



# Weekly Current Affairs

15 Nov-21 Nov 2020

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## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **1. All religious places in Maharashtra to open from tomorrow**

- In Maharashtra, as all the religious places are opening from tomorrow, many famous temples are doing special arrangements to facilitate the devotees to visit the temples without crowding and following COVID-19 guidelines. Famous Tuljapur temple in Osmanabad has made the provision of free passes for the devotees which will be issued online.
- AIR Correspondent reports, devotees of Tulja Bhavani can seek the blessings of Goddess from tomorrow without crowding the temple premises as the temple authorities have made the provision of free passes to enter the temple. The passes will be available online on the website of the temple and at the same time those who don't have internet access can collect their passes in person from four centres in Tuljapur.

### **2. In a first, Mumbai Metro to have vibration-absorbing tracks**

- In a first for India, the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Ltd., MMRCL will lay vibration-absorbing tracks on the Colaba-Bandra-SEEPZ Metro Line
- MMRCL Director (Projects) S. K. Gupta yesterday said, the corporation has started trial production of the High Vibration Attenuation Booted Twin Sleeper Blocks, HVABTSB to lay tracks with the help of a machine from Sonneville AG, Switzerland. He said, this type of tracks, being used for the first time in India will absorb vibrations upto 22 Vibration Decibels, Vdb.
- It is considered ideal for a congested city like Mumbai where there are many heritage structures, old buildings, hospitals, schools, colleges, studios and densely populated residential colonies, which can get affected by vibrations. Mr Gupta said, a total of two machines with their state-of-the-art technology will together produce 12,000 of such sleeper blocks at the MMRCL's facility set up in Wadala.

### **3. External affairs minister S. Jaishankar Represents India at 15th East Asia Summit 2020**

- The External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar represented India at the 15th East Asia Summit (EAS) on 14 November 2020 on behalf of PM Modi.
- The Summit was chaired by the Prime Minister of Vietnam Nguyen Xuan Phuc because Vietnam is ASEAN Chair in 2020 (ASEAN holds the central role and leadership in the forum).
- All the 18 EA countries participated in the virtual Summit.
- The East Asia Summit (EAS) was established in 2005, as a Leaders-led forum that provides a platform for discussion on important strategic issues in the Indo-Pacific region.
- It is a regional grouping of 18 participating countries which includes 10 ASEAN countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia,

Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam), and Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russia and the United States.

- India is a founding member of EAS.
- The 18 members of the EAS together represent 54% of the world population and account for 58% of the global GDP.

#### **4. Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan chairs 147th session of WHO Executive Board**

- Health Minister Harsh Vardhan was elected the chair of World Health Organization's Executive Board on Friday.
- "I feel deeply honoured to have the trust and faith of all of you. India, and my countrymen, too, feel privileged that this honour has been bestowed upon us. I will work to realise the collective vision of our organisation, to build the collective capacity of all our Member nations and to build a heroic collective leadership," Harsh Vardhan said addressing the 147th WHO Executive Board session as its Chair. The session was held virtually.
- "WHO is already providing leadership to the entire world in the sphere of public health, engaging with partners for joint actions, shaping the research agenda and stimulating the dissemination of valuable knowledge. The need is to catalyse further change," he said.
- Health is central to enhancing human capabilities. Protecting health of those without wealth should be the core philosophy of our close alliance at the WHO, Vardhan said.

#### **5. Keetham lake in Uttar Pradesh added to Ramsar sites**

- Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar has expressed happiness that India has added one more Ramsar sites. Sur Sarovar, also known as Keetham lake in Agra of Uttar Pradesh added to the Ramsar sites. In a tweet, Mr Javadekar said that wetlands are the world's natural water filters and one of the most productive ecosystems on the planet.
- The Ramsar Convention signed on 2nd February, 1971, is one of the oldest inter-governmental accord signed by member countries to preserve the ecological character of their wetlands of international importance.
- The aim of the Ramsar list is to develop and maintain an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the maintenance of their ecosystem components, processes and benefits. Wetlands declared as Ramsar sites are protected under strict guidelines of the convention.

#### **6. World's first tram library for children launched in Kolkata, West Bengal**

- World's first tram library for children launched in Kolkata short by Shreyasi Banerjee
- The West Bengal Transport Corporation (WBTC) and Apeejay Anand Children's Library launched the world's first tram library for children on Saturday in Kolkata on Children's Day.
- "The tram would run on Shyambazar-Esplanade and Esplanade-Gariahat routes, spanning across North and South Kolkata, every day from morning to evening. The Oxford Bookstores has curated the selection of books," WBTC MD said.

### **7. PM unveils 'Statue of Peace' to mark 151st Birth Anniversary celebrations of Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj**

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today unveiled 'Statue of Peace' to mark the 151st Birth Anniversary celebrations of Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj, via video conferencing. The Statue unveiled in the honour of the Jain acharya, has been named as 'Statue of Peace'. The 151 inch tall statue has been made from Ashtadhatu i.e. 8 metals, with Copper being the major constituent, and is installed at Vijay Vallabh Sadhana Kendra, Jetpura, in Pali, Rajasthan.
- The Prime Minister paid tribute to the Jainacharya and the spiritual leaders present on the occasion. Mentioning two 'Vallabhs', Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel and the Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj, the Prime Minister said that he feels blessed by the fact that after dedicating the world's tallest statue of Sardar Patel- 'Statue of Unity', he is getting opportunity to unveil the 'Statue of Peace' of the Jainacharya Shri Vijay Vallabh.

### **8. Four-day celebrations of Chhath Puja begin today**

- The four-day celebrations of Chhath Puja began today in different parts of the country with the traditional Nahay Khay ceremony. Puja will conclude on Saturday morning after paying oblation to the rising Sun
- In Bihar, Four day-long Chhath festival commenced today with the ritual of Nahay-Khay. Chhath is a festival of worship of the Sun and it is a symbol of the faith of Crores of people across the world.
- After taking a bath devotees are consuming cooked food items like Arwa rice, Chana dal, and gourd as a part of the Nahay-Khay ritual.

### **9. First solar power-enabled Textile Mill in Asia to come up in Parbhani district**

- In Maharashtra, the first solar power-enabled Textile Mill in Asia is coming up in Parbhani district. The project, once functional, will provide jobs to many women in the district.



- The Jai Bhawani women's cooperative textile mill will be the first in Asia that will operate on solar power. Spread across thirty acres of land the mill will process cotton to the cloth.
- Ginning, pressing, weaving and spinning of cotton will be done in the mill. Dr. Patil said the cost of the project is 100 crore rupees and the operationalization of the mill it will certainly give momentum to the industrial sector in the district.

## 10. MP govt announces formation of 'Gau Cabinet' for cow protection

- A day after announcing the introduction of a bill against 'Love Jihad' in the next session of Vidhan Sabha, the BJP government in Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday said that it has decided to set up a 'Gau Cabinet' for cow protection.
- In a tweet, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said: "It has been decided to constitute a Gau Cabinet (cow cabinet) for cattle conservation and promotion. It will comprise animal husbandry, farmers' welfare, forest, panchayat-rural development, home and revenue departments. The first meeting of the cow cabinet will be held at the cow sanctuary in Agar-Malwa district on Gopashthami festival on November 22."



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## 11. Himachal Pradesh CM flags off Medical Mobile Unit Jeevan Dhara

- In order to provide a complete range of health care services for people living in remote and inaccessible areas of Himachal Pradesh, the state government today flagged off Medical Mobile Unit Jeevan Dhara, from the Ridge in Shimla.
- While flagging off this Mobile Health and Wellness Unit, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said the van would function as a Mobile Primary Health

Centre. He said free medical consultancy and screening would be provided to the patients through Jeevan Dhara Mobile Health and Wellness Centre. Jai Ram Thakur also flagged off TB Detection Vans on the occasion.

- Today, 10 such mobile vans were pressed into service to provide free health care to the people. Out of these vans, two each would be provided in Kangra, Mandi and Shimla districts and one each for Chamba, Kullu, Sirmaur and Solan districts.

## **12. NFDB confers four awards to Assam for success in the fishery sector**

- The National Fisheries Development Board has conferred four awards to Assam for the success in the fishery sector. Assam has got the best state award under the category of best hilly and North-Eastern state. Assam Apex Cooperative Fish Marketing and Processing Federation Limited (FISHED) has been selected under the category of best hilly and Northeastern government organization.
- On the other hand, Nagaon district has been selected under the best hilly and North Eastern district category while a Nalbari based farmer Amal Medhi is selected under the hilly and North Eastern fish farmer category. The awards will be given on the 21st of this month in New Delhi.

## **13. Centre govt. launches Safai Mitra Suraksha Challenge in 243 cities**

- Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday launched the Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge, aimed to ensure that no person needs to enter a sewer or septic tank, unless absolutely unavoidable in the interest of greater public hygiene. The initiative, that promotes mechanized cleaning, also aims to ensure that no life of any sewer or septic tank cleaner is ever lost again owing to the issue of 'hazardous' cleaning.
- The virtual event witnessed participation of representatives from 243 cities across the country, coming together to take a pledge to mechanize all sewer and septic tank cleaning operations by 30th April 2021. The initiative was launched on the occasion of World Toilet Day.

## **14. Dr Harsh Vardhan addresses 33rd Stop TB Partnership Board meet in New Delhi through Video Conference**

- Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan has stressed on the need to create a mass movement for elimination of TB with strategized advocacy, thought leadership, disruptive social entrepreneurship, powerful, societal and political commitment. He was addressing the 33rd Stop TB Partnership Board meet in New Delhi through Video Conference yesterday.
- Dr Harsh Vardhan highlighted India's "TB Harega, Desh Jeetega" campaign that targets to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal target related to TB by 2025, five years ahead of the global target of 2030. He

said, India had nearly trebled efforts on increasing TB notifications and had managed to close the gap in 'Missing million TB cases'.

### **15. Vijayanagara Becomes 31st District of Karnataka With Cabinet Nod For Bifurcation of Ballari district**

- The Karnataka state cabinet on Wednesday approved a proposal for carving out a new district called Vijayanagara by bifurcating Ballari district. Vijayanagara will become 31st district of Karnataka. Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa had last year assured that a new district would be carved out of Ballari and named Vijayanagara after the capital of historic Vijayanagara empire.
- "Some of the regions of the district are at a distance of 200 km from the district headquarters. This makes it difficult for farmers, economically backward sections, day labourers and others living in taluks farther away to travel for official work," Yediyurappa had said in his note to Chief Secretary T M Vijay Bhaskar.
- Of the 11 taluks currently in Ballari district, five - Ballari, Kurugodu, Siraguppa, Sandur and Kudligi - will remain part of Ballari district, while six other taluks - Hospete, Kampli, Hagaribommanahalli, Kottur, Hadagali and Harappanahalli - will constitute the new Vijayanagar district, reports said. Yadgir was the last district created in Karnataka. It was carved out of Kalaburagi in 2009.

### **16. NCRTC and NDB sign USD 500m for Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Rapid Transit System Project**

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, National Capital Region Transport Corporation Limited and the New Development Bank today signed a loan agreement for lending 500 million dollars for the 'Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System Project'. The Rapid Transit System will provide a fast, reliable, safe and comfortable public transport system in the National Capital Region.
- Due to lack of efficient public transport options, the number of private vehicles in NCR has increased. It can take about 3 to 4 hours to travel between Delhi and Meerut in Uttar Pradesh by road during peak hours. Rapid growth in vehicular traffic has made NCR one of the most polluted regions in the world.

### **17. Bhubaneswar Becomes First City in India to Get ISO Certification for Faecal Sludge and Septage Management**

- Bhubaneswar has become the first city in the country to receive the ISO Certification for Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM).
- This has been informed by the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Wednesday.

- “Bhubaneswar becomes the 1st city in the entire country to receive the ISO-9001:2015 certification for effective Faecal Sludge & Septage Management #FSSM services. We thank all citizens for the cooperation!”, the BMC tweeted.

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

### **1. Stanford University lists world's top 2% scientists, 14 from IIT-BHU**

- At least 14 scientists from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) - Banaras Hindu University have figured among the top two per cent scientists in a global list compiled by the prestigious Stanford University.
- The US-based Stanford University has recently released a list that represents the top 2 per cent of the most-cited scientists in various disciplines. The exhaustive list has 1,59,683 persons with nearly 1,500 scientists, doctors and engineers in India.
- "The list includes the name of 14 professors of Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University). All these have been selected on the basis of their research paper's international evaluation," IIT BHU Director Pramod Kumar Jain said.

### **2. 8th BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial meeting unanimously adopts BRICS STI Declaration 2020**

- The 8th BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial meeting unanimously has adopted BRICS STI Declaration 2020. The meeting was held yesterday through a virtual platform. Science and Technology cooperation among the member countries Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa was discussed in the meeting.
- During the meeting, Science and Technology Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan highlighted that the COVID 19 pandemic has been a test, demonstrating that multilateral cooperation is the key to overcoming such global challenges. He informed that India has initiated an integrated response to overcome this pandemic. From the development of indigenous vaccines, novel point-of-care diagnostics and therapeutic formulations based on traditional knowledge, Indian Research and Development are working relentlessly to develop effective interventions for combating the pandemic. The Minister said, more than 100 startups have developed innovative products for COVID-19.

### **3. India announces additional \$1 million aid to ASEAN Covid-19 Response Fund**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday announced a contribution of USD 1 million to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund at the 17th ASEAN-India Summit, which was held virtually.



- In his address to leaders from the 10 ASEAN countries, PM Modi also highlighted India's response and broader support to the international community and welcomed the association's initiatives to fight the pandemic.

#### **4. Bangladeshi teen “Sadat Rahman” wins International Children’s Peace Prize for fighting against cyberbullying**

- Bangladeshi teen, 17-year-old Sadat Rahman has won the International Children’s Peace Prize 2020 for his fight against cyberbullying.
- Human rights activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai on Friday announced the name of Sadat as this year’s winner of the prize.
- Sadat has been awarded for his involvement in setting up his social organization and mobile app “Cyber Teens” to stop cyberbullying.
- According to reports, Sadat started his campaign after a 15-year-old girl, who committed suicide due to cyberbullying.

#### **5. Japan and Australia poised to sign defence pact to counter China**

- Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and his Australian counterpart, Scott Morrison, agree to sign a defence agreement on Tuesday in a bid to counter China's growing influence in the South China Sea and over the Pacific island nations.
- South China Morning Post reported PM Morrison's arrival in Japan on Tuesday where security experts expect him to wind up a Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA) with Suga to establish a legal framework for their troops to visit for to conduct military joint operations and training.
- This defence agreement has taken six years to negotiate and would need to be ratified by lawmakers of both countries.
- Tokyo and Canberra are seeking closer ties as they worry about Chinese activity in the region, including militarisation in the South China Sea.

#### **6. High Commission of India launches Special Edition wrist watches for Mujib Centenary year in Dhaka**

- A limited series of special edition wristwatches was released in Dhaka today for the Mujib Centenary year ‘Mujib Borsho’. The special edition watches was released by the Minister of Road Transport and Bridges Obaidul Quader and the High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami
- The wrist watches in this limited edition series bear the images of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his signature representing the timelessness of the message of Bangabandhu and its eternal relevance.
- Bangladesh is celebrating the birth centenary year of its founder president and Father of Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The government of Bangladesh has declared the period from March 17, 2020, to

March 26, 2021 as the Mujib Borsho marking the birth centenary of Bangabandhu.

## **7. India-Luxembourg virtual summit to be chaired by PM Modi & his counterpart**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said there is a lot of potential for increasing economic exchanges between India and Luxembourg.
- Addressing the India Luxembourg virtual summit this evening, Mr Modi said steel, financial technology, and digital domains are several sectors where both nations have good cooperation, but there are more possibilities in these sectors.
- He congratulated his Luxembourg counterpart Xavier Bettel's skillful leadership in this difficult time of the COVID pandemic. He expressed condolences on behalf of all Indians for the loss of lives in COVID in Luxembourg. He said this is the first stand-alone Summit meeting between India and Luxembourg in the past two decades.

## **New Appointments and Person in News**

### **1. Nitish Kumar to take oath as next Chief Minister of Bihar tomorrow**

- Nitish Kumar will be the Chief Minister of Bihar for the seventh time. The JD (U) leader was today elected unanimously the leader of National Democratic Alliance. The decision was taken at a joint meeting of NDA in Patna.
- Tarkishore Prasad has been unanimously elected as the leader of BJP legislature party while Renu Devi has been elected as the deputy leader.
- Earlier, the newly elected legislators of JDU elected Nitish Kumar the leader of the party. The meeting was convened at his official residence. After being elected as the NDA leader in Bihar, Mr Kumar said that he did not want to become the chief minister of the State but agreed to lead the NDA at the request of BJP.
- The oath ceremony will take place tomorrow afternoon. Mr. Kumar along with his council of ministers will take oath of office and secrecy before the Governor Phagu Chauhan.

### **2.Sonu Sood appointed as the State Icon of Punjab by Election Commission**

- Bollywood actor Sonu Sood has been appointed as the state icon of Punjab by Election Commission.

- The announcement was made on the Twitter handle by the Chief Electoral Officer, Punjab. It read, "The real hero of people is now the state icon of Punjab - Sonu Sood"
- The "Happy New Year" actor has helped several migrants amid the coronavirus lockdown by arranging foods and shelters for the people.
- Earlier, Penguin Random House India had announced that the "Dabangg" actor will be penning an autobiography that will chronicle his experiences during the pandemic. The book will be co-written by Meena Iyer.
- The autobiography will be titled as "I Am No Messiah."


### 3.ED Director SK Mishra's tenure extended by one year

- The Union government has extended the tenure of ED Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra by a year after modifying his appointment order that was issued in 2018, officials said.
- Mishra, 60, is a 1984-batch Indian Revenue Service officer of the Income Tax cadre and was appointed the Enforcement Directorate chief on November 19, 2018.
- His tenure was to end next week as the ED director's post comes with a fixed term of two years.

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### 4.Sandu Elected as First-Ever Woman President of Moldova

- Maia Sandu, a former World Bank economist, has won Moldova's 2020 Presidential election to become the President-elect of the country. She received 57.72% of the vote.
- She is the first women to be elected as the President of Moldova and would assume office on 23rd December 2020.
- Meanwhile, the incumbent President of Moldova, Igor Dodon received 42.28% of the vote.
- The 48-year-old Sandu is the current leader of the Party of Action and Solidarity (PAS).

- She was former Prime Minister of Moldova from 8 June 2019 until 14 November 2019.

## **BANKING**

### **1.HDFC Bank launches SmartHub Merchant Solutions 3.0 for SMEs**

- HDFC Bank has announced the launch of “SmartHub Merchant Solutions 3.0” for Small and mid-size enterprises.
- This solution allows merchants and self-employed professionals to instantly open a current account and start accepting payments in-store, online, and on-the-go.
- The Bank plans to reach out to more than 20 million small and medium merchants and professional services like doctors, pharmacies, salons and laundry services across the metro, semi-urban and rural India in the next three years.

### **2.SBM Bank India and PayNearby collaborate to launch the neo banking platform ‘Nivesh’**

- The SBM Bank India, a wholly-owned subsidiary of State Bank of Mauritius, has announced to launch a ‘neo banking platform’ to reach its customers in the country with the help of technology.
- The neo banking service launched is called ‘Nivesh’ and is a unique Goal-Based Recurring Deposit Platform.
- A neo banking (also known as online banking, internet-only banking, virtual banking, or digital banking) is a type of direct bank that operates exclusively online without traditional physical branch networks.

### **3.DIPAM inks agreement with World Bank for advisory services on asset monetization**

- Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) signed an agreement with World Bank on Monday. Under the agreement, World Bank is to provide advisory services to DIPAM for asset monetization, said Ministry of Finance in an official release. DIPAM is mandated with facilitating monetization of non-core assets of government CPSEs under strategic disinvestment or closure and enemy property of the value of Rs 100 crore and above. DIPAM has a framework for monetizing non-core assets.
- Under the agreement, World Bank is to provide advisory services to DIPAM for asset monetization.
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- DIPAM has a framework for monetizing non-core assets.



#### **4. Goldman Sachs projects India GDP to shrink 10.3%, less than September forecast, in FY21**

- Investment bank Goldman Sachs expects India's gross domestic product (GDP) to contract by 10.3 percent in the financial year 2020-21, expecting an uptick in the economy from its previous estimate in September of a 14.8 percent contraction.
- The American firm projected India's GDP to rebound to 13 percent in the succeeding fiscal, FY22.
- Goldman Sachs said that the developments on the vaccine front — were two candidates, Pfizer and Moderna, have posted satisfactory progress — will be very helpful in the recovery.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expects India's GDP to contract by 9.5 percent on a real basis during the ongoing fiscal due to the impact suffered by the economy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **5. Reserve Bank places Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd under moratorium**

- In view of its weak financials, the Reserve Bank has placed the Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited under moratorium with immediate effect. In a statement issued today, RBI said the moratorium will be effective for thirty days with a view to protecting depositors' interests.
- Accordingly, RBI has capped all cash withdrawals from the bank to twenty-five thousand rupees.
- According to the banking regulator, the private sector lender has seen a steady decline in its financials with it incurring losses over the last three years. It may be recalled that the Karur-based bank was placed under the Prompt Corrective Action framework in September 2019 and yet there was no improvement in its position with declining advances and mounting non-performing assets.

#### **6. RBI creates Reserve Bank Innovation Hub to boost financial inclusion**

- The Reserve Bank of India has created a Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH). The aim of Innovation Hub is to promote innovation across the financial sector by leveraging on technology and creating an environment that would facilitate and foster innovation. RBIH will collaborate with financial sector institutions, the technology industry, and academic institutions and coordinate efforts for the exchange of ideas and the development of prototypes related to financial innovations.
- Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) would be managed by a Governing Council (GC) consisting of 10 members (including a chairperson). Shri Senapathy (Kris) Gopalakrishnan, co-founder and former co-Chairman, Infosys, has been appointed as the first Chairperson of the RBIH.

## 7. Karnataka Bank launches Current & Savings Account campaign of FY 2020-21

- Karnataka Bank has launched CASA campaign of FY 2020-21, nationwide savings and current account mobilization campaign starting from 17th November, 2020 to 04th March 2021. During this campaign, Bank intends to mobilize more than 4,10,000 Current & Savings accounts with an accretion of Rs 650 Crores of business by the active involvement of its 8000 + work force in all the 859 branches across India.
- Karnataka Bank is pioneering the new age of digital banking. With this campaign, the Bank aims to introduce its attractive and superior line of digitally powered savings and current account products to its prospective customers. Bank has opened a Digi Branch at Bengaluru, using technologies like Robotic Process Automation and Biometrics which enables a prospective customer to open an account online and self generate a debit card within 20 minutes without the physical intervention of the banker. Further, TAB banking for on-boarding of SB-NTB customers (New to Bank) will also be extensively utilized during the said campaign so as to have a seamless account opening and customer delight.

### Books and Awards

#### 1. Education Minister virtually launches AICTE's Lilavati Award-2020

- Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal “Nishank” virtually launched Lilavati Award-2020: AICTE's Innovative education program to empower women yesterday. With women empowerment as the theme, the objective of the award is to create awareness about issues like sanitation, hygiene, health, nutrition, literacy, and employment among women
- Speaking at the event, the Minister emphasized the necessity to impart quality education to the girl child to make them self-reliant, confident, and successful. He said that the theme of the award - ‘women empowerment’ has always been the top priority of the government.

#### 2. India ranks 77 in the global bribery risk matrix

- India is at 77th position with a score of 45 in a global list that measures business bribery risks of 2020.
- The list by TRACE, an anti-bribery standard-setting organisation, measures business bribery risk in 194 countries, territories, and autonomous and semi-autonomous regions.
- According to this year’s data, North Korea, Turkmenistan, South Sudan, Venezuela and Eritrea present the highest commercial bribery risk, while Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden and New Zealand present the lowest.
- In 2019, India’s rank stood 78 positions with a score of 48 while in 2020 the country was ranked 77 with a score of 45.

## **SPORTS**

### **1. Lewis Hamilton wins F1 Turkish Grand Prix 2020**

- Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) has won the Turkish Grand Prix 2020 at Istanbul Park, Turkey. Sergio Perez (Racing Point-BWT- Mexico) secured the second position and Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari finished third.
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- This was Hamilton 10th victory of the season and 94th F1 win of his career. With this win, he claimed the seventh Formula One championships title of his career to equal the record of Michael Schumacher.

### **2. Sports Ministry sanctions Rs 10 lakh for the treatment of hockey Olympian Mohinder Pal Singh**

- Sports Ministry has sanctioned Rs 10 lakh towards the treatment of hockey Olympian Mohinder Pal Singh, who is suffering from a chronic kidney ailment and is currently on dialysis.
- The money, sanctioned under the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons, was given to his wife Shivjeet Singh.
- Mr. Singh, who was the coach of the Indian Hockey team, was an outstanding hockey player who represented India at various international events, including the 1988 Summer Olympics.
- He was also a member of the Indian Hockey team that won the Asian Cup in 2007.

### **3. FIFA cancels Women's Under-17 football World Cup; India to host 2022 edition**

- The Women's Under-17 football World Cup in India, which was initially postponed to next year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was canceled by FIFA yesterday, but India was handed the hosting rights of the 2022 edition.
- The FIFA canceled both the women's U-17 World Cup and U-20 World Cup which were scheduled to be held in India and Costa Rica respectively but handed both the countries the hosting rights of the 2022 editions.
- All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Praful Patel said the local organizing committee is ready to start afresh for hosting the 2022 edition.
- In light of the current global COVID-19 pandemic and its continuing impact on football, the Bureau of the FIFA Council has taken a number of decisions related to FIFA competitions.

### **4. Smriti Mandhana appointed as brand ambassador for Equitas Small Finance Bank**

- India's leading women cricketer Smriti Mandhana has been appointed as the brand ambassador for Equitas Small Finance Bank. Mandhana will feature in promoting Equitas Small Finance Bank's new product aimed at women called Eva. 'Eva' is a unique savings account that tries to address the well-being of Indian women in every aspect such as Health, Wealth, and Prosperity as per the Bank.
- With Smriti Mandhana as a Brand Ambassador, Brand Equitas is set to bring women together through powerful conversations around shared experiences of struggle & success resulting in growth and prosperity. Mandhana will begin appearing on behalf of Equitas Small Finance Bank across all media platforms shortly.
- Ms. Smriti Mandhana said, "I am really glad to be an instrumental part of Equitas Small Finance Bank's motive of promoting financial empowerment to all sections of society. It is a great privilege to be associated with the brand's positioning as a socially responsible bank."

### **5.Sudeep Tyagi announces retirement from all forms of cricket**

- Cricketer Sudeep Tyagi on Tuesday announced his retirement from all forms of the game.
- Tyagi represented India in four ODIs and a T20I. Announcing his decision to hang up his boots, the 33-year-old said he achieved every player's dream by playing for the country.
- "I want to thank each one of you who has supported me. I have achieved what is every player's dream to represent the country and wear the Indian flag is a dream I lived. I now announce my retirement from all formats of cricket and will continue to play as and where opportunity rises," Tyagi said in a Twitter post.
- "I want to thank MS Dhoni under whom I played my first ODI. I thank my role models Mohammad Kaif, Suresh Raina, RP Singh alongside whom I had the opportunity to debut my career for UPCA, my first coach Sir Vipin Vats who laid my foundation, and my first Ranji Trophy coach Gyanendra Pandey," he added.
- The former pacer later thanked the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), his coaches, and support staff. "I thank each and every BCCI official, my coaches, teammates, team management, and support staff," Tyagi said.

### **6.BCCI announces MPL Sports as Official Kit Sponsor**

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced its partnership with Mobile Premier League (MPL) Sports, the athleisure wear and sports merchandise brand from Mobile Premier League, India's largest esports platform, as the new kit sponsor and official merchandise partner for the Indian Cricket Team.



- MPL Sports has entered into a three-year agreement from November 2020 to December 2023.
- MPL Sports' association with the BCCI begins with upcoming India's tour of Australia, 2020-21, which will see Team India sporting the new jerseys.

## **SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE**

### **1.India successfully test fires Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air-Missiles in Odisha**

- India has successfully test-fired the Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) system off the coast of Balasore in Odisha. The missile hit its target directly during the test.
- The missile launch took place from ITR Chandipur at 3:50 PM off the Odisha coast. The missile is propelled by a single-stage solid-propellant rocket motor and uses all indigenous subsystems. The missile is canisterised for transportation and launch using a mobile launcher capable of carrying 6 canisterised missiles, the defence ministry said in a release.
- All QRSAM weapon system elements like Battery Multifunction Radar, Battery Surveillance Radar, Battery Command Post Vehicle and Mobile Launcher were deployed in the flight test. The system is capable of detecting and tracking targets on the move and engaging target with short halts. The system is designed to give air defence coverage against strike columns of the Indian Army.
- The radar tracked the Banshee target from the farthest range and the missile was launched when the target was within the kill zone and achieved the direct hit with terminal active homing by RF Seeker guidance. Various DRDO labs DRDL, RCI, LRDE, R&DE(E), IRDE, ITR have participated in the test.

### **2.Bharat Biotech starts Phase III trials of COVAXIN**

- Bharat Biotech has announced commencement of Phase III trials of COVAXIN yesterday. The Phase III trials will involve 26,000 volunteers across India, conducted in partnership with ICMR. It is the largest clinical trial conducted for a COVID-19 vaccine in India.
- This is India's first phase 3 efficacy study for a COVID-19 vaccine, and the largest phase III efficacy trial ever conducted in India. The trial has been registered at [www.ctri.nic.in](http://www.ctri.nic.in) and approved by the Drugs Controller General of India.
- COVAXIN has been evaluated in 1000 subjects in Phase I and Phase II clinical trials, with promising safety and immunogenicity data. Volunteers who wish to participate in this trial should be adults over 18 years of age.
- COVAXIN, India's indigenous COVID-19 vaccine by Bharat Biotech is developed in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research -

National Institute of Virology. This indigenous, inactivated vaccine is developed and manufactured in Bharat Biotech's BSL-3 bio-containment facility.

### **3.Second phase of Malabar exercise begins in northern Arabian Sea**

- The navies of India, the US, Australia and Japan on Tuesday began the second phase of the Malabar naval exercise in the northern Arabian Sea involving two aircraft carriers and a number of frontline warships, submarines and maritime reconnaissance aircraft, officials said.
- The major highlight of the four-day exercise is participation of Indian Navy's Vikramaditya carrier battle group and the Nimitz strike group of the US Navy. The USS Nimitz is the world's largest warship.
- The first phase of the Malabar exercise took place in the Bay of Bengal from November 3 to 6 and featured a number of complex drills including anti-submarine and anti-air warfare operations.

### **4.IIT Guwahati formulates efficient “pincer” catalytic systems that transform biomass wastes into valuable chemicals**

- A research team of IIT Guwahati has formulated efficient “pincer” catalytic systems that transform biomass wastes into valuable chemicals. Tiny amounts of these “pincer catalysts” repeatedly convert large amounts of industrial waste such as glycerol into lactic acid and hydrogen
- Official sources said that such catalysts also efficiently convert bioethanol, a low-energy density fuel, into high-energy density butanol. The conversion of valuable intermediates such as glycerol and ethanol, produced during the processing of biomass, into industrially useful chemicals has elicited much interest worldwide.

### **5.SpaceX Crew Dragon launches 4 astronauts to space station in 1st operational flight for NASA**

- SpaceX successfully launched its first operational space taxi flight for NASA Sunday, as a shiny white Falcon 9 rocket took to the skies above Kennedy Space Center here in Florida.
- The rocket lifted off from NASA's historic Pad 39 here at 7:27 p.m. EDT (0027 GMT on Nov. 16) carrying four astronauts in a Crew Dragon capsule to orbit, and then returned to Earth for a drone-ship landing in the Atlantic Ocean.
- SpaceX's Crew-1 Dragon, called Resilience, is bound for the International Space Station (ISS), but instead of the traditional crew supplies and research experiments its cargo variant normally carries, this spacecraft carried a different type of cargo into space: three NASA astronauts, Mike Hopkins, Victor Glover, Shannon Walker and Japanese astronaut Soichi Noguchi.

## **6.India's AI supercomputer Param Siddhi 63rd among top 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in world**

- India's Artificial Intelligence supercomputer Param Siddhi has achieved 63rd rank among the top 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in the world. Ministry of Science and Technology in a statement said that the AI system will strengthen application development of packages in areas such as advanced materials, computational chemistry and astrophysics.
- It said several packages are being developed under the National Supercomputing Mission for drug design and preventive health care system, flood forecasting package for flood prone metro cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Patna, and Guwahati. This will accelerate Research and Development in the war against COVID-19 through faster simulations, medical imaging, genome sequencing, and forecasting and will be a boon for Indian masses and for start-Ups and MSMEs in particular.

## **OBITUARIES**

### **1.President and PM express condolences over demise of Veteran Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee**

- Veteran actor and Dadasaheb Phalke award recipient Soumitra Chatterjee passed away at a Kolkata Nursing home today. He was 85. The actor had been hospitalised on October 6, 2020, after being tested Covid positive. However, he was declared Covid negative later. But he succumbed to other ailments, the hospital sources say. He has been active on big and small screens almost till the date he fell sick.
- President Ram Nath Kovind has expressed grief over the death of Soumitra Chatterjee. He said, Indian cinema has lost one of its legends. In a series of tweets, Mr Kovind said, he will be especially remembered for the 'Apu' trilogy and other memorable performances in Satyajit Ray's masterpieces. He made immense contributions to the craft of acting.
- The President said, Soumitra Chatterjee's performances won him several national and international awards including Dadasaheb Phalke Award, Padma Bhushan and Légion d'Honneur.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also expressed grief over the demise of Veteran actor Soumitra Chatterjee

### **2.Prominent Kannada journalist Ravi Belagere passes away at 62**

- Noted journalist and writer Ravi Belagere (62) passed away early on Friday morning at his office on the premises of Hai Bangalore!, a popular Kannada tabloid, in Bengaluru, after a massive heart attack. He was rushed to a

private hospital, where he breathed his last. He is survived by two wives, two sons and two daughters.

- Known for his writing style, Belagere was honoured with many awards, including the Karnataka Sahitya Academy award, Kannada Rajyotsava award, Karnataka Media Academy award and many more.

### **3.Rajasthan Minister Bhanwarlal Meghwal passes away at 71**

- Rajasthan's Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Bhanwarlal Meghwal died at a private hospital in Gurugram on Monday after a prolonged illness. He was being treated on a ventilator since May 13, when he had suffered a paralytic stroke and was diagnosed with a brain hemorrhage. He was 71.
- Earlier admitted at the Sawai Man Singh Government Hospital in Jaipur and battling for life, Mr. Meghwal was airlifted to the Medanta Hospital in Gurugram on the advice of doctors. He was a senior Minister in the Ashok Gehlot government and a prominent Dalit face of the ruling Congress.
- Mr. Meghwal represented Churu district's Sujangarh constituency in the Assembly and also held the Disaster Management and Relief portfolio. He was Education Minister in the previous Congress government between 2008 and 2013.

### **4.Former Goa Governor & veteran BJP leader Mridula Sinha passes away**

- Former Governor of Goa and veteran BJP leader Mridula Sinha passed away in a hospital in Delhi today. She was 77. Born on November 27, 1942, at a village in Chhapra in Bihar, Mridula Sinha was also the first woman Governor of Goa. A renowned Hindi writer, Mridula Sinha also served as the head of the BJP's women's wing and chairperson of the Central Social Welfare Board in the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have expressed grief over the demise of the veteran leader. In a tweet, President Kovind said Mridula Sinha who was an excellent writer and teacher, deeply understood the local traditions and cultural life of the country, especially Bihar.
- In a tweet, the Prime Minister said, the Veteran leader will be remembered for her efforts towards public service. He said she was also a prolific writer, making extensive contributions to the world of literature as well as culture.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **1.PM Modi greets people of Jharkhand on their Statehood Day(15 november)**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has greeted the people of Jharkhand on their Statehood Day.



- In a tweet in Hindi, the Prime Minister extended wishes for the happiness, prosperity and good health of people of Jharkhand on the occasion.

## **2.PM Modi pays tributes to Bhagwan Birsa Munda on his Jayanti(15 November)**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has paid tributes to 19th-century freedom fighter and tribal leader Bhagwan Birsa Munda on his Jayanti.
- PM Modi dubbed Birsa Munda a true ‘messiah’ of the poor, saying that “he struggled throughout his life for the welfare of the exploited and deprived”.
- “Birsa Munda’s contribution in the freedom movement and his efforts for social harmony will always inspire the countrymen,” the Prime Minister said.

## **3.National Press day observed on 16 November**

- National Press Day 2019 has observed across India on November 16. This day is observed on this day every year. PM Narendra Modi tweeted that he appreciates the hard work of media persons that shapes national and international discourse.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, “A free press is the cornerstone of a vibrant democracy. We are fully committed to upholding freedom of press and expression in all forms. May our media space be used more and more to showcase the skills, strengths and creativity of 125 crore Indians.”

## **4. National Epilepsy Day: November 17**

- Every year, the National Epilepsy Day is celebrated on November 17.
- The day is celebrated to create awareness about epilepsy.
- Epilepsy is a chronic brain disorder. It results in recurrent fits or seizures.
- The seizures occur due to sudden and excessive discharges occurring in brain cells or neurons.
- Mostly epilepsy occurs in patients who are over the age of 65 and in children.

## **5. Ministry of AYUSH Observes Third Naturopathy Day on 18 November**

- The National Naturopathy Day is observed in India on 18 November every year, to promote positive mental and physical health through a drugless system of medicine, called as Naturopathy.
- The day was declared by the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy), Government of India, on November 18, 2018.
- As a part of the occasion, the National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN), Pune under the Ministry of AYUSH has organized a series of webinars on

‘Gandhian philosophy of Self Reliance through Self Health Reliance’ on Mahatma Gandhi’s 150th birth anniversary celebrations from 2nd Oct 2020.

- The 48-day program of webinars will continue till the third National Naturopathy Day, which falls on 18 November 2020.
- It was on this day in 1945 when Mahatma Gandhi became lifetime Chairman of the All India Nature Cure Foundation Trust and signed the deed with the object of making the benefits of Nature Cure available to all classes of people.

## 6. World Toilet Day: 19 November

- World Toilet Day (WTD) is observed globally on 19 November to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis.
- World Toilet Day celebrates toilets and raises awareness of the 4.2 billion people living without access to safely managed sanitation.
- It is about taking action to tackle the global sanitation crisis and achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030.
- The day was established by the World Toilet Organization in 2001 and officially declared by the UN General Assembly in 2013.

## 7. World Children’s Day 2020: 20 November

- World Children’s Day 2020 is being celebrated across the world today, November 20.
- It was first celebrated in 1954 as Universal Children’s Day to promote international togetherness and awareness among children worldwide, and for improving children's welfare.
- World Children’s Day is UNICEF’s annual day of action for children, by children. The COVID-19 crisis has resulted in a child rights crisis in the world. The UN in a statement said that the “costs of the pandemic for children are immediate and, if unaddressed, may last a lifetime.”
- “It’s time for generations to come together to reimagine the type of world we want to create. On 20 November, kids will reimagine a better world,” it added



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