

Weekly Current Affairs

IBT Institute Pvt. Ltd.

27 December –2 January, 2020

make  exam

Download India's #1 Competitive Exam Prep. App



www.makemyexam.in



support@makemyexam.in

NATIONAL NEW

1. Madhya Pradesh cabinet approves Dharma Swatantrya (Religious Freedom) Bill 2020

- The Madhya Pradesh cabinet approved the Dharma Swatantrya (Religious Freedom) Bill 2020. Under the provisions of the bill, forced conversion of a woman will be punishable for a term up to 10 years and minimum fine of Rs 50,000.
- Specific provisions are also made in the cases of religious conversion of minors, groups, or of those belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Blood relatives, including parents of victims of such religious conversion, can file complaints under the proposed Act.

2. Road Transport and Highways Ministry extends validity of vehicular documents like DLs, RCs, Permits etc till 31st March 2021

- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has extended the validity of vehicular documents like DLs, RCs, Permits etc till 31st March 2021 in the light of need to prevent spread of COVID -19. The Ministry had issued a directory to the States and Union Territory administrations in this regard.
- The Ministry had earlier issued advisories on 30th March, 9th June and 24th August this year regarding extension of validity of documents related to Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989. It was advised that the validity of Fitness, Permit (all types), License, Registration or any other concerned documents may be treated to be valid till 31st December this year.

3. Dry run of Covid-19 vaccination starts in 4 states amid new virus strain scare

- A dry run of the Covid-19 vaccination programme held in four states to test the planned operations and the laid-out mechanisms for the coronavirus inoculation drive.
- The dry runs carried out on 28 December and 29 December in Punjab, Assam, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat, day after recording the lowest daily Covid-19 cases in nearly six months.

4. UP Govt to include history of Sikh gurus in school curriculum

- The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to include the history of Sikh gurus in the school curriculum in the state.
- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also announced that 27th of December will be celebrated every year as Sahibzada Diwas in all schools of state.

- The Chief Minister said this at a Gurbani Kirtan held at his residence on the occasion of 'Sahibzada Diwas'.
- The Chief Minister said that the Sikh society is known for its hard work. The Sikh gurus sacrificed their lives to defend the Hindu religion. The country will always remember this.

5. Maharashtra's Jawhar earns tag of mini-Mahabaleshwar for cultivating strawberry

- In Maharashtra, the predominantly tribal areas of Jawhar and Mokhada are known for issues such as malnutrition among children, unemployment and illiteracy, among others.
- As part of traditional farming, the farmers have been engaged in producing Paddy and Ragi or the foxtail millet. Moving away from producing these crops, the farmers have now started cultivating strawberry, which is mainly grown in Mahabaleshwar, a famous hill station in the state. With cultivation of strawberry, Jawhar has earned the tag of being called as mini-Mahabaleshwar.

6. PM Modi inaugurated New Bhaupur-New Khurja section of eastern freight corridor on Dec 29

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'New Bhaupur - New Khurja section' of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) on December 29 at 11 am via video conferencing.
- According to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Modi also inaugurated EDFC's Operation Control Centre (OCC) at Prayagraj. Governor of Uttar Pradesh Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath and Union Minister Piyush Goyal also be present on the occasion.
- The 351 km New Bhaupur - New Khurja section of EDFC is situated in Uttar Pradesh and is built at a cost of Rs 5,750 crores.

7. PM Modi inaugurates country's first ever driverless metro train in Delhi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stressed that rapid urbanisation must be seen as an opportunity rather than as a challenge.
- He said, this opportunity can provide the platform to build better infrastructure in the country and improving the ease of living.
- Mr. Modi flagged off India's first ever driverless train operations on Delhi Metro's Magenta Line which will connect Janakpuri West to Botanical Garden metro stations.
- He also inaugurated the fully operational National Common Mobility Card service on the Airport Express Line.
- The National Common Mobility Card will enable the passengers to travel on the Airport Express Line using the RuPay-Debit Card issued from any part of the country.

8. Home Minister Amit Shah unveils statue of Arun Jaitley & pays tribute to him at Arun Jaitley Stadium

- Home Minister Amit Shah unveiled a statue of Arun Jaitley and paid tributes to him at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, formerly known as the Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium, on the occasion of the late minister's 68th birth anniversary. Mr Shah said, Arun Jaitley was an outstanding Parliamentarian and excelled in many fields.
- The Home Minister said, Jaitley was an incredible person dedicated towards nation's progress. He was known for his sportsmanship spirit in political circle. He remained aggressive in his speeches, but never lowered the dignity of the Parliament.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today inaugurated a bust Mr Jaitley at the Arun Jaitley Park in New Delhi.



BANK & SSC LIVE COURSE
IBPS | SBI | RBI | CGL | CHSL | CPO | MTS

- ✓ 120+ Live Classes
- ✓ 100+ Mock Tests
- ✓ Daily Class Assignments
- ✓ Classes by IBT Expert

Starts from 21st Sep.

₹2800/-
~~₹7999/-~~

9. Delhi airport Terminal 3 gets passenger tracking system to manage movement, waiting time amid COVID-19

- The aircraft movement is currently being handled only by Terminals 2 and 3 of the Delhi due to reduced flight operations as compared to pre-COVID levels.
- Keeping in mind the threat from the coronavirus pandemic, Terminal 3 at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi has introduced a new passenger tracking system or PTS. According to a report by news agency PTI, the PTS would aid in better management of the flow of passengers, while also ensuring social distancing and reducing the waiting time. The terminal has introduced a queue management system called Xovis PTS which would display waiting time at various places like security check and check-in in real-time. This would be displayed on various screens set up

across the terminal, the report cited DIAL, the operator of the Delhi airport, as saying.

10. Centre lifts ban on export of all varieties of Onions

- The Centre had lifted the ban on the export of all varieties of Onions with effect from 1st January 2021.
- In a notification Directorate General of Foreign Trade, DGFT said, exports of all varieties of onion will be allowed.
- In September, the government had prohibited exports due to a spurt in prices.
- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) is the agency of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Government of India responsible for administering laws regarding foreign trade and foreign investment in India.

11. Union Territory of Ladakh gets its own meteorological centre

- A meteorological centre was inaugurated in the Union Territory of Ladakh which would provide localised weather forecasts thus strengthening weather-related early warning system for the region. At 3,500 metres, this meteorological centre is the highest such facility in India, Union Earth Sciences Minister Harsh Vardhan said at the inauguration of the facility.
- He said it will provide short range (three days,) medium range (12 days) and long range (one month) forecast for the two districts -- Leh and Kargil -- of the Union Territory.
- The region is unique in terms of weather, climate, culture, topography with extreme temperatures, ranging from minus 40 degrees Celsius in Drass to scanty average precipitation of 10 centimetres annually, which makes the region a distinct cold desert, he said.

12. Union health minister Harsh Vardhan launches India's first indigenously developed pneumococcal vaccine 'Pneumosil'

- Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurated India's first pneumococcal conjugate vaccine "Pneumosil", which has been developed by the Serum Institute of India Private Limited (SIIPL) in collaboration with partners like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- As per an official release, recognizing SIIPL as the world's largest manufacturer of vaccines by number of doses and its contribution to India's economy, Dr. Harsh Vardhan said that Serum Institute's vaccines are used in 170 countries and every third child in the world is immunized with the manufacturer's vaccine.

13. PM lay foundation stone of AIIMS at Rajkot on 31st December

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, AIIMS at Rajkot, Gujarat through video conferencing.
- For the project, 201 acres of land has been allotted. It will be built at an estimated cost One thousand One hundred 95 crore rupees and is expected to be completed by mid of 2022.
- The state-of-the-art 750 bed hospital will also have a 30 bed AAYUSH block. It will have 125 MBBS seats and 60 nursing seats.

14. India and Sri Lanka hold a meeting of Joint Working Group on Fisheries

- The Fourth Meeting of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Working Group on Fisheries was held through virtual mode.
- The meeting covered the entire gamut of issues related to fishermen and fishing boats which have been on the agenda of bilateral discussions between India and Sri Lanka for many years.
- It may be recalled that during the Virtual Bilateral Summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa held on 26 September this year, both leaders agreed to continue engagement to address the issues related to fishermen through regular consultation and bilateral channels.

15. Assam Assembly passed bill to abolish state-run Madrassas to convert them into schools

- A bill, seeking to abolish all state-run Madrassas and transform them into regular schools, had been passed by Assam Legislative Assembly on December 30.
- Assam Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma expressed his happiness over the passage of the bill and said that all Madrassas being run under the government stand converted into regular educational institutes with effect on April 1, 2021.
- "Glad that the Bill pertaining to repeal of Provincialisation of Madrassas has been passed, even as Assam Congress and AIUDF expectedly staged a walkout in Assembly. All Madrassas, being run under government, stand converted into regular educational institutes wef April 1, 2021," Sarma tweeted.

16. J&K UT Administration signed historic MoU with NAFED

- In Jammu and Kashmir, the Union Territory Administration signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), an apex organization of marketing cooperatives for agricultural produce.
- This MoU is seen as a game changer for the Horticulture sector in the Union Territory. High Density plantation of Apple, Walnut, Cherry, Flowers etc

has potential to increase the income of farmers by three to four times. After signing of the MoU, NAFED to cover 5,500 Hectares at a cost of Rs 1,700 crore in the next five years with major focus on Apple, Walnut, Cherry, Pear and other significant horticulture products.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. China orders Jack Ma's Ant Group to rectify businesses

- Chinese regulators have ordered Ant Group, the world's largest financial technology company, to rectify its businesses and comply with regulatory requirements amid increased scrutiny of anti-monopoly practices in the country's internet sector.
- The People's Bank of China, the country's central bank, summoned Ant executives and ordered them to formulate a rectification plan and an implementation timetable of its business, including its credit, insurance and wealth management services.

2. Japan bans entry from all countries to block new corona's strain spread

- Japan will suspend entry for foreigners to contain the spread of a new strain of COVID-19 first discovered in the UK.
- Japan registered its first cases of the new strain of the coronavirus.
- The country is also witnessing record daily infections of the original coronavirus.
- All Japanese nationals will be required to submit negative COVID-19 test results received within 72 hours before their departure from any country that has confirmed cases of the mutant virus.
- The entry ban will not apply to the businessmen and students from 10 countries, including Thailand, Vietnam, South Korea and Taiwan, with which Japan had reached an agreement regarding the issue.

3. Saudi Arabia to host Gulf Summit on January 5

- Saudi Arabia will host the 41st Gulf summit on January 5, 2021, in Riyadh, a state media report has confirmed.
- On Saturday, Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud requested the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Nayef Falah Al-Hajraf to invite the leaders of the member states.
- The GCC comprises Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar.
- Topping the agenda of the coming summit will be ending a dispute that erupted in 2017 between a Saudi-led quartet and Qatar, according to the sources.

4. International Blue Flag hoisted at 8 beaches across the Country.

- Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Prakash Javadekar virtually hoisted the international blue flags in 8 beaches across the country. India secured the International Blue Flag Certification for these beaches on 6th October 2020.
- Blue Flag certification is a globally recognised eco-label accorded by "Foundation for Environment Education in Denmark" based on 33 stringent criteria.
- The Environment Minister further informed that hundred more such beaches will be made Blue Flag in coming 3-4 years and highlighted that cleaning beaches needs to be made a “Jan Andolan” not only for its aesthetic value and tourism prospects, but more importantly towards reducing the menace of marine litter and making coastal environment sustainable.

5. Argentina became the first major country in Latin America to legalise abortion

- Argentina became the first major country in Latin America to legalize abortion when the Senate voted early to allow it through the 14th week of pregnancy, in the face of opposition from the influential Catholic Church.
- The fiercely contentious vote – passed with 38 in favor, 29 against and one abstention – came after a marathon debate that began at 4 p.m. .
- As the result was read out, a crowd of thousands erupted in cheers outside the Senate building in Buenos Aires, waving the green flags that represented their campaign as green smoke rose above the crowd.

6. Turkey, U.S. in talks to discuss sanctions imposed over Turkey's purchase of S-400s

- Turkey and the United States are engaged in talks to form a joint working group that would take up the issue of sanctions that Washington imposed on its ally over its purchase of an advanced Russian air defense system.
- In a year-end news conference assessing Turkish foreign policy, Mevlut Cavusoglu also told journalists that Turkey wants “healthier” relations with the United States under President-elect Joe Biden’s administration.
- The U.S. announced sanctions earlier this month to penalize Turkey over its procurement of Russia’s advanced S-400 system, under a U.S. law known as CAATSA which aims to push back on Russian influence. It was the first time that CAATSA had been used to penalize a U.S. ally.

New Appointments and Person in News

1. RLP convenor Hanuman Beniwal announced split from NDA over farm laws

- Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP) convenor and Nagaur MP Hanuman Beniwal announced a split from the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) over the Centre's new farm laws.
- On Friday, Beniwal had announced a march to Delhi in support of farmers organisations holding a protest against the contentious law.


2. Nitish Kumar stepped down as JD(U) president, hands over charge to RCP Singh

- Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar stepped down as national president of the Janata Dal (United) and handed over the reins of the party to former bureaucrat turned politician, R C P Singh.
- Singh, a second-term Rajya Sabha MP, is a close associate of Nitish Kumar and has been actively carrying on the JD (U) organizational work ever since he became an MP in 2010 after taking voluntary retirement from service that year. He was the general secretary of the party before his elevation as its president

BANK ALL EXAMS - BOOKS

**IBPS | SBI | RBI Bank
Pre & Main Exams**

9 Comprehensive Books



₹1350/-

3. Union health minister Harsh Vardhan nominated to board of vaccine alliance GAVI

- Union minister for health and family welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan was nominated by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) as a board member.
- “Dr Harsh Vardhan will be representing the South East Area Regional Office (SEARO)/Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) constituency on the GAVI Board. The seat is currently held by Mr MyintHtwe of Myanmar. Dr Harsh Vardhan will be representing India from 1st January 2021 until 31st December 2023,” Union health ministry said in a statement.

4. YES Bank appointed Niranjana Banodkar as new CFO, Adlakha to be new HR head

- Yes Bank promoted two key senior management personnel as the chief financial officer and head of human resources. Both the appointments effective from 1 January, the lender added.
- The private sector lender had promoted Niranjana Banodkar as the group chief financial officer (CFO) and Anurag Adlakha as the group chief human resources officer.
- The private sector lender has promoted Niranjana Banodkar as the group chief financial officer (CFO) and Anurag Adlakha as the group chief human resources officer.

5. UNDP and Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation to co-create India's first Social Impact Bond (SIB)

- Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) recently signed an MoU with UNDP India to co-create India's first Social Impact Bond (SIB).
- "As part of this unique investment tool, the PCMC administration will only have to bear the costs of a public welfare project associated with the bond if the pre-defined project targets are fulfilled," an official release said.
- This type of bond lays down outcome-based targets to be achieved at the start of the contract. "This feature allows for tracking the progress of the outcomes, thus ensuring transparency for investors.
- This mechanism also ensures that funds are used effectively and efficiently towards the project. This SIB will support the PCMC in improving healthcare services for its citizens, especially with respect to the pandemic while incurring minimum investment risks," the release said.

6. Suneet Sharma appointed as the new chairman and CEO of the Railway Board

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of Suneet Sharma as the new chairman and CEO of the Railway Board.
- The extended one-year tenure of Sharma's predecessor, Vinod Kumar Yadav, who also became the restructured Board's first CEO, ended on December 31.
- Sharma is a Special Class Railway Apprentice Officer of the 1978 batch. He has earlier served as the general manager of Modern Coach Factory, Raebareilly, and divisional railway manager, Pune, Central Railway, etc.

7. ISRO chairman K Sivan gets one-year extension as Department of Space secretary

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension of tenure of Sivan K, secretary, Department of Space and chairman, Space Commission, for a period of one-year beyond January 14, 2021, that is up to January 14, 2022.

- ISRO chief has imminent knowledge in Aerospace engineering, Space Transportation Systems Engineering, Launch vehicles, mission simulation software design and many other operations related to Space programs.
- The 63-year-old Sivan is also the main architect of 6D trajectory simulation software, SITARA which is the foundation of both the real-time and non-real-time trajectory simulations of all vehicles developed in the space agency.

8. Indian Army Chief MM Naravane receives Guard of Honour at ROK Army Headquarters

- Chief of Army Staff General MM Naravane has received a Guard of Honour at Republic of Korea Army Headquarters at Gyeryong.
- He called on General Nam Yeong shin, Chief of Staff of Korean Army and discussed issues of bilateral defence cooperation. The Army chief visited the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) near the border with North Korea.
- General Naravane visited the 30th Armoured Brigade and DMZ. During his three day visit, he met senior military and civilian leadership of the Republic of Korea and discussed avenues for enhancing defence relations between the two countries.

9. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurates Virtual Agri-hackathon in New Delhi

- Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the Virtual Agri-hackathon in New Delhi.
- The Minister said, agriculture is the backbone of the country and plans are afoot to strengthen this backbone with youth engagement, employment generation, technology and digitization.
- The two month long event is the first of its kind and the largest virtual event in the history of Indian agriculture. It will bring together the most important stakeholders from industry and government alongside India's young bright minds, creative startups and smart innovators who will build new, fast and frugal solutions to tackle the big questions the country is facing today. With the launch, the application of the hackathon was made live on MyGov.in and will remain open till 20 January next year.

BANKING AND FINANCE

1. Dubai ruler approves \$15.5 bn budget for 2021 as economic recovery seen

- Dubai, the business and financial hub of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has approved a 57.1 billion dirham (\$15.55 billion) budget for 2021, when the economy is expected to recover from a contraction this year, its ruler said on Sunday.

- The statement did not give a comparison to actual spending in 2020, but was slightly higher than a revised spending figure of nearly 56.16 billion dirhams quoted in Dubai's sukuk prospectus seen by Reuters in August.

2. India to become 5th largest economy in 2025, 3rd largest by 2030

- India, which appears to have been pushed back to being the world's sixth biggest economy in 2020, will again overtake the UK to become the fifth largest in 2025 and race to the third spot by 2030, a think tank said. India had overtaken the UK in 2019 to become the fifth largest economy in the world but has been relegated to 6th spot in 2020.
- The CEBR forecasts that the Indian economy will expand by 9 per cent in 2021 and by 7 per cent in 2022.

3. Centre releases 9th weekly installment of Rs. 6,000 crore to States to meet GST compensation shortfall

- The Ministry of Finance has released the 9th weekly instalment of Rs. 6,000 crore to the states to meet the GST compensation shortfall.
- Out of this, an amount of over Rs. 5516 crore has been released to 23 States and an amount of over Rs. 483 crore has been released to the three Union Territories with Legislative Assembly, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir and Puducherry who are members of the GST Council.
- The remaining five states, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim do not have a gap in revenue on account of GST implementation.

4. Tax tribunal upholds tax-exempt status of Tata Trusts

- The ITAT's Mumbai bench comprising its President Justice P P Bhatt and vice president Pramod Kumar passed three separate orders on December 28, upholding the tax-exempt status of Ratan Tata Trust, JRD Tata Trust and Dorabji Tata Trust.
- It said the March 2019 revision order of the Income Tax department that sought to cancel tax exemption to the three trusts was "devoid of any legally sustainable merits".
- The three trusts collectively hold about 66 per cent in Tata Sons - the holding company of Tata Group.
- The commissioner of income tax (exemption) (CIT-E) had threatened to upend the decades-old ownership of Tata Sons by the trusts by alleging that such shareholdings are in violation of the income tax laws.

5. India is no longer Google Pay's top generator of new users

- India was overtaken by the U.S. to become Google Pay's largest generator of new users, according to app intelligence firm Apptopia.

- The Google-owned digital payment platform added nearly three lakh new users in the U.S. in a single day last week, compared to about two lakh new users in India on the same day.
- The app is offering several added features at present including 'tap to pay', personal finance aggregation, and a \$21 referral bonus to encourage app installs in the U.S. The app also surpassed other American payment wallets like Venmo and Cash App in the U.S. this month, according to Apptopia.

6. Centre issues Rs 5,500 cr worth of zero-coupon bonds for P&SB Bank

- The Centre, in a first move of its kind, has issued Rs 5,500 crore in zero-coupon bonds for recapitalising Punjab and Sind Bank (P&SB) and allowed it to park the paper in its held-to-maturity (HTM) category at face value rather than the discounted market rate. Zero-coupon bonds do not bear any interest and are traded at a discount to the face value.
- The move is seen as raising concern in the accounting fraternity and bank auditors though the banking regulator, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has cleared it for now after much internal deliberation.

7. ICICI Bank to acquire 9.09% stake in Myclassboard Educational Solutions

- Private sector lender ICICI Bank said it will acquire 9.09 per cent stake in online school management platform Myclassboard Educational Solutions. The acquisition will be done through a cash consideration of ₹4.5 crore.
- “ICICI Bank has entered into an agreement dated December 28, 2020, in relation to an investment in Myclassboard Educational Solutions Private Limited (MESPL),” the lender said in a regulatory filing. The acquisition is expected to be completed by end of February 2021.

8. ITR filing deadline extended from Dec 31 to January 10, 2021 for taxpayers

- The government had extended the deadline to file income tax return (ITR) for FY 2019-20 for most individuals from the current deadline of December 31, 2020, to January 10, 2021
- Earlier this deadline was December 31, 2020.
- This extension of the deadline is for those individuals whose accounts are not required to be audited and who usually file their income tax return using ITR-1 or ITR-4 forms, as applicable.
- This is the third extension of the deadline to file a tax return. First extension was given from the normal deadline of July 31 to November 30, 2020, and then to December 31, 2020.

9. GST collections for December 2020 highest ever at Rs 1.15 lakh crore

- GST Revenue collection for last month has been recorded to be an all time high since the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax in the country.
- The gross GST revenue collected in the month of December 2020 is 1 lakh 15 thousand 174 crore rupees. The revenue collected is 12 per cent higher than the GST revenues in the corresponding period lasting last financial year.
- This has been due to the combined effect of the rapid economic recovery post-pandemic and the nation-wide drive against GST evaders.

SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE

1. Indian submarine INS Sindhuvir inducted into Myanmar navy

- Myanmar on December 25 officially inducted submarine handed over by India in the month of October. INS Sindhuvir was commissioned as UMS Minye Theinkhathu and inducted on the 73rd anniversary of the Myanmar Navy. During the commissioning ceremony, Indian ambassador to Myanmar Saurabh Kumar was also present along with top brass of Myanmar's Navy.
- The kilo class submarine has a displacement of 3000 tonnes, a diving depth of 300 meters and top speed at 20 knots. UMS Minye Theinkhathu is named after an ancient warrior and can operate for 45 days. It is equipped with 40 km range wire-guided torpedoes and 3M-54 Klub anti-ship cruise missiles. Myanmar has built a submarine base for it in a highly classified location.

2. Skyroot Aerospace becomes first Indian company to successfully test fire solid-fueled rocket engine

- Indian Space startup, Skyroot Aerospace has successfully test fired a solid propulsion rocket engine, named Kalam-5
- With this, it has become the first private company of India to successfully design, develop and test a full solid-fueled rocket stage.
- This crucial propulsion technology will be used for their maiden rocket Vikram-1, which is under active manufacturing and is targeted to be launched in December 2021 with the help of ISRO.
- Kalam is a series of five solid-fueled rocket engines with a thrust ranging from 5kN to 1000kN (approx 100Tons).
- The remaining four motors are in various stages of manufacturing and will be tested in 2021.

3. Govt approves export of indigenous Akash missile system

- The government has approved the export of the indigenous Akash missile system. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has welcomed the move and said it

will help India increase its revenue from defence export. Mr Singh said, under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat, India is growing in its capabilities of manufacturing wide variety of Defence platforms and missiles.

- The Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister approved the export of Akash Missile System and a Committee for faster Approvals has been created. Mr Singh said the Akash missile system is an important defence asset for the country with over 96 per cent indigenization.
- Developed by DRDO, it is India's first indigenously designed missile system and can target fighter jets, cruise missiles, drones and other aerial assets.
- Mr Singh said, the export version of Akash will be different from System currently deployed with Indian Armed Forces.

Bank & SSC Live Course

IBPS | SBI | RBI | CGL | CHSL | CPO | MTS

- ✓ 120+ Live Classes
- ✓ 100+ Mock Tests
- ✓ Daily Class Assignments
- ✓ Classes by IBT Expert

₹2800/-
~~₹7999/-~~



4. INCOIS launches web based Digital Ocean app for information sharing

- INCOIS, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), has launched a web based application Digital Ocean to share information on marine data and forecast services.
- Harsh Vardhan, Union Health, Science & Technology, Earth Sciences Minister, inaugurated Digital Ocean, during a Virtual Meeting today, according to a statement.
- Indian National Centre for Ocean Information provides ocean information and advisory services to various stakeholders including data based on oceanographic research, advisory services such as fishing zone advisories, ocean state forecast, high wave alerts, tsunami early warnings, storm surge and oil-spill.

5. Indian and French Rafales to carry out SKYROS wargames in Jodhpur

- In a major development amid the ongoing border conflict with China, Rafale fighter jets of India and France will carry out wargames codenamed Exercise SKYROS in Jodhpur in the third week of January next year.

- “The French Air Force Rafale fighters would be coming to Jodhpur for the SKYROS wargames which would see them flying with Indian Rafales from the 17 Squadron and the Su-30MKI fighters deployed there.”
- This would be the first major wargame of the Indian Air Force (IAF) involving the Rafale fighters which were inducted into the service in August 2020 by the Narendra Modi-led Government.
- The wargames being conducted are different from the routine Garuda series exercises that the two sides have been carrying out for more than a decade now and would see some complex manoeuvres being carried out by the fighters of both sides, the sources said. India had last carried out a major exercise with the French Air Force in July 2019 where the Indian Sukhoi had flown with the French Rafales.

6. Govt launched Global Pravasi Rishta portal & mobile App to connect with Indian Diaspora across the world

- Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan launched the Global Pravasi Rishta portal and mobile App, to connect with Indian Diaspora across the world.
- In a tweet, the Minister said, “the portal will act as a dynamic communication platform between our pravasis, the Ministry of External Affairs and missions abroad and will help in engaging Indian diaspora more intensively.”

7. DRDO and Indian Navy conducted successful maiden trial of SAHAYAK-NG air-droppable container

- The DRDO along with the Indian Navy has conducted a successful maiden trial of the SAHAYAK-NG air-droppable container from an IL-38SD aircraft off the coast of Goa, an official statement said. SAHAYAK-NG is India's first indigenously designed and developed air-droppable container, said the Defence Ministry's statement.
- It is aided by GPS, can carry a payload of up to 50 kg and can be dropped from a heavy aircraft, the ministry said.
- Two labs of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and private company Avantel were involved in its design and development.
- It reduces the requirement of ships to come close to the coast to collect spares and stores, the ministry stated.

8. Union Cabinet approves multi-modal logistics hub at Greater Noida

- The government had approved a multi-modal logistics and transport hub (MMTH) at Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh with a view to making India a strong player in the global value chain.
- The Union Cabinet also approved a proposal to set up industrial corridor nodes at Krishnapatnam and Tumakuru under CBIC.

- "The proposals have a total estimated cost of Rs 7,725 crore and an estimated employment generation of more than 2.8 lakh persons."
- These projects will position India as a strong player in global value chains with developed land parcels in cities for immediate allotment for attracting investments, he added.

9. Railways launched upgraded IRCTC website, call it a 'New Year gift' for travelers

- Union railways minister Piyush Goyal launched the revamped version of the e-ticketing website of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).
- The new website claims to have complete user personalization linked to the user login, such as the booking of meals, retiring rooms and hotels too have been integrated and can be directly booked along with the tickets.
- "The Railways is committed to serving the nation, and constantly working to augment its services to further improve the rail travel experience. This upgraded e-ticketing platform for booking of online railway tickets, will enhance passenger convenience. IRCTC should continue to work towards constantly improving the website and ensure that it is second to none in the world as per the Digital India mission and vision of the Prime Minister," Goyal said.

Books and Awards

1. Union Minister Shripad Naik Released book "Sutranivednachi sutra- ek an Bav" by renowned Goan Compere Dr Roopa Chari

- Union Minister of state (I/C) for AYUSH and Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik released a Konkani book titled "Sutranivednachi sutra- ek an Bav".
- The book has been written by Dr Roopa Chari, a well-known personality in the field of Compering in Goa.
- It is published by Sanjana Publications.
- This book will help aspiring youngsters, who wish to make a career in the field of Compering.
- Compere (often abbreviated MC or emcee) is a person who introduces the performers or contestants in a variety show and acts as a link between the audience and the speaker.

2. President Shri Ram Nath Kovind Conferred the Digital India Awards 2020 on 30th December

- President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind will virtually confer the Digital India Awards 2020 on 30th December 2020 at 11:00 AM via video conferencing. In line with Digital India's vision, this is the first time that the

entire process of the Digital India Awards is being conducted online from nominations to screening to the final awards ceremony.

- National Informatics Centre (NIC) under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has been conducting the biennial Digital India Awards (DIA) to promote innovation in eGovernance and digital transformation of government service delivery mechanism.

3. 'Lukoskin' developer Hemant Kumar Pandey gets DRDO's "Scientist of the Year" award

- Senior scientist Hemant Kumar Pandey has been honoured with DRDO's "Scientist of the Year Award" for his contribution in developing several herbal medicines, including the popular drug Lukoskin meant for treatment of leucoderma.
- A recipient of several prestigious awards for his contribution in the field of herbal medicine, Pandey has been undertaking research at the Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) lab Defence Institute of Bio-Energy Research (DIBER) at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand for the past 25 years.

SPORTS

1. MS Dhoni captain of ICC's white-ball teams of decade, Kohli voted skipper of Test side

- The legendary Mahendra Singh Dhoni was named captain of ICC's ODI and T20 International teams of the decade while Virat Kohli stamped his pre-eminence in world cricket after being voted the skipper of the Test team.
- Indians dominated the limited-over teams by having three and four players in the ODI and T20I respectively while England have maximum number of players (4) in the Test side.

2. FIFA cancelled next year's U-20, U-17 World Cups

- FIFA has cancelled men's U-20 and U-17 World Cup tournaments in 2021 for the novel coronavirus.
- As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bureau of the FIFA Council has decided to cancel the 2021 editions of the men's FIFA U-20 World Cup and FIFA U-17 World Cup, and to appoint Indonesia and Peru respectively, who were due to host the tournaments in 2021, as the hosts of the 2023 editions.
- So Peru will host the FIFA U-17 World Cup in 2023. In the same year, the FIFA U-20 World Cup will be held by Indonesia.

OBITUARIES

1. Eminent dance scholar and critic Sunil Kothari passed away at 87

- Eminent dance scholar and critic Sunil Kothari, 87, handed away in a non-public hospital in Delhi due to COVID-related problems. A Sangeet Natak Akademi fellow, Kothari blazed a brand new path in documenting Indian classical dance varieties.
- Born in Kheda district of Gujarat, Kothari certified as a chartered accountant and taught at Mumbai's Sydenham Faculty for a short interval earlier than turning to bop research. He accomplished his Ph.D. on dance drama traditions of south India and Natyashastra in 1977 from M.S. College, Baroda. He was awarded D.Litt by Rabindra Bharati College for his analysis on dance sculptors in medieval temples in north Gujarat.

2. Former New Zealand batsman John F. Reid died at aged 64

- Former batsman John F Reid, who scored six centuries in 19 Tests for New Zealand, passed away at the age of 64. His death after a long illness was confirmed by New Zealand Cricket.
- Reid is famously known for a gritty 108 that he scored against Australia at Brisbane's Gabba ground in November 1985. New Zealand went on to win the match by an innings and 41 runs. He shared the then record 225-run partnership with Martin Crowe (188) for the third wicket which helped New Zealand to 553-7 in its only innings.

3. Siachen explorer Colonel Narendra 'Bull' Kumar passed away at 87

- Col Narendra 'Bull' Kumar, the officer who surveyed Siachen Glacier and planted Indian flags atop key passed, died here following a brief illness. He was 87.
- Born in Rawalpindi, now in Pakistan, Col Kumar was commissioned into the Kumooan regiment. It was he who, following a secret expedition, had made a report on the strategic importance of Siachen which had prompted Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to okay Operation Meghdoot on April 13, 1984.
- The Glacier was captured as Indian troops raced to hold the ridgeline beating Pakistan Army to the top. The 109 km actual ground position line (AGPL) that separates India and Pakistan on the glacier is the result of Col Kumar's mountaineering expedition.

4. Olympic bronze medal and World Cup winner hockey player Michael Kindo died

- India's 1975 hockey World Cup-winning and 1972 Olympics bronze-winning team member Michael Kindo died at a hospital here due to age-related ailments. He was 73 and is survived by his wife, a son, and two daughters.

- “Michael Kindo passed away at the Ispat General Hospital due to age-related problems. He was bed-ridden for quite some time and was also suffering from depression.



India's No.1 App
for
Bank | SSC | Railways
Competitive Exams

- Job Alerts
- Daily Quiz • Free PDF's
- Videos • Test Series • Current Affairs

Download Now


Make My Exam

Powered by IBT

Now Govt. Job is in Your Hand !!

India's #1
Educational App

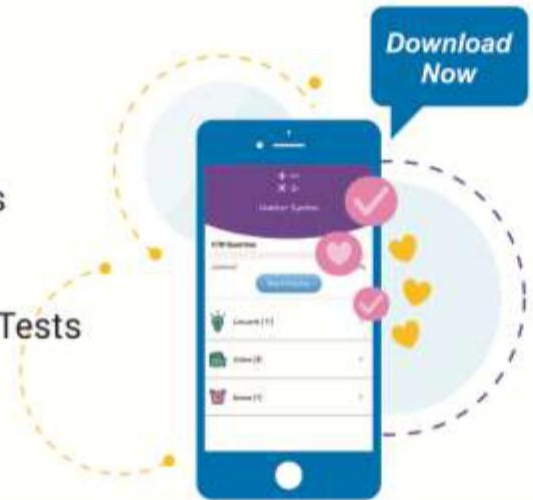
makemyexam



make **MY** exam



- 1000+ Videos
- 2000+ Concepts
- 3000+ Quizes
- 1000+ Practice Tests
- 500+ PDF



India's Best Video Course for Competitive Exams by IBT Faculties

BANK ALL EXAMS

VIDEO COURSE

395 Videos

₹3749/-



Videos by IBT Experts

RAILWAY ALL EXAMS

VIDEO COURSE

602 Videos

₹3499/-



Videos by IBT Experts

SSC ALL EXAMS

VIDEO COURSE

688 Videos

₹3599/-



Videos by IBT Experts

SBI CLERK (PRE)

VIDEO COURSE

327 Videos

₹2499/-



Videos by IBT Experts

RAILWAY NTPC

VIDEO COURSE

602 Videos

₹2699/-



Videos by IBT Experts

SSC CGL EXAM

VIDEO COURSE

688 Videos

₹2999/-



Videos by IBT Experts

SBI PO (PRE)

VIDEO COURSE

327 Videos

₹2499/-



Videos by IBT Experts

RBI ASSISTANT (PRE)

VIDEO COURSE

327 Videos

₹2499/-



Videos by IBT Experts

SSC CHSL EXAM

VIDEO COURSE

688 Videos

₹2999/-



Videos by IBT Experts