings with Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali and Foreign Secretary Bharat Raj Paudyal.

9. Scotland becomes 1st nation to make sanitary products free

- Scottish parliament has passed landmark legislation that made period products like sanitary pads and tampons free of cost to those people who need them
- Bill is titled as ‘Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Bill’ and was passed unanimously, making Scotland the first country to take such a step.
- Aim: Tackling period poverty and ending the silence and stigma

10. India signs MoU with Finland for Environment and biodiversity conservation

- India signed MoU with Finland for developing cooperation in the field of Environment protection and biodiversity conservation.
- MoU will advance both nation's partnership and support, exchange best practices in areas like prevention of Air and water pollution; Waste management; Promotion of circular economy, low-carbon solutions and sustainable management of natural resources including forests; Climate change; Conservation of Marine and Coastal Resources; etc

New Appointments and Person in News

1. Indian-American Mala Adiga appointed as policy director of Joe Biden's wife Jill Biden

- US President-elect Joe Biden has appointed an Indian-American Mala Adiga, as the policy director of his wife Jill Biden, who will be the first lady.

- Adiga has served as a senior advisor to Jill and a senior policy advisor on the Biden-Kamala Harris campaign.
- Previously, Adiga was director for Higher Education and Military Families at the Biden Foundation.
- During former President Barack Obama's administration, Adiga served as the deputy assistant secretary of state for Academic Programs at the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

2. .New Zealand's Greg Barclay elected as the new chairman of International Cricket Council

- 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.
- In the first round of voting last week, Barclay had 10 votes to Khwaja's six and needed 11 votes for a two-thirds majority of the 16-person ICC Board. That vote arrived from Cricket South Africa in the second round of voting. Barclay is the second independent chairman of the world body, after Shashank Manohar of India.

BANKING

1. Karnataka aims at \$50 billion bio-economy by 2025

- Karnataka aims to become a USD 50-billion bio-economy by 2025 from its present estimated USD 22.6 billion, according to a report released here on Friday. The first Karnataka bio-economy report (KBER) 2020 was launched at the ongoing Bengaluru Tech Summit 2020, an event, presided over by Deputy Chief Minister of the state C N Ashwath Narayan and chairperson of Vision Group on Biotechnology and Biocon Limited chief Kiran Mazumdar Shaw among others.
- Karnataka is the first state in the country to measure the impact of the biotechnology industry, its products, and services on its economy, the report said. The report estimates that the states bio-economy size is at USD 22.6 billion (Rs 1,67,240 crores) and growing.

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

- Union Cabinet on Wednesday 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 crores into LVB.

- The central bank on 17 November placed Lakshmi Vilas Bank under a one-month moratorium, superseded its board, and capped withdrawals at ₹25,000 per depositor. "With the merger, there will no further restrictions on the depositors regarding the withdrawal of their deposit," Union minister Prakash Javadekar said.

3. 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 in the scheme. The maximum age limit will be 50 years for Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana.
- A fixed sum of Rs 2 lakh upon the death of the insured member payable to the nominee.
- Customers need to pay a premium of Rs 330 per annum.

4. UNDP and 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.
- Speaking on the occasion, Deepak Bagla, CEO of Invest India said, India occupies a key role in determining the success of the SDGs, globally. Shoko Noda, Resident Representative of UNDP India said, Investing in the SDGs is crucial to 'Building Back Better' and making the economy and our societies more resilient and sustainable.

Books and Awards

1. Malayalam film 'Jallikattu' is India's official entry for the Oscars

- Jallikattu, a Malayalam film about a hunt for a bull on the run, is India's entry to the Oscars in 2021. Named for the controversial traditional bull-taming sport, the film has been directed by Lijo Jose Pellissery. Starring Antony Varghese, Chemban Vinod Jose, Sabumon Abdusamad, and Santhy

Balachandran, it tells the story of a bull that escapes a slaughterhouse in a remote village in Idukki, Kerala as villagers try to hunt it down.

- Released in Kerala in October 2019, Jallikattu was premiered at the 2019 Toronto International Film Festival and the Busan International Film Festival in South Korea, where it received critical acclaim. Pellissery won the best director award at the 50th International Film Festival of India for the film.

SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE

1.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 the 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.

2.2-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 of this month.
- Addressing media in New Delhi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said that the theme of this year's conference is Harmonious Coordination of Legislative, Executive, and Judiciary - Key to a Vibrant Democracy.
- He said President Ram Nath Kovind will inaugurate the two-day conference. He said it is our collective efforts to maintain the constitutional sanctity which is very important for mutual co-existence between the three organs of governance and the sustenance of democracy in the country.

3.Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurates mobile COVID-19 RT-PCR Lab at ICMR in New Delhi

- Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated a mobile COVID-19 RT-PCR Lab at the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in New Delhi on Monday.
- It has been jointly developed by Spice Health and the ICMR.
- This testing lab and more such labs which are planned to be set up will help in adding more capacity to COVID-19 testing.
- The lab is accredited by NABL and approved by the ICMR.
- These tests will be free of cost for the people. This initiative is a step in making COVID-19 testing affordable and more accessible to the common person.
- The test report would be available within 6 to 8 hours from the time of sample collection compared to the average 24 to 48 hours taken by similar test reports.

4.Indian Navy to host 27th edition of India - Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise SIMBEX-20 from tomorrow

- Indian Navy is scheduled to host the 27th edition of India - Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise SIMBEX-20 from tomorrow in the Andaman Sea. It will continue till the 25th of this month.
- The SIMBEX series of exercises between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy, being conducted annually since 1994, are aimed at enhancing mutual inter-operability and imbibing best practices from each other. The scope and complexity of these exercises have increased steadily over the past two decades to include advanced naval drills covering a wide spectrum of maritime operations.
- The 2020 edition of SIMBEX will witness participation by Indian Navy ships including destroyer Rana with integral Chetak helicopter and indigenously built corvettes Kamorta and Karmuk. According to the Ministry of Defence, the exercise, being conducted as a 'non-contact, at sea only' exercise in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, highlights the high degree of mutual trust and confidence, synergy, and cooperation in the maritime domain between the two friendly navies and maritime neighbors. SIMBEX-20 will witness the two friendly navies participate in advanced surface, anti-air warfare, and anti-submarine warfare exercises including weapon firings, over three days of intensive joint operations at sea.

5.Govt to replace safeguard duty with the customs duty to protect local manufactures of solar equipment

- Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy, R K Singh said that India is going to replace the safeguard duty with the customs duty to protect the local manufactures of solar equipment. He said some countries are dumping solar equipment at very low prices in the country to destroy local manufactures.

- India wants to expand its export base in the solar energy sector like wind energy wherein the country is not only self-sufficient but also an exporter. He said India has the maximum growth and demand of renewable energy as per capita energy consumption is very low in the country.
- Talking about the production linked incentive scheme to boost the local manufacturing sector, the Minister said, this scheme will further accelerate the manufacturing.


6.CCIM issues notification to streamline provisions of regulations concerning Post Graduate Ayurveda Education

- Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM), the statutory body that regulates the Indian Medical systems of Ayurveda, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Unani Medicine has issued a notification to streamline some of the provisions of the regulations concerning Post Graduate Ayurveda Education. The notification has added clarity and definition.
- The notification relates to the Shalya and Shalakya streams of Post Graduate Education in Ayurveda. It specifies a total of 58 surgical procedures that PG scholars of these streams need to be practically trained in so as to enable them to independently perform the said activities after completion of their PG Degree. Shalya and Shalakya are independent Departments in Ayurveda colleges, performing such surgical procedures.

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7.India announces the launch of Phase-IV of High Impact Community development projects in Afghanistan

- India has announced the launch of Phase-IV of the High Impact Community Development Projects in Afghanistan. It envisages more than 100 projects worth 80 million dollars that India would undertake in Afghanistan. External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar said this during the 2020 Afghanistan Conference organized in Geneva through video-conference.

The two-day conference began yesterday and was co-hosted by the United Nations, the Government of Afghanistan, and the Government of Finland.

- Dr. Jaishankar also announced that India had just concluded with Afghanistan an agreement for the construction of the Shatoot dam, which would provide safe drinking water to two million residents of Kabul city. He said, India had earlier built the 202-kilometer Phul-e-Khumri transmission line that provided electricity to Kabul city.

8.Indian Navy gets 9th P-8I anti-submarine warfare aircraft ordered from the US

- Amid the standoff with China in eastern Ladakh, the Indian Navy Wednesday got its ninth P-8I long-range maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare aircraft, part of the nearly \$1 billion deal with the US for four additional planes signed in 2016.
- India, which had first signed a contract for eight such aircraft in 2009, is also negotiating a deal for six more P-8Is with the US under the government-to-government route.
- Incidentally, the aircraft, the latest of which landed at INS Hansa in Goa early Wednesday morning, is also being used by India in Ladakh for surveillance besides the Indian Ocean Region. It was deployed during the 2017 Doklam standoff as well.
- The Indian Navy has been put on complete operational alert and almost its entire Western and Eastern Fleet are out in the Indian Ocean Region as part of India's response to Chinese aggression.

9.Ravi Shankar Prasad launches an 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 the UMANG's international version in coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs for select countries that include the USA, UK, Canada, Australia, UAE, Netherlands, Singapore, Australia, and New Zealand. It will help Indian international students, NRIs, and Indian tourists abroad, to avail of Government of India services, anytime. It will also help in taking India to the world through 'Indian Culture' services available on UMANG and create interest amongst foreign tourists to visit India.
- The international version of the UMANG App can be downloaded from the Play Store of specific countries. The Union Minister also launched an e-Book which presents major milestones of UMANG and major services available on the UMANG App classified into various categories.

10. Tribes India launches more new Socially Impactful, Immunity boosting products

- Tribes India is continuing with making its product offerings more attractive to its customers, and at the same time helping millions of tribal enterprises get larger markets. Keeping this as the objective, over the last month, Tribes India has included many new products (mainly immunity-boosting products and produce in the Forest Fresh and Organics range). This week, Tribes India has now added more new products to its offering. The highlight is Saheli, the eco-friendly sanitary pads made by the Vasavatribals under the Gram Sangathan Kambodiya in Gujarat. Tribes India is partnering with them to distribute these sanitary pads across the country.
- The new products fall under the Forest Fresh Naturals and organics range and also some of these will make excellent gifting and decoration options as well.
- All the new products introduced in the past few weeks are available in Tribes India outlets, Tribes India mobile vans, and also on online platforms such as the Tribes India E-marketplace (tribesindia.com) and e-tailers.
- Speaking on the occasion, Shri Pravir Krishna, MD, TRIFED said, “Tribes India is continuing in its mission to impact and transform tribal lives and improve their livelihoods. The highlight of today’s launch is the eco-friendly, sustainable sanitary pads made by the Vasavatribals in Gujarat that are being supplied by Gram Sangathan Cambodia. In order to give a boost to this impactful and relevant work, Trifed will be distributing these economical pads.”

11. China launches historic Change 5 mission to collect the first moon samples since 1976

- China's robotic Change 5 mission launched from Wenchang Space Launch Center in Hainan province, rising into the sky atop a Long March 5 rocket at about 3:30 p.m. EST (2130 GMT; 4:30 a.m. on Nov. 24 local time in Hainan).
- If all goes according to plan, the bold and complex Change 5 will haul pristine moon samples back to Earth in mid-December — something that hasn't been done since the Soviet Union's Luna 24 mission in 1976.

12. President Kovind inaugurates All India Presiding Officers' Conference in Gujarat

- President Ram Nath Kovind has said that the biggest challenge before the public representatives and democratic institutions is to meet the expectations of the public.
- Inaugurating the 80th All India conference of the presiding officers at Kevadia in Gujarat, he said it is expected from the public representatives that they always remain honest towards the principles of democracy.

- President Kovind expressed happiness that this conference is being held at the statue of unity- the world's tallest statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

13.India successfully test-fires land-attack version of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile

- India on Tuesday "successfully" test-fired the surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile BrahMos as part of a series of planned trials of the weapon, known for its precision strike capabilities.
- The range of the new land-attack version of the missile has been extended to 400 km from the original 290 km but its speed has been maintained at 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound

14.NDA nominee Vijay Kumar Sinha elected as Bihar Assembly Speaker

- Senior BJP leader and NDA nominee Vijay Kumar Sinha was today elected as the new speaker of the Bihar Assembly. Protem Speaker Jitan Ram Manjhi announced the election result of the Assembly speaker. Mr. Manjhi said Vijay Kumar Sinha got 126 votes while Grand Alliance candidate Awadh Bihari Choudhary got 114 votes.
- Newly elected Assembly Speaker Vijay Kumar Sinha is a four-time MLA from the Lakhisarai constituency. In the previous Nitish Kumar-led government, Mr Sinha was Labour Minister.

15.PM Modi inaugurated RE-INVEST 2020 summit on 26 November

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 3rd Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST 2020) today. During the three-day virtual conference, all the leading companies displayed their latest technological development in the field of renewable energy and discuss various options available for the energy transition.
- Energy Ministers of 75 countries and 200 eminent speakers took part in the event. The summit is organized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. It aims to accelerate the worldwide effort to scale up the development and deployment of renewable energy and connect the global investment community with Indian energy stakeholders. The theme for RE-Invest 2020 is 'Innovations for Sustainable Energy Transition'.

16.Railway launches digitised online Human Resource Management System (HRMS)

- Indian Railway has rolled out fully digitized online Human Resource Management System (HRMS) to improve efficiency and productivity of Railway system
- HRMS: High thrust project for Indian Railways to leverage improved productivity & employee satisfaction.

- This will create a big impact on the functioning of all the employees, making them more tech savvy.
- HRMS comprises of: Employee Self Service (ESS) module, Provident Fund (PF) Advance module, Settlement module

SPORTS

1.Spain's Rafael Nadal beat defending champion Stefanos Tsitsipas to qualify for Semi finals of ATP Finals

- In Tennis, Spain's Rafael Nadal beat defending champion Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4 4-6 6-2 to qualify for the Semifinals of ATP Finals in London. The last round-robin match in the London Group had become a straight knockout with both the players having lost to Dominic Thiem and beaten Andrey Rublev earlier.
- Nadal will now face Daniil Medvedev in the semi-finals with the Russian already assured of the top spot in the Tokyo Group. World number one Novak Djokovic will play Alexander Zverev later today, with the winner to play Thiem in the other semi-final

2.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 last night.
- Thiem was denied the title second year in a row.
- In the doubles final, Dutch-Croatian duo Wesley Koolhof and Nikola Pietrangeli claimed their first title together edging Jurgen Melzer and Edouard Roger-Vasselin 6-2, 3-6, 10-5.

3. Kiren Rijiju launches 2nd edition of ‘Fit India School Week’ program

- Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has launched the second edition of the Fit India School Week program. During the launch ceremony yesterday, Mr. Rijiju spoke about the importance of fitness in school life and said students are the driving force behind making India fit.
- The Minister said he is happy to see that so many schools have registered for Fit India School Week and the numbers are increasing day by day. He said this helps in achieving the target to make every Indian fit as the energy for it is generated from these schools itself.
- The Fit India School week program was launched in November last year and saw participation from over 15 thousand schools across the country.

4.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.

OBITUARIES

1. Former CM of Assam Tarun Gogoi passes away at 86

- Former Chief Minister of Assam Tarun Gogoi passed away on Monday evening in Guwahati. He was undergoing treatment for the past few days in Gauhati medical college and hospital following post COVID-19 complications. He was 86.
- 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. Prior to becoming Chief Minister, Tarun Gogoi served as Union Minister. He represented Jorhat and Kaliabor constituencies in Lok Sabha. Mr. Gogoi also served in various capacities in the Congress party.
- President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have condoled the death of former Assam chief minister Tarun Gogoi. In a message, Mr Kovind said the country has lost a veteran leader with rich political and administrative experience. Mr Kovind said Tarun Gogoi's long tenure in office was a period of epochal change in Assam.

2. PM Modi pays tribute to prominent leader Sir Chhotu Ram on his birth anniversary

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to prominent leader Sir Chhotu Ram on his birth anniversary today.
- He said, Sir Chhotu Ram dedicated his life to public service and farmer welfare and fought for the rights of the food givers of the country.
- Mr. Modi said, Sir Chhotu Ram became the voice of the workers, the deprived, and the exploited, and his contribution towards the upliftment of society will always remain unforgettable.

3. Senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel passes away after battling COVID-19

- Senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel died at a Gurgaon hospital on Wednesday morning. He was 71. The veteran politician had been at a private hospital since his health worsened after a Covid infection.
- President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have expressed grief over the demise of the veteran Congress leader Ahmed Patel.

4. Legendary Argentine footballer Diego Maradona passes away due to cardiac arrest

- Legendary Argentine footballer, Diego Maradona, widely regarded among the greatest football players of all time passed away yesterday following a heart attack. The 60-year-old had been hospitalized at the start of November, days after celebrating his birthday. Maradona was hospitalized after he complained of regularly being fatigued. His tests at the La Plata clinic revealed a blood clot in Maradona's brain, which doctors later revealed was operated on successfully.
- 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.

5. Former Sudan Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi dies of COVID-19

- Sadiq al-Mahdi, Sudan's last democratically elected prime minister and leader of the country's largest political party, died of COVID-19 Thursday in a hospital in the United Arab Emirates, his party said. He was 84
- Al-Mahdi was taken to Abu Dhabi for treatment in early November. His body was expected to arrive in Sudan for burial Friday morning, the National Ummah Party tweeted. It had announced al-Mahdi tested positive for the coronavirus on Oct. 29.
- Al-Mahdi was overthrown in a 1989 Islamist-backed coup that brought longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir to power. Al-Mahdi's party allied with Sudan's pro-democracy uprising that led the military to overthrow al-Bashir in April 2019.
- Al-Mahdi was born in December 1935 in Khartoum's sister city of Omdurman. He was the great-grandson of Mohammad Ahmad al-Mahdi, a religious leader whose movement waged a successful war against Egyptian-Ottoman rule in Sudan in the second half of the 19th century

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. National Cadet Corps 72nd Raising Day: 22 November 2020

- National Cadet Corps (NCC), the largest uniformed youth organization 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 immunization 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.

2. AAI observes Aviation Safety Awareness Week 2020

- Airports Authority of India (AAI) commenced Aviation Safety Awareness Week 2020 (23rd November to 27th November 2020). The week-long celebration is being observed at all airports and ANS locations managed by AAI across India.
- Shri Arvind Singh, Chairman, AAI, requested all Regional Executive Directors & Airport Directors to be proactive and to devote time personally for monitoring the safety performance of their respective region/station.
- To raise awareness on Aviation Safety, AAI will undertake various employee engagement programs at the airports and ANS stations like reviewing documents and facilities, Mock exercises, preventive maintenance, etc. Various social campaigns too will be rolled out to raise awareness on the issue. Banners and posters are being displayed across AAI offices and operational centers to educate both external and internal stakeholders on the significance of the Safety Awareness Week

3. International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women: 25 November

- The countries across the world are today observing International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. An initiative of the United Nations General Assembly, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is a global advocacy effort aimed at preventing and eliminating the instances of violence in all forms against women.
- The theme for International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women this year is “Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect”. The primary focus is on bridging the funding gaps to ensure essential services for the survivors of violence during the ongoing pandemic. A 16-

day campaign will be launched today which will conclude on the 10th of December, the International Human Rights Day.

4. National Milk Day 2020 is observed on 26 November

- National Milk Day is celebrated on 26 November to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien, the father of India's White Revolution
- The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), the Indian Dairy Association (IDA), and 22 state-level milk federations in 2014 together decided to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Verghese Kurien who was known as the father of India's White Revolution on 26 November. Therefore, the first National Milk Day was observed on 26 November 2014
- In 1970, India's National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) started a rural development program known as Operation Flood. It is one of the largest programs and its aim was to develop a nationwide milk grid. It helps in reducing the malpractices by milk traders and merchants and resulted in making India one of the largest producers of milk and milk products. Therefore, it is also known as the White Revolution.
- At that time the chairman of NDDB 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.

5. Constitution Day celebrated across the country on 26th November

- President Ram Nath Kovind led the nation in community reading of the Preamble to the Constitution of India today, on the occasion of the Constitution Day. The President read the Preamble from Rashtrapati Bhavan which was live telecast by Doordarshan and joined by the people across the nation. It was also screened live at Kevadia, Gujarat, where all participants of the 80th All India Presiding Officers' Conference read out the Preamble along with the President.
- Constitution Day is being celebrated today across the country to mark the adoption of the Indian Constitution by the Constituent Assembly. The day is also known as National Law Day and commemorates the adoption of the Constitution in India. On 26th November in 1949, the Constituent Assembly of the country formally adopted the Constitution of India which came into force on 26th January 1950.

6. Films Division to showcase 'Lok Virasat' festival of films on folk art & painting from 27th November

- Films Division will showcase 'Lok Virasat' a festival of films on folk art and painting starting from today on its website and YouTube Channel.
- As part of 'art-outreach' initiative, Films Division has been presenting select package of films on Indian art and heritage as curated online festivals during the last few months. After the overwhelming response to Raagotsav

and Nrityanjali, festivals focusing on Indian classical music and dance respectively, an exclusive bouquet of documentary films on folk art and paintings - Lok Virasat - is being showcased, between Friday and Sunday.

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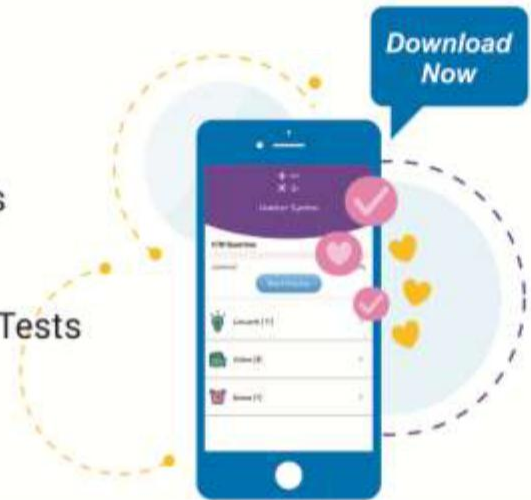
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