



CURRENT AFFAIRS
28 November 2020

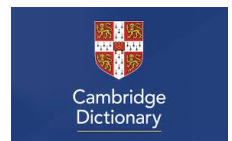
Today's Important News

UAE becomes first Arab country to generate electricity from coal.



1. Quarantine' named as Cambridge Dictionary's Word of the Year 2020

- The word has been named the word of the year based on data that showed that it was one of the most highly searched words on the Cambridge Dictionary this year.
- “Quarantine was the only word to rank in the top five for both search spikes and overall views (more than 183,000 by early November), with the largest spike in searches (28,545) seen in the week of March 18-24 , when many countries around the world went into lockdown as a result of Covid-19,” as per an official release.
- Cambridge editors have noticed that people are using the word in a new way this year describing a “general period of time in which people are not allowed to leave their homes or travel freely, so that they do not catch or spread a disease.”
- “Research shows the word is being used synonymously with lockdown, particularly in the United States, to refer to a situation in which people stay home to avoid catching the disease,”



2. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu to chair 19th meeting of SCO Council of Heads of Govt on Nov 30

- Vice President Venkaiah Naidu will chair the 19th meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of Government to be hosted by India in virtual format on 30th of this month. It will be the first time that a Summit-level Meeting will be held under India's Chairmanship, since it gained full membership of the organization in 2017. This Summit is held annually at the level of Prime Ministers of SCO and deals primarily with the trade and economic agenda of the organization.
- India assumed the Chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads of Government on 2nd November last year as per rotation from the previous Chair - Uzbekistan and will complete its year-long tenure on 30th of this month.



Footnotes:

About SCO:

Headquarters: Beijing, China

Founded: 15 June 2001

Secretary General: Vladimir Norov

Official language: Chinese and Russian

Founders: China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan

About Uzbekistan:

Capital: Tashkent

President: Shavkat Mirziyoyev

Currency: Uzbekistani so'm

Recognised regional languages: Karakalpak (Karakalpakstan)

3. Ladakh Lt. Governor "R. K. Mathur" inaugurates curtain raiser event of IISF-2020

- Ladakh Lieutenant Governor has inaugurated curtain raiser event of India International Science Festival (IISF)-2020 in Leh today. In a virtual event, organised at Defence Institute of High Altitude Research, Mr. Mathur underlined the importance of taking science and technology to remote parts of the country while highlighting the requirements of adaptations of science and technology for sustainability in environmentally fragile places like Ladakh.
- India International science festival launched in 2015 is a celebration to promote science and technology and how science could lead India towards developed nation.



- Ladakh University Vice Chancellor C Phuntsog called for application of science to make the livelihood of the population more healthier, economical and sustainable.

Footnotes:

About Ladakh:

Union territory: 31 October 2019

Capitals: Leh, Kargil

Lt. Governor: R. K. Mathur

4.UAE becomes First Arab Country to generate electricity from coal

- The United Arab Emirates recently became the first and probably the last Arab country to generate electricity from coal. The coal plant, Hassyan is to be set up in Dubai at 3.4 billion USD. The capacity of the plant will be 600 MW. Later, the capacity of the plant is to be increased to 2,400 MW by 2023.
- UAE is opting for coal-based power plant because the Hassyan standards for pollution is to be based on guidelines for Natural Gas Power Plant. This way the new coal-based power plant will emit less



Footnotes:

About UAE:

Capital: Abu Dhabi

Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham

President: Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

5.US imposes sanctions on Russian, Chinese companies for supporting Iranian missile programme

- The US has imposed sanctions on four companies from China and Russia for supporting Iran's missile programme that remains a "significant proliferation concern," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said.
- The announcement was made on Friday as the US continues to take tough measures against Iran for continuing their activities related to nuclear arms.
- President Donald Trump withdrew the US from the landmark Iran nuclear deal in 2018.



Footnotes:

About China:

President: Xi Jinping

Capital: Beijing

Currency: Renminbi

About Russia:

Capital: Moscow

President: Vladimir Putin

Currency: Russian ruble

Prime minister: Mikhail Mishustin



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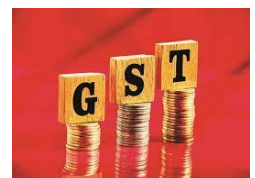


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6. Punjab takes Rs 1.1 lakh cr option to meet GST compensation shortfall

- Punjab has become the latest state to choose Rs 1.1 lakh crore option to meet the shortfall from goods and service tax (GST) implementation, and will get Rs 8,359 crore through special borrowing window, the finance ministry said Saturday.
- "On receipt of the choice of Option-1 from Punjab, the Government of India has granted additional borrowing permission of Rs.3,033 crore, 0.5% of Punjab's gross state domestic product (GSDP).



Foot Notes:

About Punjab:

Capital: Chandigarh

Governor: V. P. Singh Badnore

Chief Minister: Amarinder Singh

7. West Bengal to construct 'Apar Sansar Park' as tribute to Soumitra Chatterjee

- The West Bengal government has decided to construct a park themed on legendary actor Soumitra Chatterjee's debut film 'Apar Sansar' in New Town area on the northeastern fringes of Kolkata, a senior official said on Saturday.
- The West Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (HIDCO) has invited an expression of interest (EOI) from bidders for deciding on how to execute the theme by retaining the flavour of the film, its Chairman cum Managing Director Debashis Sen said.



Foot Notes:

About West Bengal:

Governor: Jagdeep Dhankhar

Capital: Kolkata

8. EPFO extends deadline to submit life certificate by pensioners till February 28

- Retirement fund body EPFO has extended the deadline for submission of life certificates by pensioners till February 28, a move which would benefit over 35 lakh persons who could not submit the document by November due to coronavirus pandemic.
- The pensioners who could not submit their life certificates till November 30 deadline, would get pension every month till February.



Foot Notes:

About EPFO:

Founded: 4 March 1952, New Delhi

Headquarters: New Delhi

9. India rise four spots to 104th in latest FIFA rankings

- The elite football body, FIFA, has released the international rankings for November 2020, and Indian fans will be pleased with



their team's new position. India has moved up to 104, a significant rise of four spots, in the recent FIFA rankings. The country was placed at 108 when the governing body previously released the rankings in October.

Foot Notes:

About FIFA:

President: Gianni Infantino

Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland

Founded at: Paris, France

Motto: For the Game. For the World.

10. Legendary Bangladeshi actor, Liberation War fighter Aly Zaker passes away

- Eminent Bangladeshi actor and cultural personality Aly Zaker passed away in Dhaka on Friday. He was 76. He had been fighting cancer for the last several years. He tested COVID 19 positive two days back in a Dhaka hospital where he was undergoing treatment.
- Aly Zaker was a towering figure of Bangladesh in theatre, Television and films.
- President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued condolence messages to pay tribute to the departed cultural personality of Bangladesh. State Minister for Cultural Affairs K.M. Khalid also expressed grief over the demise of Aly Zaker.



Foot Notes:

About Bangladesh:

Capital: Dhaka

Currency: Bangladeshi taka

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