

Weekly Current Affairs

29 Nov – 05 Dec, 2020

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NATIONAL NEWS

1. Madhya Pradesh lost 26 tigers in 2020; government said birth rate more than deaths

- Madhya Pradesh, which is known as the 'tiger state' of India, had lost 26 striped animals so far this year, as per the National Tiger Conservation Authority.
- Karnataka, which is on the second position in the number of tigers in the country, registered eight deaths and two seizures of tiger body parts this year, as per the data.
- The southern state lost 12 big cats last year.
- "Right now, MP has 124 tiger cubs. The cubs were not counted during the last census (in 2018). In the next count, we are going to have more than 600 tigers

2. Guru Nanak Jayanti being celebrated across the country and the world

- Guru Nanak Jayanti or GURPURAB is being celebrated with religious fervor across India and the world today. 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.
- On this day, devotees around the world offer prayers. The Golden Temple in Amritsar celebrates GURPURAB with much aplomb.
- President Ram Nath Kovind has extended his greetings and best wishes to all the citizens living in India and abroad, especially the brothers and sisters of the Sikh community on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.

3. Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat inaugurates Suryadhar Lake

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat on 29 November inaugurated the Suryadhar lake at Doiwala near here, saying it will address the drinking water and irrigational needs of nearly 20 villages around it and is also set to become a major tourist and water sports destination in coming times.

- Besides fulfilling the drinking water and irrigational needs of 18-20 villages, the lake will recharge the water resources in the area and help build a healthy eco-system that will attract migratory birds, Rawat said at the function to mark the inauguration of the ambitious project.

4. Maharashtra's first 'child-friendly police station' inaugurated in Pune

- In a first-of-its-kind initiative in Maharashtra, Pune City Police started the 'Balsnehi (child-friendly) police station' on the premises of the Lashkar police station in Pune.
- The police station has been set up in accordance with guidelines laid down by the National Commissioner for Protection of Child Rights.
- The aim of the initiative was to provide an environment that will enable children to report cases without fear.
- This initiative will help in eliminating the prejudice against police among the public.

5. India invites UK's Prime Minister Boris Johnson as 2021 Republic Day chief guest

- British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is expected to be the chief guest at India's 2021 Republic Day celebrations. Should Johnson accept the invitation, it will be the fifth time that a leader from Britain will be the chief guest at the Republic Day event, which is considered an honour reserved for countries with which India enjoys very close ties or those that it considers a strategic partner.
- Then-Prime Minister John Major was the chief guest at the event in 1993, the last time India had invited a dignitary from the UK.

6. UP CM Yogi Adityanath rings the bell at BSE before listing of Lucknow Municipal Corporation bonds

- The 200-crore Lucknow Municipal Corporation (LMC) bonds were listed on Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) today. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath attended the bell ceremony. Lucknow has become the first city in north India and ninth city in India to have raised funds by issuing municipal bonds. Last month, LMC had raised Rs 200 crore by issuing

municipal bonds on a private placement basis using the BSE Bond platform. Earlier, November this year, LMC received 21 bids on BSE Bond platform for Rs 450 crore, which is 4.5 times of the total issue size of Rs 100 crore

- The municipal bonds offer 8.5 per cent interest per annum and have tenure of 10 years. The proceeds of the issue are proposed to be invested in a water supply project being implemented under AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) scheme of the government and a housing project.

7. The 7th India-Suriname Joint Commission Meeting held virtually on December 2, 2020

- The 7th India-Suriname Joint Commission Meeting was held virtually on December 2, 2020. The discussions were held in an atmosphere of warmth against the backdrop of friendly India - Suriname relations. The JCM was co-chaired by Minister of State for External Affairs, V. Muraleedharan and Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation of Suriname, Albert R. Ramdin
- Both Ministers underscored the importance of this mechanism in deepening political dialogue, reviewing bilateral ties, and exchanging views on regional and multilateral cooperation
- The two Ministers acknowledged the importance of undertaking developmental projects under concessional conditions, including through Lines of Credits, in the spirit of South-South cooperation

8. Nitin Gadkari to inaugurate & lay foundation stones of 15 National Highway projects of Nagaland

- Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Nitin Gadkari along with Chief Minister of Nagaland Neiphiu Rio on December 4, 2020 inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of 15 National Highway projects of Nagaland through video conference.
- The projects having the total length of 270 kms worth over 4,127 crores rupees in Nagaland will benefit the state by generating employment and self employment opportunities, easy access for availing health care and emergency services, boost the socio-

economic progress and also enhance economic relations with other neighbouring states.

- It will also connect Kohima to Phek District and Myanmar border and provide alternate access to Imphal to Dimapur as well as improve transportation between Dimapur and other districts of the state.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1.4th 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 yesterday.
- 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.
- Exchanging views on common security threats, India, Sri Lanka, and Maldives have agreed to broad base cooperation on a host of maritime security related issues.

2. Chinese Defence Minister visited Nepal on 29 November 2020

- Chinese Defence Minister Gen. Wei Fenghe visited Nepal on 29 November and meet the country's top leadership..
- "The Chinese Defence Minister also met Chief of Army Staff General of Nepal Army Purna Chandra Thapa. Mr. Wei had returned Beijing the same evening wrapping up his brief visit," the Ministry said in a statement.
- During his two-day state visit - the first by a Chinese leader in 23 years- in October last year, President Xi said China will provide Nepalese ₹56 billion assistance to Kathmandu over the next two years to help Nepal's development programmes and transform the landlocked nation into a land-linked country.

3. Britain and France sign fresh deal to reduce migrant crossings

- The deal was seen French patrols doubled from December 1, with drones and radar used to detect those attempting to cross, Britain's Home Secretary Priti Patel.
- Increased patrols and technology had been deployed along France's beaches under a new agreement between Paris and London aimed at stopping illegal migration across the Channel.
- A growing number of migrants have tried to reach Britain across the perilous and busy shipping lane in recent months, with four deaths recorded in 2019 and seven so far this year.

4. Fourth edition of United Economic Forum World Summit to be held from December 4

- The fourth edition of United Economic Forum World Summit along with Trade Expo is scheduled to be held from December 4.
- The three-day event would see participation of more than 80 speakers from 30 countries
- The summit to be held online would be on the theme - 'Imagine-Impact-Inspire', UEF President Ahmed A R Buhari said.



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5. India strongly rejects factually incorrect, gratuitous and unwarranted references to India in resolutions adopted by OIC

- India has strongly and categorically rejected the factually incorrect, gratuitous and unwarranted references to India in

resolutions adopted by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) at the 47th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers in Niamey of Niger.

- The session was held on 27th to 28th of this month. External Affairs Ministry in a statement said that India has always maintained that OIC has no locus standi in matters strictly internal to India including that of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, which is an integral and inalienable part of India.
- The Ministry said, it is regrettable that OIC continues to allow itself to be used by a certain country, which has an abominable record on religious tolerance, radicalism and persecution of minorities, to indulge in anti-India propaganda. The Ministry has strongly advised the OIC to refrain from making such references in future.

6. China to build a major dam on Brahmaputra river in Tibet

- China will build a major hydropower project on Brahmaputra river in Tibet and a proposal for this has been clearly put forward in the 14th Five-Year Plan to be implemented from next year.
- Yan Zhiyong, chairman of the Power Construction Corp of China, said China will "implement hydropower exploitation in the downstream of the Yarlung Zangbo River" (the Tibetan name for Brahmaputra) and the project could serve to maintain water resources and domestic security.

7. US imposes sanctions on Chinese firm over Venezuela internet curbs

- The United States has imposed sanctions on Chinese firm China National Electronics Import & Export Corporation (CEIEC), accusing it of supporting President Nicolas Maduro's efforts to undermine democracy in Venezuela.
- While slamming China, US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo has said that CEIEC provides cyber support and technical experts to state-run telecommunications providers which frequently blocks online independent newspapers and speeches by opposition members.
- The US Department of Treasury has said that CEIEC has been supporting the Maduro regime's malicious cyber efforts since 2017

and providing technical expertise to Venezuelan government entities, against the people of the country.

8. Dr. S Jaishankar discusses bilateral cooperation issues with his Omani counterpart

- External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar had a conversation with his Omani counterpart Badr Albusaidi this afternoon.
- Dr Jaishankar said in a tweet that he appreciated the care taken of the Indian community during COVID-19. They discussed bilateral cooperation including health security and food security. They also exchanged views on regional and international issues.

9. Lahore becomes world's most polluted city in US Air Quality Index, New Delhi got 2nd rank

- Pakistan's cultural capital Lahore has once again topped the list of world's most polluted cities.
- "Lahore ranks the most polluted city in the world," according to air pollution data released by the US Air Quality Index on Monday.
- According to the index, Lahore reported a particulate matter (PM) rating of 423. Pakistan's financial capital Karachi ranked at 7 on the AQI. New Delhi came in second with a PM of 229, while Nepal's capital Kathmandu ranked the third-worst city with a PM of 178.

10.UK becomes first country to approve Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine for use

- Britain became the first country in the world to approve the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine December 2, 2020 for use and said that it will be rolled out from early next week. The British regulator Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) declared that the vaccine offers protection of up to 95 per cent and is safe to be used for immunisation against Covid-19.
- The Government has accepted the recommendation from the independent Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) to approve Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine for use..

- The UK has ordered up to 40 million doses of the vaccine, which is being organised to vaccinate 20 million people with two shots each. Immunisation is expected to start within days and will be delivered to high-priority groups first. The company expects to produce globally up to 50 million vaccine doses in 2020 and up to 1.3 billion doses by the end of 2021.

11. New Zealand declares climate emergency, promises carbon neutral govt by 2025

- New Zealand promised its public sector would become carbon neutral by 2025 as it declared a climate emergency on December 2, 2020, a symbolic move that critics said needed to be backed with greater actions to reduce emissions.
- Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said the climate emergency declaration was based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's findings that to avoid more than 1.5 degree Celsius rise in global warming, emissions would need to fall by around 45% from 2010 levels by 2023 and reach zero by around 2050.

12. India and the US sign MoU on Intellectual Property cooperation

- India, and the US have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Intellectual Property cooperation. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry signed the MoU yesterday with US Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce of the US.
- Cabinet in its meeting on 19th February this year gave the approval for signing the MoU with USPTO in the field of IP Cooperation. The MoU aims at increasing IP co-operation between the two countries. It will facilitate the exchange and dissemination of best practices, experiences and knowledge on IP among the public, and between and among the industry, universities, research and development organizations, and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

13. India ranks 8th in Global Terrorism Index 2020

- India is among the countries that were hit the hardest by the menace of terrorism in 2019, as per the Global Terrorism Index of 2020. Greater Middle-East continues to be the focal point of

terrorism while South Asia suffered most fatalities as per the study that analyses the impact of terrorism across 163 countries amounting to over 99 percent of the global population.

- Jammu and Kashmir was the most affected Region due to terrorism, it reported 165 attacks and 103 deaths. The three most active groups in Kashmir was Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), Hizbul Mujahideen & Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).
- Chhattisgarh was the second most affected region in India with 85 attacks and 53 deaths all from Maoist Extremists.

14. US imposes on members of Chinese Communist Party

- US President Donald Trump's administration has issued new rules to restrict travel to the United States by members of China's ruling Communist Party (CCP) and their families. According to a State Department spokesman, the new policy, which took immediate effect, limits the maximum duration of travel visas for party members and their families to one month from 10 years.
- Previously, party members, like other Chinese citizens, could obtain visitor visas for the US that were valid for up to 10 years. Travel visas for party members will also be limited to a single entry rather than multiple entries as was possible before.

15. HCL Tech's Roshni Nadar tops the list of India's wealthiest women

- Roshni Nadar Malhotra of HCL Technologies, followed by Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw of Biocon and Leena Gandhi Tewari of USV have topped the list of wealthiest women in India, according to the second edition of 'Kotak Wealth Hurun–Leading Wealthy Women' report, compiled by Kotak Wealth Management, a division of Kotak Mahindra Bank, and Hurun India.
- Shaw is the wealthiest self-made woman on the list, which features eight dollar billionaires and 38 women with wealth of Rs 1,000 crore and above

New Appointments and Person in News

1. Joe Biden to nominate Indian-American Neera Tanden as chief of budget team

- U.S. President-elect Joe Biden intends to nominate Indian-American Neera Tanden as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, a top position inside the White House responsible for managing the administration's budget, according to local media reports on Sunday.
- If confirmed by the United States Senate, Ms. Tanden (50) would be the first woman of colour to head the influential Office of Management and Budget at the White House. Ms. Tanden is currently chief executive of the left-leaning Center for American Progress.

2. President elect Joe Biden names Jenett Yellen as Treasury Secretary

- US President-elect Joe Biden has named ex-Federal Reserve chair Janet Yellen as his nominee for treasury secretary. If confirmed by the Senate, she will be the first woman ever to hold the post.
- She is among several women chosen for top economic positions. The Biden transition team said others were set to break racial barriers if confirmed.

3. IAS officer Varsha Joshi named Chairperson of NDDB

- The Government of India on Monday appointed Varsha Joshi as the new Chairperson of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). She Replaces Dilip Rath on completion of his tenure on November 30.
- Joshi is the Joint Secretary (CDD), Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India.

4. Retired IAS officer Utpal Kumar Singh appointed Secretary-General of Lok Sabha


- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday appointed Utpal Kumar Singh as Secretary-General of the Lower House of Parliament. Singh has also been appointed to the Lok Sabha Secretariat in the rank and status of Cabinet Secretary with effect from December 1.
- Utpal Kumar Singh is a retired IAS officer from the 1986 batch with 34 years of administrative experience.
- Utpal Kumar Sin

- He is replacing Snehlata Shrivastava as Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha. A former IAS officer from the Madhya Pradesh Cadre, Shrivastava was appointed to the top post on December 1, 2017. Shrivastava was the first woman Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha.

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5. Sandeep Kataria becomes first Indian to be appointed as global CEO of Bata Shoes

- Footwear major Bata Shoe Organization on 30 November, 2020 announced the appointment of Sandeep Kataria as the company's Chief Executive Officer, effective immediately.
- With this, Kataria becomes the first Indian to be elevated to the global role of the Bata. He takes over from Alexis Nasard, who is stepping down after almost five years in the role.
- Kataria was previously the CEO of Bata India. With 24 years of experience at Unilever, Yum Brands and Vodafone in India and Europe before joining Bata India as CEO in 2017

6. Lt. Gen. Rajeev Chaudhry assumes the charge as 27th Director General Border Roads

- Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry assumed the charge as 27th Director General Border Roads (DGBR) on the 01 December 2020.
- Before taking over as Director General Border Roads, he was holding the appointment of ADG LW&E in QMG's Branch at Integrated Headquarters of Ministry of Defence (Army).
- Lt Gen. Chaudhry was responsible for conceptualizing and conducting the first-ever and only Engineer Brigade Exercise with

US Engineer Brigade as part of EX YUDH ABHYAS. He was also nominated as Exercise Director of EX FORCE 18, a multinational exercise involving 18 countries on Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA), in the year 2016.

BANKING

1. India signs \$133 million loan agreement with ADB for Meghalaya's power distribution sector

- The government signed a \$133 million loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to strengthen the power distribution sector in Meghalaya.
- The loan will be supplemented by a \$2 million grant from the ADB's Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction to finance renewable energy projects and for supporting income generation activities for women and other disadvantaged groups, said a finance ministry statement.
- The loan will be used to modernise Meghalaya's power distribution network and improve the quality of power supplied to households, industries, and businesses, the statement said.
- The agreement was signed by CS Mohapatra, additional secretary, department of economic affairs and Takeo Konishi, country director of ADB's India Resident Mission.

2. RBI directs HDFC bank to stop issuance of new credit cards

- The Reserve Bank of India has advised HDFC Bank to temporarily stop launch of the digital business activities planned under its Digital 2.0 program (to be launched) and
- RBI has also directed not to issue of new credit cards to customers
- This step has been taken by RBI in view of repeated outages in the HDFC bank's internet banking/ mobile banking/ payment utilities over the past two years.
- The reason given by HDFC bank for this was power failure in its primary data centre.
- RBI in its order to HDFC bank, has advised the Bank's Board to examine the lapses and fixes accountability

3. RIL Tops Fortune 500 List Of Indian Companies, IOC at Second Spot

- Oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries Ltd topped the Fortune 500 list of Indian companies, Fortune India announced on 3 December, 2020.
- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC), the nation's biggest oil firm, bagged the second spot, followed by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) at the third, it said.
- The country's largest lender State Bank of India was in the fourth position, while India's second-biggest fuel retailer Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) took the fifth spot.
- The list was published by Fortune India, which is part of the Kolkata-based RP Sanjiv Goenka Group.
- Tata Motors was ranked sixth, followed by gold refiner Rajesh Exports at the seventh spot.
- India's largest IT services firm Tata Consultancy Services took the eighth spot, while ICICI Bank was at ninth, and Larsen and Toubro at tenth

Books and Awards

1. PM Modi and his Government's Special Relationship with Sikhs' book released on the occasion of Gurupurab

- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri today released a Book titled Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Gurupurab. The book was released in New Delhi in presence of Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar. The book, published by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, was released in English, Hindi and Punjabi languages.
- The book is based on the messages of Guru Nanak Dev. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Puri said that it is a compilation of many steps taken for welfare of Sikh community in India by the Narendra Modi government. He said, more steps have been taken for Sikhs in the last 6 years, in comparison to last 60 years. He said these initiatives include the opening of Kartarpur Sahib corridor, development of Sultanpur Lodhi, Foreign Contribution Regulation Act clearance to Sri Darbar Sahib, grand celebration

of 550th Prakash Parv and better connectivity to all Sikh pilgrimages.

2. Parkash Singh Badal returns Padma Vibhushan award in protest against farm laws

- Former Punjab Chief Minister and Shiromani Akali Dal patron Parkash Singh Badal has returned his Padma Vibhushan award in solidarity with the farmers protesting against the three farm laws. Mr. Badal received Padma Vibhushan Award in 2015.
- In a letter to President Ram Nath Kovind, Badal said he was returning the award due to "the shocking indifference and contempt with which the government was treating the ongoing peaceful and democratic agitation of the farmers against the three farm Acts".

3. 'No Dorai' and 'Fagun Haway' win Bangladesh best films award of 2019

- Films 'No Dorai' and 'Fagun Haway' jointly won the best film award. Taneem Rahman Anghshu who directed the film 'No Dorai' got the best Director award.
- The film 'No Dorai' dominated the awards in several categories including best cinematography (Sumon Kumar Sarker), Best Sound Recording (Ripon Nath) and best Screenplay (Mahboob Rahman).
- 'No Dorai', meaning 'Not Afraid' is the story of a community in the beach town of Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh. The community does not allow women to venture into the sea and forces them into strict social norms.
- The awards this year have been given away in 26 categories

SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE

1. Dharmendra Pradhan launches India's first indigenously developed 100 Octane premium petrol

- Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel Dharmendra Pradhan launched India's first indigenously developed 100 Octane premium petrol through video conferencing

- The high octane premium grade petrol being marketed under the brand XP-100 will be made available in 10 cities across the country including the national capital in the first phase. The second phase will see the addition of 5 more cities. With the rolling out of XP-100 developed by Indian Oil Corporation Limited with indigenous technical know-how, India joins a select league of nations having such super grade fuel. Octane ratings are measures of fuel stability that increases engine efficiency.

2. Serum Institute of India to apply for emergency authorisation of COVID-19 vaccine in next two weeks

- Serum Institute of India (SII) will apply for emergency authorisation of COVID-19 vaccine in next two weeks. This was stated by the chief executive of the Institute, Adar Poonawalla in Pune yesterday. Serum Institute of India is the world's largest vaccine manufacturer by volume. Pune based drugmaker partnered with global pharma giant AstraZeneca to produce COVID-19 vaccine by University of Oxford for low-and-middle income countries. Dubbed as Covishield, the COVID-19 vaccine is currently in the Phase III clinical trial in India.
- Mr Poonawalla said Covishield is a highly effective vaccine against novel coronavirus. AstraZeneca and Oxford University earlier said that their drug had proved on average 70% effective at stopping the virus after trying it on 23,000 people.

3. 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.

SPORTS

1. Sydney Thunder crowned champions for second time in Women's Big Bash League

- Sydney Thunder on Saturday were crowned the champions of the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) for the second time. The side achieved the feat by defeating Melbourne Stars by seven wickets here at the North Sydney Oval.
- The match was a no-contest as Sydney Thunder restricted Melbourne Stars to just 86/9 in the allotted twenty overs.
- Thunder had won the inaugural edition of the WBBL in the 2015-16 season and then the side had to wait for four more years to win their second title. Ismail was declared the 'Player of the Match'

2. Virat Kohli surpasses Sachin Tendulkar and becomes fastest to score 22,000 international runs

- Indian captain, Virat Kohli on Sunday became the fastest batsman to reach 22,000 international runs. The 32-year-old achieved this landmark during his 89-run inning while chasing against Australia in Sydney.
- Kohli, who was also celebrating his 250th ODI cap for the national team, has left behind greats of the game as he completed his 22,000th run in his 462nd international inning. Kohli surpassed Sachin Tendulkar, Brian Lara, and Ricky Ponting who took 493, 511, and 514 innings respectively to record the same feat
- The right-hander has amassed 11977 runs at an average of 59.14 in ODIs with 43 hundred to his name along with 7240 Test runs, and 2794 runs in T20Is. The Delhi-born batsman is regarded as arguably the greatest ODI batsman. He is just six three-figure scores short of Tendulkar.

3. England's Dawid Malan achieves highest-ever rating points in T20I

- England's Dawid Malan has accomplished the highest-ever rating points for batsmen in the ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings following a tremendous performance against South Africa in the recently concluded T20I series.
- Malan finished the three-match leg as the leading run-scorer (173 runs). The left-handed batsman has now reached 915 points to

become the first-ever player to cross the 900-point mark after Australian skipper Aaron Finch who achieved 900 points in July 2018.

- Malan is ahead with 44 points over Pakistan's Babar Azam, whom he surpassed to become number one T20 batsman in September this year.

OBITUARIES

1. 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.

2. British Actor David Prowse passes away at the age of 85

- Dave Prowse, the British actor behind the menacing black mask of Star Wars villain Darth Vader has died at the age of 85, his agent said Sunday.
- A former body-builder turned actor, Prowse's towering stature at almost two metres (6.5 feet) clinched him the role of the infamous antagonist in the original Star Wars trilogy.

3. Rajya Sabha MP Abhay Bhardwaj passes away due to Covid-19

- Rajya Sabha MP from Gujarat Abhay Bhardwaj died due to Covid19 today. He was 66 and under treatment in Chennai based hospital. He was airlifted to Chennai hospital after his health deteriorated in Rajkot Civil Hospital during the month of October.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief and sorrow over the demise of Rajya Sabha MP Abhay Bharadwaj. In his tweet message, Prime Minister said that Abhay Bhardwaj ji was a distinguished lawyer and remained at the forefront of serving

society. We have lost a bright and insightful mind, passionate about national development. Prime Minister also expressed his condolences to his family and friends.

4. MDH owner ‘Mahashay’ Dharampal Gulati passes away

- 'Mahashay' Dharampal Gulati, the owner of Mahashian Di Hatti (popularly known as MDH), passed away at the age of 98.
- He was born in 1923 in Sialkot, Pakistan. He was fondly called 'dalaji' and 'Mahashayji'.
- A school dropout, Dharampal Gulati joined his father's spice business in the early days.
- Back in 2019, the government honored him with Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian award in the country.
- Gulati was India's highest-paid consumer products CEO for the year 2017. That year, he had taken home over Rs 21 crore as salary.

5. Pizza Hut co-founder Frank Carney passes away at 82

- Frank Carney, who with his brother started the Pizza Hut empire in Wichita, died on from pneumonia.
- Carney had recently recovered from Covid-19, but had Alzheimer's disease for more than a decade.
- Frank Carney was a 19-year-old student at Wichita State University when he and his 26-year-old brother, Dan, borrowed \$600 from their mother to start a pizza business in 1958 near their family's Carney's Market.
- PepsiCo bought Pizza Hut for \$300 million in 1977.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People: 29 November

- 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.

2. BSF Celebrates its 56th Raising Day on December 1st, 2020

- The Border Security Force (BSF), which is the largest border guarding force in the world, is celebrating its 56th Raising day on December 1, 2020.
- Tasked with guarding India-Bangladesh and India-Pakistan borders, BSF plays a very vital role in ensuring the security and integrity of the nation. The Central Armed Police Force was conceived by the policymakers as a force which is capable of guarding the borders during wars and also to assist the army as the First Line of Defence of Indian Territories. It is led by DG Rakesh Asthana.

3. World AIDS Day observed on 1st December

- World AIDS Day is being observed on 1st December to raise public awareness about Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome, AIDS. The theme this year is 'Ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic: resilience and impact.'
- In 2019, 6 lakh 90 thousand people died from HIV-related causes, and 1.7 million people were newly infected.
- Since the inception of the National AIDS Control Programme in 1992, India has done a commendable job in raising awareness and bringing down the number of HIV infections. India is a signatory

to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and has committed itself to achieving the target of ending the epidemic of AIDS by 2030.

4. International Day for the Abolition of Slavery: 2 December

- December 2 is celebrated as International Day for the Abolition of Slavery every year.
- The day intends to end all forms of slavery in the world.
- The day was commissioned by the United Nations General Assembly. A globally relevant day, the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery intends to eliminate the modern-day forms of slavery that exist in the society.
- According to the UN, 24.9 million people are in forced labour, 15.4 million people are in forced marriage. The data further revealed that 5.4 out of 1,000 people fall victim to modern slavery. The UN last year stated that 150 million children are forced into child labour.

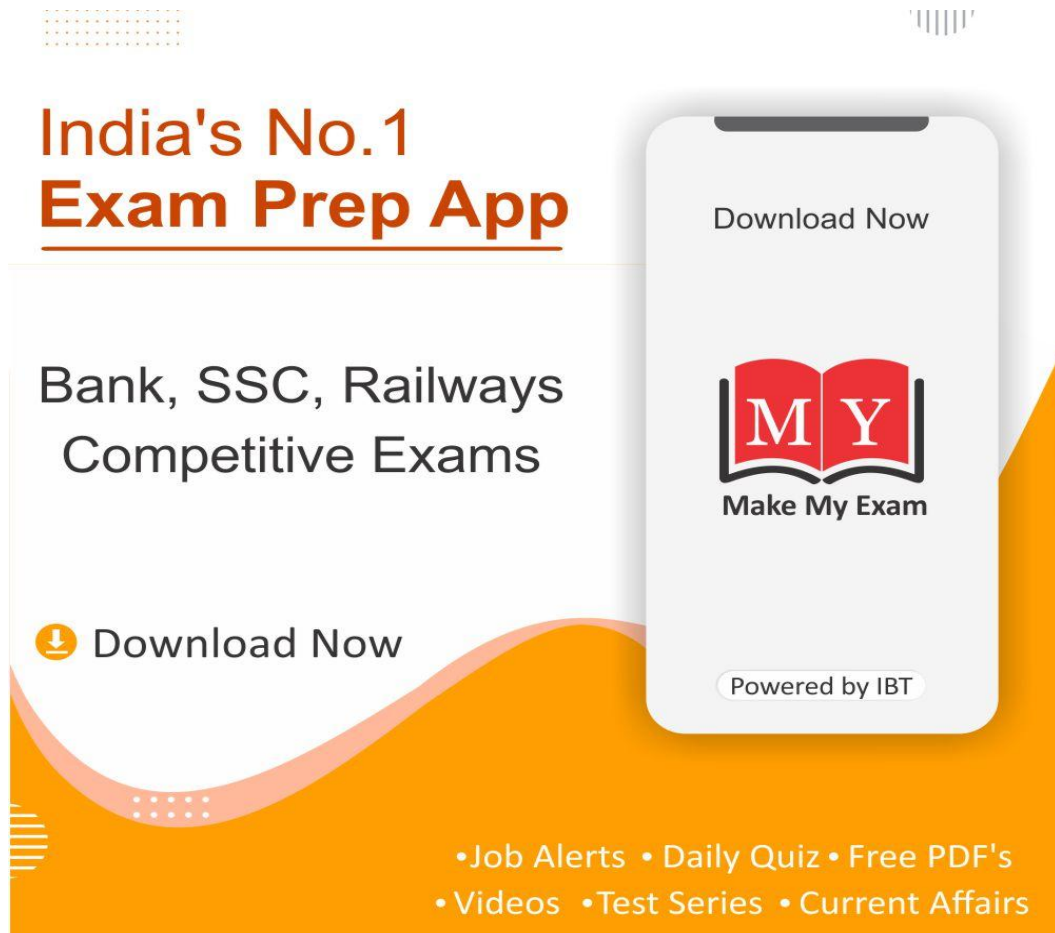
5. Indian Navy Day being observed on 04 December, 2020

- India celebrates Navy Day on December 4 every year to commemorate the achievements of Indian Navy and remember the valour of bravehearts who launched a naval strike on Karachi harbour during 1971's Indo-Pakistan war under Operation Trident.
- The Indian Navy conducted the operation on the intervening night of December 4 and 5, inflicting heavy damage on Pakistani vessels and facilities. The theme of the Indian Navy Day 2020 is “Indian Navy Combat Ready, Credible & Cohesive.”

6. International Day of Persons with Disabilities: 03 December

- 3 December is International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD). On this Day WHO joins partners to celebrate "a day for all". This theme reflects a growing understanding that disability is part of the human condition. Almost everyone will be temporarily or permanently impaired at some point in life. Despite this, few countries have adequate mechanisms in place to respond fully to the needs of people with disabilities.
- In 2020, the UN's theme was “Building Back Better: toward a disability-inclusive, accessible and sustainable post COVID-19


World”. WHO supported this theme by underlining the importance of fostering an inclusive culture and responding to the urgent needs of people with disability in all aspects of society, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.



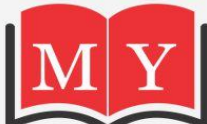
The advertisement features a white card on an orange background. The card has a dotted pattern at the top left and a wavy orange border at the bottom. It contains the text 'India's No.1 Exam Prep App' in orange, 'Bank, SSC, Railways Competitive Exams' in black, and a 'Download Now' button with a download icon. To the right is a smartphone mockup showing the app's interface with the 'Download Now' button, the 'MY Make My Exam' logo, and a 'Powered by IBT' badge. At the bottom right, a list of features is provided: Job Alerts, Daily Quiz, Free PDF's, Videos, Test Series, and Current Affairs.

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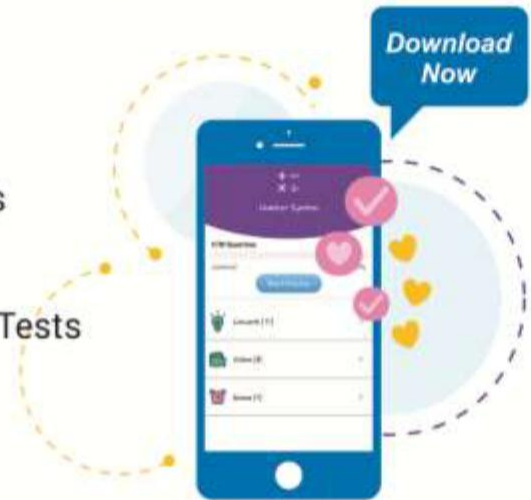
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