



Weekly Current Affairs

01 to 07 Nov 2020

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NATIONAL NEWS

1. Prime Minister pays tribute to Iron Man of India Sardar Vallabh bhai Patel on his 145th Birth Anniversary

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid floral tributes to Sardar Patel on his 145th birth Anniversary at the Statue of Unity- the world's tallest statue at Kevadia in Narmada district of Gujarat.
- Patel served as the first Deputy Prime Minister of India. He is also called the "Unifier of India". The Statue of Unity, the world's tallest statue, was dedicated to him on 31 October 2018 which is approximately 182 metres (597 ft) in height.
- The Prime Minister also witnessed the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas parade. The Police forces of Gujarat and Central Armed Police Force, Border Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Central Industrial Security Force and National Security Guards took part in the Parade. The Prime Minister also witnessed a Rifle drill by female officers of CRPF.

2. KVIC launches 'Happy Diwali' printed face masks

- Keeping in view the Diwali festival, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has launched a Limited Edition of two-layered "Happy Diwali" printed face masks made of pure Muslin fabric.
- It is high quality and ultra-fine cotton fabric handmade by traditional Khadi artisans of West Bengal.
- The Diwali Muslin face masks are priced nominally at 75 rupees a piece and are available for sale through the Khadi outlets in Delhi and online through KVIC's e-portal www.khadiindia.gov.in. Like the other variants of Khadi face masks, the Muslin face masks too are skin-friendly, washable, reusable and bio-degradable and economical that suits all pockets.

3. Kerala Ranked as Best Governed State by Public Affairs Index

- The Public Affairs Index-2020 released by the Public Affairs Centre in Bengaluru declared Kerala the best governed state in the country, while Uttar Pradesh ended at the bottom in the large states category.
- In its annual report released, the city-based not-for-profit organisation said the states were ranked on governance performance based on a composite index in the context of sustainable development. The organisation is headed by former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman K. Kasturirangan.
- Four southern states, Kerala (1.388 PAI Index point), Tamil Nadu (0.912), Andhra Pradesh (0.531) and Karnataka (0.468) stood in the first four ranks in the large state category in terms of governance, it said. Uttar Pradesh,

Odisha and Bihar were at the bottom of the ranking, scoring negative points in the category. They got – 1.461, -1.201 and -1.158 points respectively.

4. Corbett Tiger Reserve to have women nature guides for the first time in history

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

5. Panna (India), Fuvahmulah and Addu Atoll (Maldives) join UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves

- UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme included Panna in India and Fuvahmulah and Addu Atoll in the Maldives, to UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves. For India it is the twelfth entry, whereas for Maldives second and third after Baa Atoll.
- In total 25 new sites were added, one of them transboundary, in 18 countries to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, which now numbers 714 biosphere reserves in 129 countries around the globe. The International Coordinating Council of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB-ICC) meeting online from 27 to 28 October approved these additions along with the extension or re-zoning of five existing biosphere reserves, which in most cases also led to a change in their official names.

6. 206th Session of Governing Council of the IPU to be held from 1st to 4th November

- The 206th Session of the Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, IPU will be held from 1st to 4th November this year. It will be an Extraordinary Virtual Session, which is being organised in place of a full-fledged in-person Statutory Assembly of IPU due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.
- The agenda of the Virtual Session includes the election of the new President of IPU through remote electronic secret ballot since the outgoing President of IPU Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron (MP, Mexico) had completed her term on 19th of this month. The term of the new President of IPU will be from 2020 to 2023.
- An Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and consisting of Lok Sabha MP Poonamben Maadam and Rajya Sabha MP Swapan Dasgupta will participate in the Virtual Session and cast their votes.

7. Kerala to set up post-Covid treatment clinics across state

- In Kerala, the State Health Department has decided to set up post-Covid treatment clinics across the state soon. The decision was taken as the number of people who have other health problems after recovering from COVID is increasing as nearly 10 percent of the recovered patients are reporting serious health issues.
- The post-COVID clinics will be opened in hospitals ranging from primary health centres to medical colleges. The COVID recovered people should have a check-up in the clinics every month.

8. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister launches special campaign to identify people suffering from TB

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a special 10-day campaign to identify people suffering from tuberculosis (TB) in the state.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has pledged to make India TB-free by 2025.
- Under the door-to-door campaign, which will end on November 11, health workers will reach out to 81 lakh people, identify those suffering from TB, screen them and help them avail treatment at no cost.

9. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches India's first seaplane service in Gujarat, flies on maiden flight

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the country's first seaplane service between the Statue of Unity near Kevadiya in Gujarat's Narmada district and Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad.
- He travelled in the maiden flight of the twin-engine plane from pond-3 close to Sardar Sarovar Dam and landed at Sabarmati riverfront where a water aerodrome has been set up.
- The 19-seater seaplane will be managed by private airline SpiceJet. The service will cover the 200km distance between Sabarmati and Kevadia, in just 45 minutes by flight, which usually takes 4 hours.

10. India's first 'Tyre Park' to come up in West Bengal soon

- West Bengal will soon feature "India's first" 'Tyre Park', where artworks made from scrap and defective parts will be on display.
- Asserting that it is a unique concept, and not found anywhere in the country, the official said the idea behind the park is waste can be converted into art.
- The Tyre Park, which will come up at Esplanade area, would have a small cafe where people can sit, relax and enjoy the craftsmanship made from tyres


11. TransUnion CIBIL partnered with MoSPI to launch MSME Credit Health Index

- In a bid to help measure growth and strength of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), TransUnion CIBIL has partnered with Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) to build and publish quarterly MSME Credit Health Index.
- The MSME Credit Health Index will provide the Government, policy makers, lenders and other stakeholders, insights and analysis on various aspects of health of the MSME industry, thus enabling them to make better policy and business decisions with respect to MSME lending. The ease of access of such comprehensive information with a single MSME Credit Health Index will facilitate better risk management and inclusion of MSMEs in Indian banking and financial system.
- The Index will also help to educate the general public about the credit health of the MSME sector and thereby instil confidence.

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12. India's First Solar-Powered miniature train launched In Kerala

- India's first of its kind solar energy-driven miniature train was inaugurated at the Veli Tourist Village, Kerala by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.
- The train, which would be an attraction for children especially, was part of a string of projects totally worth Rs 60 crore taken up to elevate the facilities at the panoramic destination to international standards.

13. Ganga Utsav-2020 begins virtually with COVID-19 precautions

- The much-awaited Ganga Utsav-2020 began virtually amidst COVID-19 precautions. The festival will continue till 4th of November.
- Several programmes were also held in districts as a part of Ganga Utsav celebrations.
- Ganga Task Force conducted an afforestation drive with NCC cadets and educational tour for youth in the project area. The Ganga Utsav is being organised by the National Mission for Clean Ganga celebrating the 12th anniversary of declaring River Ganges as National river.

14. IBM, Indian Oil Corporation collaborate for digital services

- Tech giant IBM on Thursday said it has collaborated with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) to transform the latter's customer experience using digital tools.
- Around 12,400 IOCL distributors covering about 130 million consumers can now use the IndianOil One mobile app and portal, developed by IBM Services.
- The Indian Oil One mobile app and portal are part of Indian Oil's Project ePIC, an integrated platform for Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and Distribution Management System (DMS).

15. Rajasthan assembly passes bill to make wearing mask mandatory

- Rajasthan assembly has passed the Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases (Amendments bill 2020) making it mandatory to wear masks.
- The bill prohibits the movements of any person in public place, public transport, workplace or at any Social, Political, general function or gathering.
- The bill, however, does not specify the penalties if someone is caught without masks.
- Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Alwar, Nagaur and Ajmer districts are most affected by the infection.

16. After Mangaluru, AAI hands over Lucknow airport to Adani Group on lease for 50 years

- The Airports Authority of India (AAI) on Sunday midnight handed over the Lucknow airport to the Adani group on lease for a period of 50 years.
- The AAI had handed over the Mangaluru airport to the group midnight.
- The decision to hand over Mangaluru Airport came under heavy criticism from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

17. Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal lays foundation stone of Indo-Israeli Centre of Excellence for Vegetables Protected Cultivation

- The Chief Minister of Assam, Sarbananda Sonowal has laid the foundation stone of Indo-Israeli Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Vegetables Protected Cultivation at Khetri on the outskirts of the Indo-Israeli Centre of Excellence for Vegetables Protected Cultivation is estimated to be set up at an investment of Rs 10.33 Crore.
- The CoE will provide exposure to the latest Israeli technologies to the farmers of Assam and help them in maximizing their production and income. It would also boost agricultural and horticultural production in Assam leading to greater economic rewards to state's farmers.

18. Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs launches Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge in India

- The Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, held a kick-off event for the ‘Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge’ in collaboration with the Netherlands-based Bernard van Leer Foundation (BvLF) and with the technical support of WRI India.
- By focusing on the needs of young children aged 0 – 5 years and their caregivers in the public realm, the initiative marks an important step towards making Indian cities sustainable, inclusive, and family-friendly. The programme will support a pan-India challenge, inviting applications from November 4, 2020. All Smart Cities, capitals of States and UTs, and other cities with population above 5 lakhs are eligible to participate
- Under its prime objective of inclusive development, the Government of India is committed to enhancing opportunities in urban areas for all vulnerable citizens, especially young children. The Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge is an open call to Indian cities to propose and pilot neighbourhood-level improvements in public space, mobility, access to services, and data management to enhance the physical and psychological health of young children and their caregivers.

19. India and Italy hold virtual bilateral summit on 6 November

- A Virtual Bilateral Summit would be held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Italy Giuseppe Conte on November 6, said the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- The summit is to explore possibilities of Italian investments in India especially in defence. Also, the leaders will discuss on hosting G20 summit. Italy agreed to host G20 summit in 2021 on India’s request. India is to host the G20 summit in 2022.
- The summit was preceded by the Indo Italian High-Level Dialogue. During the dialogue, the Italian firm Fincantieri enhanced its presence in India. The long-standing partnership of the firm with the CSL (Cochin Shipyard Limited) of GoI was further deepened. The firm had signed contracts with CSL under which it delivered the tankers Shakti and Deepak to the Indian Navy.
- Italy is the fifth largest trading partner of India in the European Union after Germany, Belgium, UK and France. In 2019, the bilateral trade between India and Italy stood at 9.52 billion Euros.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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

- The United States reported over 100,000 new infections of Covid19 on 30 October to surpass the record total of 91,000 posted a day earlier. The daily caseload of 100,233 is also a world record for the global pandemic.
- The United States has crossed 9 million cumulative cases, representing nearly 3% of the population.
- 16 U.S. states reported their highest one-day coronavirus infections while thirteen states were at record levels of hospitalized COVID-19 patients.
- The number of daily infections reported during the past two days indicates that the Country is now reporting more than one new case every second.

2. Typhoon Goni hits Philippines: World's strongest storm of 2020 leaves four dead as nearly 350,000 are evacuated

- Goni, the world's strongest storm so far this year, made landfall in the southern Bicol region, with sustained winds of 140mph (225kph) and gusts of 174mph (280kph).
- The victims included one person who was reportedly hit by a tree and a five-year-old who was washed away after a river overflowed in Albay province.
- The storm largely spared Manila, the capital and most densely populated city, showering it with rain as it churned toward the West Philippine Sea

3. India Firmly Rejects Pakistan's Move to Accord Status of Province for Gilgit-Baltistan

- India slammed Pakistan for its attempt to accord provincial status to the “so-called Gilgit-Baltistan”, saying it is intended to camouflage the “illegal occupation” of the region by Islamabad.
- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said India “firmly rejects” the attempt by Pakistan to bring material changes to a part of Indian territory which is under Islamabad’s “illegal and forcible occupation” and asked the neighbouring country to immediately vacate such areas.

4. Magufuli wins re-election in Tanzania; opposition cries foul

- Tanzania’s President John Magufuli has won the presidential election, the National Electoral Commission said, a contest dismissed by the opposition as a “travesty” because of widespread irregularities.
- Magufuli received 12.5 million votes in Wednesday’s election – or 85 percent – while his main challenger, Tundu Lissu of the Chadema party, got 1.9 million votes, or 13 percent, the electoral commission said.

5. Priyanca Radhakrishnan becomes New Zealand's first-ever minister of Indian origin

- Priyanca Radhakrishnan on Monday became New Zealand's first-ever Indian-origin minister after Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern inducted five new ministers into her executive.
- Born in India, Radhakrishnan, 41, went to school in Singapore before moving to New Zealand to further her education. She has spent her work life advocating on behalf of people whose voices are often unheard women survivors of domestic violence, and migrant workers who have been exploited.
- She was elected first as a Member of Parliament belonging to the Labour Party in September 2017. In 2019, she was appointed the Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister for Ethnic Communities.



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

- Mr. Duarte Pacheco of Portugal has been elected the new President of Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) for the period 2020-2023.
- The election process to elect the new IPU President took place through remote electronic secret ballot, with a 24 hour window for casting votes.
- Earlier, the Governing Council of IPU, Geneva resumed its business during the 206th Session in virtual format.
- The Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and consisting of Members of Parliament Poonamben Hematbhai Maadam and Swapan Dasgupta attended the meeting.

7. Abu Dhabi's SWF is first notified fund to get 100% income-tax exemption

- Finance Ministry announced that Abu Dhabi's Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF) - MIC Redwood 1 RSC Limited - has become the first foreign SWF that has been notified and granted 100% income-tax exemption for the long-term investments to be made in the specified priority sectors in India.

- Finance Ministry said that India has gradually opened up the economy for FDI, except very few sectors and has also extended a lot of tax concessions for sovereign funds to attract long-term investments in India's infrastructure sector.

New Appointments and Person in News

1. Malayalam Writer Paul Zacharia selected for Ezhuthachan Puraskaram

- Noted Malayalam writer Paul Zacharia has been selected for this year's Ezhuthachan Puraskaram, the Kerala government's highest literary honour. The award, named after Ezhuthachan, the father of the Malayalam language, carries a cash prize of Rs five lakh and a citation.
- Zacharia was chosen for his contribution to Malayalam literature during the past five decades, Culture Affairs minister A K Balan.

2. Rajiv Jalota appointed Chairman of Mumbai Port Trust

- Maharashtra cadre 1988 batch Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officer Rajiv Jalota has been appointed as the chairman of Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT) under the Union ministry of shipping.
- Jalota, who is the first Goods and Services Tax (GST) commissioner of the state, is currently the additional chief secretary in higher and technical education department of the state government.
- He first served as sales tax commissioner and then as GST commissioner from January 2015 to January 2020.
- The post of MbPT chairman was vacant after former chairman Sanjay Bhatia retired on July 31 and was appointed as up-Lokayukta of the state.

BANKING

1. ICICI Bank launches 'Mine' for millennials

- ICICI Bank announced the launch of India's first comprehensive banking programme for millennials.
- Inspired by 'Millennial Network', the proposition is called 'ICICI Bank Mine'.
- It offers an instant savings account, a feature driven iMobile application, curated credit and debit card, instant personal loans & overdrafts, and even an experiential branch with social engagement space.

Books and Awards

1. Om Puri awarded Lifetime Achievement Award posthumously at IFFB 2020

- Late Indian actor, Om Puri was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the third edition of the India International Film Festival of Boston (IFFB 2020).
- The award was received by his wife Nandita Puri. The three-day film festival, based in Boston USA. Another highlight of the festival was a conversation with chef Vikas Khanna, recipient of the “Pride of India Award”.
- Malayalam film “Kaanthi” bagged the Best Feature Film Award, while the Best Male Actor was won by Victor Banerjee for playing a priest in Josef: Born In Grace. The Best Female Actor went to Shylaja Ambu for Kaanthe

2. UP Governor releases 'science toon' book on COVID-19 pandemic

- Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel released a 'science toon' book with comprehensive information on the COVID-19 pandemic, its symptoms and prevention through precautions.
- The book was written by ‘scientoonist’ Dr. Pradeep Srivastava, former Senior Principal Scientist at CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow.
- It is further planned to make a 3D version of the book. The book has been published by Vigyan Prasar.

3. Delhi Book Fair 2020 organised virtually due to pandemic

- Delhi Book Fair 2020 was organised virtually by the Federation of Indian Publishers (FIP) in a two-day online event on 30 October and 31 October.
- Delhi Book Fair 2020 was the 26th edition of Delhi Book Fair and was organized in partnership with Pragati-E, which is an Online Virtual Exhibition Platform for organizing events digitally.
- Publications Division of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has kept three virtual stalls in the book fair.

4. AIIMS Director authored ‘Till We Win’ Book on Covid-19

- A new book titled “Till We Win” by AIIMS Director Randeep Guleria and two other doctors will give a definitive account of India’s fight against Covid-19 and how to deal with the pandemic in the days to come. The book has been co-written by leading public policy and health systems expert Chandrakant Lahariya and renowned vaccine researcher and virologist Gagandeep Kang.

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

SPORTS

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

- Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced Reliance Jio as the title sponsor of the Women's T20 Challenge 2020.
- This is the first time a sponsor is partnering with the BCCI exclusively for the women's counterpart to the IPL.
- The women's T20 challenge is scheduled to run from November 4-9 in Sharjah.

2. Indian boxers Amit Panghal, Sanjeet and Ashish Kumar win gold at the Alexis Vastine International 2020

- Indian boxers Amit Panghal, Sanjeet and Ashish Kumar
- have claimed gold medals at the 2020 Alexis Valentine International Boxing Tournament held in Nantes, France. This was the first international tournament in which Indian boxers were a part, since the lockdown.
- Amit Panghal won the gold in the 52 kg-weight category, Sanjeet won in the 91 kg final bout Ashish Kumar won the gold medal in the 75 kg weight category. Apart from this, Kavinder Singh Bisht, won silver in the 57 kg weight category.
- Three Indian boxers namely Shiva Thapa (63 kg), Sumit Sangwan (81 kg) and Satish Kumar (Over 91 kg) had secured the bronze medals for India.

3. Shane Watson retires from all forms of cricket

- Australian all-rounder, Shane Watson has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
- The 39-year-old will hang up his boots after an illustrious career during which he won two ICC Men’s Cricket World Cups and two ICC Champions Trophy titles.
- He played 59 Tests, 190 ODIs and 58 T20Is.

4. West Indies batsman M. Samuels retires from all forms of cricket

- West Indies batsman, Marlon Samuels has announced his retirement from professional cricket.

- The 39-year-old had informed Cricket West Indies (CWI) about his retirement in June this year, having last played for his country in December 2018 against Bangladesh.
- He has played 71 Tests, 207 ODIs, and 67 T20s at the international level, has scored 11,134 international runs including 17 centuries across all formats. He also has 152 international wickets to his name.



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5. Women's T-20 Challenger gets underway in Sharjah

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

SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE

1. India successfully test fires air-launched version of BrahMos missile from Sukhoi jet

- In a display of its growing combat prowess, the Indian Air Force on Friday successfully test-fired an air-launched version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from a Sukhoi fighter aircraft in the Bay of Bengal.
- The missile hit a sinking ship with deadly accuracy and the test-firing produced desired results. This test was the longest range BrahMos strike that was undertaken by the Sukhoi 30 MKI platform. This missile was

developed by DRDO, the air-launched version of nuclear-capable BrahMos has a strike range of 300 km with the capability to hit targets at sea or land in all weather conditions.

2. 1st Phase of Malabar Naval Exercise involving participation by India, US, Japan, Australia begins

- The 24th edition of the Malabar Naval Exercise is scheduled in two phases during the current month. The First Phase of the Exercise Malabar-20 involving participation by Indian Navy (IN), United States Navy (USN), Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) and Royal Australian Navy (RAN) commenced off Visakhapatnam in Bay of Bengal from.
- Malabar series of maritime exercises commenced in 1992 as a bilateral Indian Navy- United States Navy exercise. Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force joined Malabar in 2015 and The 2020 edition will now witness participation of the Royal Australian Navy in this joint maritime exercise. Phase-2 of Malabar-20 is scheduled to be conducted in the Arabian Sea in mid-November.

3. IIT Madras develops “IITM COVID Game” to create awareness

- Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) said its researchers have developed a digital game 'IITM Covid Game' to create awareness about Covid-19 virus among the general public, particularly children. This game is browser-based and can be played on any device including Personal Computers, laptops, tablets and mobile phones, among others.
- The game takes inspiration from the famous 'Super Mario' game and consists of a character who encounters various right things, like masks, washing hands and also encounters things to be avoided, like hugs, handshakes.

4. Bangladesh and US launch joint naval exercise ‘CARAT Bangladesh 2020’

- The Bangladesh and US navies launched the ‘Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Bangladesh 2020’ to expand relationships and broaden maritime awareness between the two countries. The exercise demonstrates U.S. 's continuing commitment to work with the Bangladesh military to address shared maritime security concerns in the region and strengthen partnership to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific region.
- Historically, the CARAT exercises involve people to people interactions and a variety of professional exchanges. These will take place online this year due to the COVID 19 pandemic.
- The sea-phase of the exercise will take place in the Bay of Bengal with ships from both countries.

5. ISRO to launch Earth Observation Satellite EOS01 on Nov 7

- The Indian Space Research organisation ISRO has scheduled the launch of the Earth Observation Satellite EOS01. Nine other customer satellites will also be carried into space by the workhorse launch vehicle PSLV-C49.
- This would be the first launch by the ISRO after the Covid-triggered lockdown.
- The ISRO says the earth observation satellite EOS-01 is intended for applications in agriculture, forestry and disaster management support.

6. Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane Conferred With Nepal Army General's Honorary Rank

- Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane was conferred with the honorary rank of General of the Nepal Army by President Bidya Devi Bhandari.
- General Manoj Mukund Naravane was accorded the honorary rank at a special ceremony at the President's official residence 'Shital Niwas' in Kathmandu. Nepali Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli was also present at the ceremony.
- With the honorary rank of General of the Nepal Army, General Naravane was also given a cap of the Nepali Army, a sword and a scroll. A video of the ceremony showed the Indian Army Chief donning Nepali Army's cap and receiving a sword from Nepali President Bidhya Devi Bhandari.

OBITUARIES

1. James Bond actor Sean Connery died at the age of 90

- Sir Sean Connery has died at the age of 90, his family has said. The Scottish actor was best known for his portrayal of James Bond, being the first to bring the role to the big screen and appearing in seven of the spy thrillers.
- Sir Sean died peacefully in his sleep in the Bahamas, having been "unwell for some time", his son said.

2. Tamil Nadu Agriculture Minister R Doraikkannu dies at 72

- Tamil Nadu Agriculture Minister R Doraikkannu, who had tested positive for the coronavirus, died at a private hospital in Chennai. He was 72.
- He was elected as an MLA from Papanasam in Thanjavur district in 2006, 2011, and 2016. He also served as a Cabinet minister in 2016, under former Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa's term.
- Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit, who had tested positive in August, paid tributes to the minister. "He was known for his simplicity, humbleness, straightforwardness, governance skills and commitment

towards the welfare of farming community,” he said. “He handled Ministry of Agriculture with full dedication and engraved his strong mark.”

3. Former Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz passes away

- Veteran Politician and former prime minister of Turkey, Mesut Yilmaz has passed away. He was the Chief of the now-defunctional centre-right Motherland Party or ANAP from 1991 to 2002.
- He served as prime minister of Turkey three times in the 1990s.
- His first two prime-ministerial terms lasted for just one month, in 1991 and then in 1996, while the third term was from June 1997 to January 1999.

4. 6th & shortest served CM of Bihar Satish Prasad Singh passes away

- Former Chief Minister and Socialist of Bihar, Satish Prasad Singh passed away. He was born on January 1, 1936, in Korchakka(now known as Satish Nagar) Village, Khagaria district, Bihar.
- Satish Prasad Singh, the leader of Soshit Samaj Dal became the 6th and the shortest- served CM of Bihar for 5 days (28 January to February 1, 1968) with the support of Indian National Congress (INC).

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Vegan Day is observed on 01 November

- World Vegan Day is an annual event celebrated by vegans around the world every 1 November. The day is observed across the world to encourage people to follow a vegan lifestyle.
- Many prominent vegans believe vegan food benefits human health, protect the well-being of animals, and also helps in protecting the environment.
- Vegan people choose not to consume dairy products including eggs and other products of animal origin. Also like vegetarians, they don't eat meat.

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

- Union Territory of Ladakh celebrated its first raising day on 31 October .It was on this day last year, Ladakh became a union territory. With a theme of One year of Development, Prosperity and Empowerment the Union Territory administration has planned the first year anniversary celebrations across the region.
- Ladakh Lieutenant Governor R K Mathur participated in these virtual events. Until 2019, Ladakh was a region of the state of Jammu and

Kashmir. In August 2019, the Parliament of India passed an act by which Ladakh became a union territory on 31 October 2019.

3. Haryana Statehood Day observed on 1 November

- Haryana was formed on 1 November 1966 as a separate state with seven districts from the parts of East Punjab. It was formed on the recommendations of the Sardar Hukam Singh Parliamentary Committee.
- This year 54th Haryana day has been celebrated across the state.

4. World Tsunami Awareness Day observed on 5 November

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

5. International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict observed on 06 November

- The International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict is an international day observed annually on November 6.
- It was established on November 5, 2001 by the United Nations General Assembly, during Kofi Atta Annan's tenure as Secretary-General.
- At the time of war, it affects the ecosystem such as water supply is poisoned, the forest is burnt, animals killed, etc. Though humanity has always counted its war casualties in terms of dead and wounded soldiers and civilians, destroyed cities and livelihoods, the environment has often remained the unpublicized victim of war.

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