

Monthly G.K Capsule

November 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. 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.

6 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.

7. Rupsi Airport in Assam all set to resume operations

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- In Assam, Rupsi Airport at Kokrajhar district is all set to start commercial operation under Regional Connectivity Scheme. The airport has been re-developed at an estimated cost of 69 crore rupees and has also received its license by Directorate General of Civil Aviation.
 - Spread across 337 acres of land, the newly developed airport has a terminal building with an area of 3,500 sqm.
 - Equipped with 10 check-in counters, the terminal is designed to process 200 passengers during peak hours.

8. 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.

9. 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

10. 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.

11. Rajasthan assembly passed bill to make wearing mask mandatory

- Rajasthan assembly had 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.

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- 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. Dehradun Municipal Corporation launches “Plastic Lao MASK LE JAO” initiative

- Dehradun Municipal Corporation has launched an initiative named Plastic Lao MASK LE JAO to fight against the menace of plastic waste and contain the spread of Covid-19.
- It has distributed Five thousand face masks in exchange for plastic waste. It will create awareness in the public against plastic waste and also the importance of masks.

15 Bombay HC hears Arnab Goswami's habeas corpus plea

- A division bench of Bombay High Court heard Habeas Corpus plea of senior journalist Arnab Goswami. Arnab was arrested in a connection with abetment to suicide case by Raigad Police.
- Goswami is currently under judicial custody till November 18th along with other two accused in this case.

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- A writ of habeas corpus (which literally means to "produce the body") is a court order demanding that a public official deliver an imprisoned individual to the court and show a valid reason for that person's detention. Both the Supreme Court (under Article 32) and the high courts (under Article 226) can issue the writs of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, certiorari and also the quo-warranto.

16. Dr. Harsh Vardhan and Shri Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurate the circular dome at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science & Technology, and Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Minister of State for Culture (Independent Charge) inaugurated the 360o video-immersive experience in circular dome and Digital Exhibits on Mahatma Gandhi installed at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat, in New Delhi today.
- This was part of two-year long commemoration of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Secretary, DST, Prof. Ashustosh Sharma; Secretary Culture, Shri Raghvendra Singh; Director Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, Shri Dipanker Gyan and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

17. UP govt to hold grand annual Deepotsav celebrations in Ayodhya on Diwali

- Uttar Pradesh government will celebrate the annual Deepotsav in Ayodhya on Diwali in a grand manner and this time it is planning to break its own last year record by lighting around 6 lakh diyas, earthen lamps on the ghats of Saryu. The celebration will not be scaled down due to the coronavirus pandemic, even though there will be minimal public participation.
- The deepotsav will be celebrated from 11 to 13 november and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will also take part in it. Around 10 thousand volunteers of Ram Manohar Lohiya Swasth University will be involved in the attempt of another world record of lighting 6 lakh earthen lamps. These diyaas will be lit on 24 Ghats of holy river Saryu.
- The order of such a large number of earthen lamps has Potter Families in Shishya are also happy with numbers since a large part of the earthen lamps are purchased from.them under national livelihood mission. This is also the first Deepotsav after the start of Ram temple construction in Ayodhya.

18. PM announces change of name of Shipping Ministry to Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

- The Prime Minister said, Government is changing the name of the Ministry of Shipping and it will be known as the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. Mr.Modi has said that to reduce the

expenditure on logistics, India is fast developing multimodal connectivity.

- He said that we are trying to interconnect the infrastructure related to road, rail, air and shipping and removing the silos in this process. He said that we are still spending more money on transportation in comparison to the other nation. We can reduce the cost of logistics through water transport.

19. Saffron bowl of India extends to the Northeast

- The saffron bowl, which was so far confined to Kashmir, may soon expand to the North East of India.
- Plants from seeds transported from Kashmir to Sikkim and acclimatized there are now flowering in Yangyang in the Southern part of the North-East state.
- Saffron production has long been restricted to a limited geographical area in the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Pampore region, in India, commonly known as Saffron bowl of Kashmir, it is the main contributor to saffron production, followed by Budgam, Srinagar, and Kishtiwari districts.
- Saffron has traditionally been associated with the famous Kashmiri cuisine. It's its medicinal values were considered as part of the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir.

20 Delhi to adopt Dungarpur's model of rainwater harvesting

- The Delhi government will adopt the cost-effective model of rainwater harvesting currently being implemented in the tribal-dominated Dungarpur district of Rajasthan.
- A seven-member delegation was on an official visit to witness the rainwater-harvesting system that costs just Rs 16,000 as compared to the conventional one, which costs between Rs 50,000 and Rs one lakh per household.
- Dungarpur model was an innovative idea that was centred on routing the rainwater to a bore well, instead of a regular rainwater-harvesting pit.
- rainwater collected on the rooftop is being routed to the casing of already existing bore wells in households. They have created sand filters in the conduit pipe itself and included a way of backwash too.

21. Hardeep S. Puri inaugurates 13th Urban Mobility India Conference 2020

- The 13th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference was organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- It was inaugurated by Hardeep S. Puri, Minister of State (IC) Housing and Urban Affairs.
- The theme of the conference is "Emerging Trends in Urban Mobility".

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- The conference focused on innovative measures taken at the national and international level to address the challenges posed by Covid-19 pandemic to provide accessible and convenient transport to the people.

22. Prime Minister Modi to unveil life-size statue of Swami Vivekanand at JNU Campus on November 12

- Prime Minister Modi on November 12, 2020, will unveil a life-size statue of Swami Vivekanand via video-conferencing at the campus of Jawahar Lal Nehru University, Delhi. The Education Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank will also be present during the event.
- The Vice-Chancellor of JNU stated in a statement that Swami Vivekanand has been one of the most beloved spiritual leaders and intellectuals India has been fortunate to have.
- He always enthused the youth with the message of harmony, peace, freedom, and development of India. Vivekanand always inspired Indian citizens to take pride in Indian culture, civilization, and its industrious spirit.

23 UP to develop Vindhyavasini Temple Corridor in Vindhyachal

- The Uttar Pradesh (UP) government has decided to develop the Vindhyavasini Mandir Corridor at Vindhyachal in Mirzapur district. The Vindhyavasini corridor is modelled on the lines of Kashi Vishwanath Corridor in Varanasi.
- It will have a 50-foot wide parikrama path, or circumambulation route, around the shrine of Goddess Vindhyavasini. The UP cabinet had on October 30 approved the decision to develop the religious corridor.
- The Yogi Adityanath-led government seeks to develop religious tourism in the eastern UP region. The Vindhyavasini temple is surrounded by buildings and narrow lanes and pilgrims have to walk through them while circumambulating the temple.

24. Haryana State Govt. passed Right to Recall Panchayat Member Bill

- The Haryana State Assembly passed a Right to Recall Panchayat Member Bill. The Haryana Panchayati Raj (Second Amendment) Bill, 2020 was tabled by Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala.
- With this Bill, the people in rural areas will get the right to remove a sarpanch or members of the two bodies even before their tenure is over.

25. Government to provide Rs 4000 to six states affected by cyclone, floods & landslides

- A high-level committee, chaired by Home Minister Amit Shah has approved the release of additional Central assistance worth over Rs

4,381 crore to six states that were impacted by cyclone, floods, landslides during this year. The funds will be provided from the National Disaster Response Fund.

- The centre has approved Rs 2,707 crore for West Bengal and Rs 128 crore for Odisha for cyclone Amphan and Rs 268 crore have been approved for Maharashtra for cyclone Nisarga.
- Besides this, the government has approved Rs 577 crore for Karnataka, Rs 611 crore for Madhya Pradesh and Rs 87 crore for Sikkim for floods and landslides caused during the South-West monsoon season.

26. PM modi spends Diwali with soldiers in forward areas

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, continuing his tradition of spending Diwali with the armed forces interacted and addressed the soldiers at the Indian border post of Longewala. He said his Diwali is complete only when he is with the soldiers whether in the snow-clad mountains or in the desert. He took the greetings, blessings and wishes of every Indian to the armed force personnels at the border. He also greeted the brave mothers and sisters and paid tribute to their sacrifice. The Prime Minister conveyed the gratitude of the countrymen to the armed forces and said 130 crore Indians are standing strongly with the forces.
- The Prime Minister emphasized that only that nation is secure which has the capability to face the attackers and intruders. He said irrespective of advances in international cooperation and changes in equations, we simply can't afford to forget that vigilance is the key to security, alertness is the basis of happiness, and strength is the confidence of victory.

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security, alertness is the basis of happiness, and strength is the confidence of victory.

28. IRCTC to Start Bharat Darshan Yatra from December

- IRCTC (Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation) will be starting 'Bharat Darshan–Dakshin Bharat Yatra' from 12 December this year. Indian Railway initiative will start from Hyderabad and Secunderabad (Telangana) from Dec 12 to 18.
- Indian Railway initiative under this theme : 'Show India to Indians'.
- The facility of boarding and de-boarding this tourist train will be available at Secunderabad (Telangana), Khammam, Nellore (Andhra Pradesh), Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), Warangal (Telangana), Ongole (Andhra Pradesh), and Renigunta (Andhra Pradesh).

29. Ministry of Textiles has launched a “Local4Diwali” Campaign

- The Union Ministry of Textiles has launched a campaign for Diwali-“Local4Diwali”.
- The campaign has been launched to promote the Indian handicraft which is the cultural heritage of the country and also a source of livelihood for many.
- As per the available data, the handicrafts sector is a major sector of women empowerment as almost 55% of the workers and artisans are women.
- The main aim of the #Local4Diwali campaign is to urge people to buy and gift Indian handicraft products on this Diwali.
- The basic aim of the campaign is to give a boost to Indian handicrafts and artisans.
- This campaign will help the handicraft artisans and workers in increasing their sales and promoting their business.
- After the promotion of the idea of “Vocal for Local” by PM Modi, every sector is working towards promoting local businesses and strengthening Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

30. Haryana Chief Minister launches ‘Project Air Care’ in Gurgaon to fight air pollution

- Haryana Chief Minister (CM), Manohar Lal Khattar has virtually unveiled 'Project Air Care' to combat rising Air Pollution in Gurgaon.
- 65 Wing Augmentation Air Purifying Units (WAYU) would be set up at areas with high Air Quality Indices (AQI) in Gurgaon to improve the air quality.
- The Air Purifiers have been developed by CSIR-NEERI (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute), IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) Bombay.

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- The project is a result of a public-private partnership between Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) and GSK (GlaxoSmithKline) Consumer Healthcare.

31. Lonar Lake in Buldana district of Maharashtra declared as a wetland area under 'Ramsar Convention'

- Lonar Lake in Buldana district of Maharashtra, which was formed by a meteorite impact about 50 thousand years ago, has been declared as a wetland area under 'Ramsar Convention'. It has been declared as the 41st place in the country and the second 'Ramsar site' in Maharashtra.
- This announcement will lead to better conservation of Lonar Lake, as Ramsar Convention is bound for conservation for wetlands. The importance of the lake's ecosystem and biodiversity is rising due to the algal population and other microorganisms in the lake and flora-fauna around the lake side.

32. 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

33. 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.

34. 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.

35. 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.

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

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- 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.

37. 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 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.

38. 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.

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- 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."

39. 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.

40. 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."

41. 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.

42. 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'.

43. 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.

44. Bhubaneswar Becomes First City in India to Get ISO Certification for Faecal Sludge and Sptage 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.

45. .North Police Station in Kohima receives an ISO certification

- In a major feat and a first of its kind in the state, North Police Station Kohima in Nagaland has been awarded an ISO certification. The Police station is located in the heart of Kohima Town which was the first established police station under Naga Hills district by the British Regime in the year 1933. Presently, the North Police station is headed by an Inspector rank officer-in-charge and 88 other ranks.
- It has been awarded ISO 9001:2015 certification on meeting the specified parameters of Quality Management System on policing and related scope of activities which includes maintenance of public peace, law and order, prevention, detection and investigation of crime and criminal activities, emergency response, VIP Security and prevention of human trafficking

46. Govt approves 28 Food Processing Projects worth over 320 crore rupees

- The government has approved 28 Food Processing Projects worth over 320 crore rupees. These projects supported with a grant of over 107 crore rupees by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries were approved under the Scheme for Creation and Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation Capacities- CEFPPC in the Inter-Ministerial Approval Committee (IMAC) meeting.
- These projects spread over 10 states are likely to generate employment for nearly 10 thousand people. Minister of Food Processing Industries . Narendra Singh Tomar chaired the IMAC meeting through video conference to consider projects under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) for necessary Grants-in-aid.

47. J&K Lt-Governor Manoj Sinha announces 'My Town My Pride' programme

- Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Manoj Sinha announced the 'My Town My Pride' programme, starting from October 19, as a part of the public outreach initiative "in J&K's towns to deliver services at doorsteps to the urban population".
- Its main objectives are public outreach in towns, strengthening grassroots democracy, and service delivery at doorsteps
- The programme will also ensure on-the-spot grievance redressal, instant delivery of services to the masses, and on the ground speedy execution of people-centric projects.

48. India has been ranked at 4th position, with a score of 39.7 in the Asia Power Index 2020

- India stands as the fourth most powerful country in Asia but falls just short of the major power threshold in 2020, a study showed.
- According to the Sydney-based Lowy Institute's Asia Power Index for 2020, although India is the fourth most powerful nation in the Asia-Pacific following the US, China and Japan, it stops short of attaining the "major power" status in the said year (2020).

49.India invites British government to explore business opportunities in North East

- The Development of North East Region minister, Dr.Jitendra Singh invited the UK government and the private sector to explore various forms of business opportunities present in India's North-East Region.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh during a virtual meeting with the officials of the British High Commission stated that both India and UK are two vibrant democracies that enjoy mutually rewarding business relationships. He added that both countries can work together in exploiting and exploring new opportunities in the North East region.

50.India's agricultural exports rise by 14.8 % during first five months of current fiscal

- India's agricultural exports have recovered from a pandemic-induced decline. Exports of major farm products stood at 53,000 crore rupees in the five-month period between April and August 2020-21, a rise of 14.8 percent compared to the corresponding period last year.
- During the April to August period, farmers gained from higher exports of rice, wheat and sugar. Exports of basmati rice, a big-ticket export item among cereals, during April-August rose 8.2 percent from the year-ago period, while the value of non-basmati rice exports grew 91.3 percent.

51.NITI Aayog to establish Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Centre with AWS

- In order to address societal challenges through digital innovation, NITI Aayog announced the establishment of a Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Centre, CIC with Amazon Web Services, AWS. It is the first of its kind in India.
- This CIC is part of the AWS CIC Global Programme which provides an opportunity for government agencies, non-profits and educational institutions, to come together on pressing challenges, apply design thinking, test new ideas, and access the technology expertise of AWS.

52.Nitin Gadkari lays foundation of country's 1st multimodal logistics park in Assam

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari virtually laid the foundation stone for the first-ever multi-modal logistic park of the country in Assam. The 694 crore rupees park at Bongaigaon district will provide direct connectivity to air, road, rail and waterways to the people of Assam.
- It will be developed under the Bharatmala Pariyojana of the Centre.
- The fund for the multimodal logistics park would be spent in 3 components - road and railway connectivity as well as building and infrastructure work.

53.Govt bans gas, CBM producers from buying their own produce

- The government has banned natural gas and coal-bed methane (CBM) producers from buying their own produce in the newly notified gas marketing freedom guidelines.
- The reforms give producers the freedom to discover the market price of gas through a standard e-bidding process.

- As per the notified guidelines, producers have the liberty to market or sell the gas produced to anyone including affiliates but the producer or any member of its gas field consortium cannot bid and buy the fuel.

54. Indian Vice Chief of Army visits US Indo-Pacific Command in Hawaii

- Vice Chief of Army Lt Gen SK Saini on Tuesday visited the US Indo-Pacific Command in Hawaii and held talks with senior American military commanders on ways to enhance strategic cooperation between the two forces.
- The US Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM), comprising over 3,75,000 military and civilian personnel, is one of the largest unified formations of the US armed forces and it is tasked to protect Washington's interests in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The visit by the Vice Chief of Army Staff to the command comes in the backdrop of renewed efforts between India and the US to bolster cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, which has been witnessing growing Chinese muscle-flexing.

55. Kati Bihu festival celebrated across Assam

- Assam's third Bihu festival, known as Kati Bihu or Kongali Bihu, was being celebrated across the state.
- Assam Governor Jagadish Mukhi and Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal extended their prayers and best wishes to the people of the state on the occasion of Kati Bihu hoping that the festival will bring in peace and prosperity in the state, an official release said here.
- On the occasion of Kati Bihu, women, both in urban and rural areas, try to ward off evil and pray for a rich harvest by lighting earthen lamps.

56. Uttar Pradesh Governor launches Safe City Project, a women's safety campaign, in Lucknow

- Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel inaugurated the 'Safe City Project'. It is a 180-day-long campaign under which the police and other departments will work towards the safety of women.
- The Governor flagged off 100 pink scooties and 10 four-wheeler police vehicles as part of the campaign.
- Lucknow is among eight cities in the country selected for the 'Safe City Project'.
- The central government has approved the project for Lucknow at a total cost of Rs 194 crore with an aim to strengthen security of women in public places.
- The projects will be financed under Nirbhaya Fund at a cost of INR 2919.55 Crores.

57. PM Modi to inaugurate three key projects in Gujarat on 24th October

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate three key projects in Gujarat on 24th October, via video conferencing. Prime Minister will launch the 'Kisan Suryodaya Yojana' for the farmers of Gujarat. He will inaugurate the Paediatric Heart Hospital attached with U.N Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre and a Mobile Application for tele-cardiology at the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital in Ahmedabad. He will also inaugurate the Ropeway at Girnar on the occasion.
- To provide day-time power supply for irrigation, the Gujarat Government under Chief Minister Shri Vijay Rupani had recently announced the 'Kisan Suryodaya

Yojana'. Under this scheme, farmers will be able to avail power supply from 5 AM to 9 PM. The state government has allocated a budget of Rs.3500 crore for installing transmission infrastructure under this scheme by 2023.

- Prime Minister will also inaugurate Paediatric Heart Hospital attached with the U.N Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre and a Mobile Application for tele-cardiology at the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital in Ahmedabad.
- Gujarat will once again be highlighted on the global tourism map as the Prime Minister will inaugurate the Ropeway at Girnar on 24th October, 2020. Initially, there will be 25-30 cabins, with a capacity of 8 people per cabin. A distance of 2.3 kms will now be covered in just 7.5 minutes through the ropeway. In addition to this, the ropeway will also provide a scenic view of the lush green beauty surrounding the Girnar mountain.

58.Haryana tops Anemia Mukht Bharat Index in country

- The Anemia Mukht Bharat, an initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and UNICEF, has been launched to reduce the prevalence of Anemia all over India.
- In a recently released scorecard of the Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) Index by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Haryana was ranked at the top slot with an AMB Index of 46.7.

59.India participates in 18th meeting of Prosecutors General of SCO via video conference

- India today participated in 18th meeting of Prosecutors General of SCO via video conference.
- Representing India, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said India has zero tolerance to corruption and black money.
- He also highlighted government's flagship Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna, saying it has expanded India's financial architecture.
- Today's meeting of Prosecutors, agreed to strengthen cooperation in preventing and combating corruption, mutual legal assistance and exchange of regulatory legal acts.
- India will host the next meeting of Prosecutors General in 2021. SCO Law ministers met last week and SCO Trade Ministers will meet next week.

60.India to host third India-US 22 Ministerial Dialogue on Oct 27

- India will be hosting the Third India-US 22 Ministerial Dialogue on 27th of October in New Delhi.
- United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Secretary of Defence Mark T. Esper will be visiting India to participate in the dialogue.
- From the Indian side, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar will lead the delegation.
- The first 22 Ministerial Dialogue was held in New Delhi in September 2018 and followed by the second in Washington DC in 2019.
- The agenda for the third dialogue will cover all bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest.

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.

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

3. 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

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- 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.

4. WHO chief in self-quarantine after being identified as contact of COVID-19 positive person

- World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that he had been identified as a contact of someone who tested positive for COVID-19, but added that he was feeling well and did not have any symptoms.
- “I have been identified as a contact of someone who has tested positive for #COVID19. I am well and without symptoms but will self-quarantine over the coming days, in line with @WHO protocols, and work from home,” Mr.Tedros said in a tweet.

5. 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.

6. . 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.

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.

8. . 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.

9. Shaktikanta Das Chairs 40th SAARC Finance Governors' Group Meeting

- The 40th Meeting of the SAARCFINANCE Governors' Group was held virtually under the Chairmanship of Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor, RBI.
- The meeting was attended by the Governors from SAARC central banks. SAARC FINANCE is a network of central bank governors and finance secretaries of the SAARC region.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is the current chair of SAARC FINANCE.

10 Vice President launched event 'International Satavadhanam' a unique literary feat

- The Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu launched the 'International Satavadhanam' program virtually.
- 'Avadhanam' is like a test of the poet's literary prowess and involves solving tricky literary posers, improvising poems and tests a person's capability of performing such multiple tasks simultaneously.

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- The event was organized by Dr. Medasani Mohan under the auspices of Sri Krishnadevaraya Satsang in Tirupati. Avadhanam is a literary performance popular from the very ancient days in India.

11. US formally exits Paris pact aiming to curb climate change

- The US formally exited the Paris Climate Agreement amid election uncertainty. Donald Trump announced his intent to remove the country from participating in the landmark global pact to reduce greenhouse gas emissions three years ago.
- President Trump originally announced his intention to withdraw from the agreement in 2017 and formally notified the United Nations last year. The historic accord seeks to limit global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius, the value that climate scientists have determined will have disastrous consequences if exceeded.
- Trump has repeatedly criticised the agreement as economically detrimental and claimed it could cost the country 2.5 million jobs by 2025. The US is the only country to withdraw from the global pact. The US is the second leading producer of all carbon dioxide emissions globally, behind China.

12. Lockdown named as the word of the year by Collins Dictionary

- Lockdown, the noun that has come to define so many lives across the world in 2020, has been named word of the year by Collins Dictionary.
- Lockdown is defined by Collins as “the imposition of stringent restrictions on travel, social interaction, and access to public spaces”, and its usage has boomed over the last year.
- The 4.5bn-word Collins Corpus, which contains written material from websites, books and newspapers, as well as spoken material from radio, television and conversations, registered a 6,000% increase in its usage. In 2019, there were 4,000 recorded instances of lockdown being used. In 2020, this had soared to more than a quarter of a million.

13. Marathi film ‘Karkhanisanchi Waari’ only Indian entry at Tokyo International Film Festival

- Marathi film ‘Karkhanisanchi Waari’ (Ashes On A Road Trip) directed by Mangesh Joshi is the lone Indian entry at the 33rd Tokyo International Film Festival
- The movie was directed by Mangesh Joshi. The movie will have its world premiere at the 33rd Tokyo International Film Festival. It is the only Indian entry at the festival.

14. Armenia declares no-fly zone in Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh

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- Armenia has declared a no-fly zone in Armenia and Nagorno - Karabakh except for military aircraft. The announcement was made by the Armenian defence ministry on November 12, 2020.
 - The move comes after Armenia agreed to a ceasefire deal with Azerbaijan, which was brokered by Russia.
 - Following this, thousands of protesters had gathered in Armenia's capital, Yerevan on November 11, demanding the resignation of Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

15. **Second World Health Expo kicks off in Wuhan**

- The second World Health Expo was inaugurated on November 11, in Wuhan, the capital city of Central China's Hubei Province.
- of global health industry". This year's Expo will focus on displaying the most cutting-edge science and technology in the global health industry, and help Wuhan build "city
- control, and the Global University Leaders Forum, will be organized. normalized a summit forum, academician forum and the roundtable dialogue on epidemic prevention and During the Expo, more than a hundred high-end forums including

16. **Indian-American Kash Patel named as the Chief of Staff to acting US Defence Secretary**

- Indian-American Kash Patel has been named as the Chief of Staff to the Acting US Defence Secretary Chris Miller. The new appointment comes a day after Donald Trump fired Defence Secretary Mark Esper and designated Chris Miller, as the Acting Secretary.
- Kash Patel, currently on the National Security Council staff. He replaces Jen Stewart, who resigned earlier in the day.
- Kashyap Pramod Patel, popularly known as Kash Patel, had previously served as senior counsel for counter-terrorism at the House Permanent Select Committee.
- In June 2019, Patel, 39, was appointed as senior director of Counter-terrorism Directorate of the National Security Council (NSC) in the White House

17. **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.

18. **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 / 05:44 pm on 14 Nov 2020, Saturday
- 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.

19. **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.

20. **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.

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

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- 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.

21. **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.

22. **Oxford Economics revises downwards its India growth forecast**

- Global forecasting firm Oxford Economics on Thursday revised downwards its India growth forecast over the medium term to an average 4.5% over 2020-25, from its pre-pandemic projection of 6.5%.
- In a research note, it said India's post-COVID-19 scars could be among the worst in the world. "We forecast India's growth equilibrium to worsen substantially over the medium term, with potential growth averaging just 4.5% over 2020-2025 in our latest baseline, as opposed to our pre-virus forecast of 6.5%," Oxford Economics said.
- It said an adequate and well-designed fiscal stimulus would halve this impact by limiting deterioration in pre-COVID-19 headwinds.

New Appointments and Person in News

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. Ivory Coast President Wins Third Term in Disputed Vote

- The incumbent President of Ivory Coast, Alassane Ouattara, has won a third 5-year term in a landslide victory, gaining more than 94 per cent of the votes polled.

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- The 78-year-old, Mr Ouattara was first sworn in as the President in 2010 and then re-elected in 2015. Apart from this, he has also served as the Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire from November 1990 to December 1993.

4. Yashvardhan K. Sinha appointed new Chief Information Commissioner

- Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha was appointed as the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC), President Ram Nath Kovind has administered the oath of office to Sinha as the Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission at a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- The post had been lying vacant for over two months after Bimal Julka completed his term on August 26.
- Sinha, a former diplomat, joined as the Information Commissioner on January 1, 2019. He has served as India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and Sri Lanka.

5 Former Delhi chief secretary MM Kutty to be chairperson of Air Quality Commission

- The Centre has notified the Commission for Air Quality Management for the National Capital Region (NCR). An ordinance was issued on October 29 to set up the new agency with sweeping powers to monitor and act against sources of air pollution across five north Indian states.
- The ordinance empowers the agency to make rules, set emission standards, and slap fines of up to Rs 1 crore or imprison violators for up to five years.
- Delhi chief secretary MM Kutty will be the Commission's first chairperson. Kutty is also ex-secretary, ministry of petroleum and natural gas.

6. Joe Biden elected as the 46th President of the United States

- Democratic candidate Joseph Robinette Biden Jr., was elected the 46th President of the United States on November 7, beating incumbent U.S. President Donald Trump, by securing more than the required 270 of 538 Electoral College votes needed to win the White House.
- Mr. Biden's running mate, Kamala Devi Harris, a U.S. Senator from California, will become the first woman and first Indian- and African-American Vice-President of the country. Mr. Biden will inherit, from President Trump, a deeply divided country, battered by the coronavirus pandemic, facing high levels of unemployment and fraying race relations

7. Manipur's Gyanendro Ningombam becomes new president of Hockey India

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- Manipur's Gyanendro Ningombam was elected unopposed as the President of Hockey India.
 - Earlier, Gyanendro Ningombam has been serving as the Officiating President of Hockey India since July 2020.
 - Gyanendro becomes the first President from northeast India to spearhead Hockey India. He will serve as Head of the national federation for two years.
 - Gyanendro has been associated with the discipline of Hockey in Manipur for the last 40 years, and has impressed with his work at the grassroots level.

8. Indian diplomat Vidisha Maitra elected to key United Nations committee

- India's Vidisha Maitra was elected to the UN body - Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) with strong support of the member states.
- India's permanent representative to the UN, Ambassador T. S. Tirumurti expressed gratitude to the member states in reposing faith in India's candidate.
- He added that India has a stellar record of bringing its professional auditing experience to the UN. He affirmed that India takes the responsibility very seriously.

9. West Indies Great Michael Holding Appointed MCC Foundation Patron

- West Indies pace legend Michael Holding has been appointed patron of the MCC Foundation. The MCC Foundation is the charitable arm of the Marylebone Cricket Club, custodians of the game's laws, and was created with the aim of enhancing lives through cricket.
- The 66-year-old Holding is a passionate advocate for equality in cricket and the wider community.
- Throughout a professional career that spanned 15 years, Holding, nicknamed Whispering Death, carved out a reputation as one of the best fast bowlers of all time.

10. 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.

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- 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.

11. 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."

12. Aishwarya Sridhar becomes first Indian woman to win Wildlife Photographer of the Year award

- Making India proud, Aishwarya Sridhar became the first Indian to win the Wildlife Photographer of the Year award. The announcement was made at the Natural History Museum in London.
- It is the 56th year of the prestigious award.
- Aishwarya Sridhar's photo won among 50,000 entries from over 80 countries across the world. Only 100 images were shortlisted and she won the award for her photograph in the Behaviour Invertebrates category.
- She is the first and youngest girl to win this prestigious award from India in the Adult category. The award winners were announced at the Natural History Museum in London.

13. Parle agro ropes in Priyanka Chopra Jonas as brand ambassador

- Parle Agro has roped in Priyanka Chopra Jonas as the national brand ambassador to maximise reach and awareness of its fruits plus fizz portfolio 'B-Fizz'.
- The campaign will be aggressively promoted across IPL on Hotstar and YouTube. B-Fizz is a unique and refreshing apple juice-based malt flavoured

carbonated drink that is set to revolutionize the taste experience of consumers across age groups.

BANKING

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. WhatsApp Pay goes live in India with some riders

- WhatsApp has finally launched services on the United Payments Interface (UPI) in a major boost for the Facebook-owned app in its biggest market. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), India's flagship payments processor, permitted WhatsApp to go live on UPI.
- WhatsApp can expand its UPI base in a graded manner starting with a maximum number of registered users at 20 million, the NPCI said in a statement. The NPCI runs the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) used for real-time payments between peers or at merchants' end while making purchases. The UPI channel has rapidly grown to become

India's most favoured mode of digital transactions since its launch in terms of volumes.

4. SEBI increases Overseas Investment limits for Mutual Funds

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has enhanced the investment limits for Mutual Fund companies for overseas investments.
- Mutual Funds can make overseas investments subject to a maximum of US \$ 600 million per Mutual Fund, within the overall industry limit of US \$ 7 billion. Earlier it was USD 300 million.
- Mutual Funds can make investments in overseas Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) subject to a maximum of US \$ 200 million per Mutual Fund, within the overall industry limit of US \$ 1 billion. Earlier it was Rs 50 million.

5. NDDB Chairman Dilip Rath elected to International Dairy Federation board

- National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) Chairman Dilip Rath has been unanimously elected to the board of global dairy body International Dairy Federation (IDF).
- The announcement came during the the General Assembly of the IDF held on Monday.
- IDF is an international non-governmental, non-profit association having members from national committees constituted by dairy organisations in each country.
- "It is a privilege for me to represent the world's largest milk-producing nation and contribute to promoting sustainable goals of dairying and also meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals. I keenly look forward to furthering IDF Board's mandate," Rath stated in a statement.
- Rath has been associated with IDF for the last 10 years as Member Secretary of Indian National Committee and as a member of the Standing Committee on Dairy Policy and Economics.

6. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attends 1st BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today participated in the 1st BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting under the Russian Chairmanship to discuss the BRICS Economic and Financial Cooperation agenda for 2020.
- Finance Ministry said, Ms. Sitharaman talked about outcomes and initiatives of G-20 Saudi Arabia in 2020 on the Finance Track and highlighted role of BRICS members in reflecting Emerging Market Economies concerns in these initiatives.
- During the meeting, the Finance Minister also presented India's views on discussions related to infrastructure investments and New Development Bank membership expansion.

7. India's 15th Finance Commission submits its report to President Ram Nath Kovind

- The Fifteenth Finance Commission (XVFC), led by Chairman NK Singh submitted its report for the fiscal period 2021-22 to 2025-26 to President Ram Nath Kovind on November 9, 2020. The commission was mandated to submit its recommendations for the fiscal period by October 30, 2020.
- The Commission had submitted its report comprising recommendations for fiscal year 2020-21 last year. The recommendations were accepted by the centre and later tabled in the Parliament on January 30, 2020.
- The Finance Commission had been asked to give its recommendations on many unique and wide-ranging issues in its terms of reference including performance incentives for states in areas such as power, adoption of direct benefit transfer system and solid waste management.

8. Paytm introduces Payout Links for businesses, enables money transfer sans collecting bank details

- Fintech major Paytm launched 'Payout Links' for businesses, enabling them to instantly process payouts to customers, employees and vendors without collecting their bank details.
- Payout Links offer seamless payment integration for businesses to quickly send incentives and refunds to customers through a simple payout link, a statement said.
- The sender can create Paytm Payout Links and share with the receiver. The receiver needs to open the link and is then provided a list of saved accounts such as Paytm Wallet, Paytm UPI and connected bank accounts that can be chosen to receive money instantly.

9. Finance Minister announces Economic Stimulus Package 4.0

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said that a few indicators were showing a distinct recovery in the economy. She went on to announce a new set of stimulus packages under 'Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0' a few days ahead of Diwali.
- To boost employment, the government launched the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana to incentivise the creation of new employment opportunities. The new announcements aim to benefit companies and individuals who lost their jobs due to Covid-19 induced lockdown.
- Under the scheme, if EPFO-registered companies bring in new employees or hire those who lost their jobs between March 1 and September 30 this year will be entitled to benefits under the new announcement.
- In addition, the government announced relaxations in income-tax rules to push sale of primary residential units of up to Rs 2 crore value below circle rates. Till now, only 10 per cent difference between the circle rate

and the agreement value was allowed. To boost residential real estate sector, Sitharaman said the differential had now been increased to 20 per cent till June 30, 2021, for only primary sale of residential units of value up to Rs 2 crore.

10. India Post Payment Bank launches doorstep service to submit digital life certificate

- India Post Payments Bank, IPPB have successfully launched the initiative of doorstep service for submission of Digital Life Certificate through Postman. The facility to submit life certificate online through Jeevan Pramaan Portal was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November, 2014 with the objective to provide a convenient and transparent facility to pensioners for submission of Life Certificate.
- In order to make this facility available across the country, Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare roped in the India Post Payments Bank to utilise its huge network of Postmen and Gramin Dak Sevaks in providing doorstep facility to pensioners for submission of life certificate digitally.

11. 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.

12. 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.
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13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. NFDB confers four awards to Assam for success in the fishery sector

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- 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.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. **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.

20. **PM Modi, Bhutan PM jointly launch RuPay card Phase-II**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with his Bhutanese counterpart Lotay Tshering on Friday launched RuPay card Phase-II that will allow Bhutanese card holders to access the RuPay network in India.
- The prime ministers of the two countries had jointly launched Phase-I of the project during Mr. Modi's state visit to Bhutan in August last year.
- In his speech via video conferencing, PM Modi spoke about the deep cooperating between the countries in a gamut of fields, including ISRO's preparation to launch Bhutanese satellites into space and BSNL's agreement with Bhutan regarding third international internet gateway.

21. **Mastercard & USAID Partners to launch "Project Kirana"**

- Mastercard and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have collaborated under Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative (W-GDP) to launch 'Project Kirana' in India, to help women entrepreneurs grow and thrive.
- Project Kirana is a two-year programme, and initially, it will be rolled out in select cities of Uttar Pradesh, including Lucknow, Kanpur and Varanasi. The programme will be implemented by DAI Digital Frontiers and ACCESS Development Services.

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. 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.

3 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.

4. Hariharan bags J C Daniel award for lifetime contributions to Malayalam cinema

- Noted filmmaker Hariharan has been selected for the J C Daniel Award, the state government's highest honour for lifetime contributions to Malayalam cinema. The award carries a purse of Rs 5 lakh, a citation, and a sculpture.
- Hariharan was chosen for the prestigious award by a jury chaired by MT Vasudevan Nair with director Harikumar, actor Vidhubala, State Chalachitra Academy chairman Kamal and Cultural Department Secretary Rani George as members.
- Hariharan, who initially skilled with cinematographer U Rajagopal in Madras, later assisted administrators M Krishnan Nair, AB Raj, and JD Thottanm for seven years. In 1972 he directed the film 'Girls Hostel'. Later he got here up with a few of the evergreen films in Malayalam.

5 Nepal President Bidhya Devi Bhandari releases special anthology on Mahatma Gandhi

- Nepal President Bidhya Devi Bhandari has released a special anthology on Mahatma Gandhi- 'My understanding about Gandhi' - during a ceremony at Kathmandu in the presence of Indian Ambassador Vinay Mohan Kwatra.
- The book has been brought out by the Embassy of India along with the BP Koirala India-Nepal Foundation to cherish the values of the Mahatma's universal teachings with Nepali friends.
- Indian Embassy said that the publication hopes to bring the youth of Nepal closer to Mahatma Gandhi, whose life and ideals remain timeless, universal and relevant for today's world.

6. Azim Premji Tops EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2020, Shiv Nadar & Mukesh Ambani Follow

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- Hurun India and EdelGive released the seventh edition of EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2020. Azim Premji & family, the Founder-Chairman of Wipro topped the 2020 list, while Shiv Nadar, Founder-Chairman of HCL Technologies, ranked second; followed by richest Indian Mukesh Ambani, Chairman, Reliance Industries at the third spot.
 - The fourth spot was earned by Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman, Aditya Birla Group followed by Anil Agarwal, Chairman, Vedanta Group at the 5th spot.

7 Malayalam author S Hareesh wins the JCB Prize for Literature 2020

- Malayalam author, S Hareesh has won the JCB Prize for Literature 2020 for his novel Moustache.
- It has been translated into English by Jayasree Kalathil & published by HarperCollins India.
- The JCB Prize for Literature is regarded as the richest literary prize in India.
- As per the norm, the Malayalam author will receive a Rs 25 lakh cash prize and the translator will receive an additional Rs 10 lakh.

8. Anupam Kher's new book titled 'Your Best Day Is Today!'

- Actor Anupam Kher's latest book is titled "Your Best Day Is Today!". Through this book, Kher will recount his experiences during the lockdown, several ups and downs, including the time when his mother Dulari and brother Raju Kher had contracted the virus.
- His previous books are his biography Lessons Life Taught Me Unknowingly & The Best Thing About You is You

9. Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu presents second National Water Awards

- The Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu has presented the National Water Awards (NWAs) for 2019. This is the second edition of the award. Among the states category, Tamil Nadu bagged the Best State Award, followed by Maharashtra and Rajasthan.
- The award ceremony has been organised by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation are from 11 & 12 November 2020 through the virtual platform.

10. China's Chen Meng claimed the ITTF Women's World Cup maiden title

- The world number one Chen Meng beat Chinese compatriot Sun Yingsha to win her maiden International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Women's World Cup table tennis title in held in Weihai, China.

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- The 2020 ITTF Women’s World Cup was the 24th edition of the ITTF-sanctioned event.

11. **Sonu Sood's autobiography to be titled 'I Am No Messiah'**

- An actor, producer and humanitarian, Sonu Sood is set to pen his autobiography titled “I Am No Messiah”.
- The book will be co-authored by Meena Iyer. The book will account the experience of Sonu Sood during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The book is set to be published by Penguin Random House India and released in December 2020.
- The book will feature the stories he heard and his interactions with the migrants and others. Sonu Sood will share the experiences which impacted his life and changed his outlook and his purpose of life.
- Sonu Sood narrates his emotional experiences and the challenges he faced along with the people he rescued during the COVID-19 pandemic.

12. **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.

13. **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.

14. **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.

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- 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 [span](#) 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.

15. **Scottish Author Douglas Stuart's 'Shuggie Bain' Wins 2020 Booker Prize**

- Scottish author Douglas Stuart won the Booker Prize for fiction on Thursday with his first novel Shuggie Bain, with judges saying his tale of love and alcoholism set in Glasgow in 1980s was destined to be a classic.
- The 44-year-old Stuart, who wins 50,000 pounds and is only the second Scot to have won the prestigious literary prize, said he was stunned.
- The book, based on his own childhood, tells of a young boy growing up during tough years in Glasgow with a mother who is battling addiction. Stuart's own mother died of alcoholism when he was 16.

SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE

1UP 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.

2. 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.

3 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 ₹ 60 crore taken up to elevate the facilities at the panoramic destination to international standards.

41st 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

5. 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.

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- 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).

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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

9. Second batch of three Rafale fighter jets arrive in India

- India receives the second batch of three Rafale Aircraft, bringing total Rafale Jets with IAF to eight.
- The second batch of three Rafale jets landed in Jamnagar, Gujarat on 4th November 2020, after flying non-stop from France. Earlier, the first batch of five Rafale jets arrived in India on July 28 and they were officially inducted in the Indian Air Force on 10 September at Ambala Air Base in Haryana.
- With the arrival of the second batch, the IAF now has a total of eight Rafale fighter aircraft. As per the information by Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria, the induction of all 36 jets will be completed by 2023.

10. Tata Technologies to modernise Karnataka ITIs into tech hubs with outlay of Rs 4,600 crore

- Engineering services company Tata Technologies has signed an agreement with Karnataka government to modernise 150 state-run ITIs with an outlay of Rs 4,600 crore.
- The project cost will include investment from the state government as well as from a consortium of 20 companies led by Tata Technologies.
- The project is expected to bring qualitative improvements in the field of industrial training and education to create an enhanced learning environment for training youth to cater to industry requirements.

11 AAI Signs MoU With NTPC Subsidiary, NVVN to set up solar power plants in Airports

- The Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with an NTPC subsidiary on Thursday to promote usage of electric vehicles and set up solar power plants at its airports. NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN), a subsidiary of NTPC, will be provided adequate land and rooftop space free of cost at identified AAI airports to set up solar power plants.
- The AAI owns and manages more than 100 airports across India. The airports in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mangaluru and Lucknow are managed by private companies and not by the AAI.

12 India's special forces carry out a 'Bull Strike' triservice exercise in Andaman Nicobar Islands

- A military exercise involving special forces was carried out in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands between November 3 and 5 as the Army, Navy and Air Force got together for the war games amid the India-China standoff to test synergy in joint operations.

- Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) conducted a joint services exercise code-named 'Bull Strike', involving the three Services components of Andaman and Nicobar Command.
- Elements of Indian Army's Parachute Brigade, marine commandos or MARCOS and Special Forces carried on the exercise at the remotely located Teressa Island, in the strategically important Nicobar Group of Islands.
- "The exercise was carried out to validate and rehearse operational plans and contingencies in a realistic tactical setting under the overall command and control of Andaman and Nicobar Command, the only joint services operational command of the defence forces of India," a statement from the Army said.

13. Telemedicine service 'eSanjeevani' completes 7 lakh consultations

- eSanjeevani, the national telemedicine service set up by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has completed 7 lakh consultations today. The last one lakh consultations have come up in 11 days. This novel digital modality to deliver OPD services virtually has been gaining popularity. With over 10 thousand consultations being recorded on eSanjeevani per day, it is shaping into the largest OPD services set up in the country.
- An innovative intervention to deliver health services, eSanjeevani has started making impact in smaller towns and rural areas. While telemedicine is beneficial for the patients, it also is favourable for the doctors practicing telemedicine as it limits the contact with patients who are present virtually.
- eSanjeevani has removed the requirement of doctor to be at a specific location to provide services. Patients desirous of seeking medical consultations are placed in a virtual queue and upon their turn can see a doctor who is available virtually but present in another city. Each online OPD consultation generates an ePreion which can be used to buy medicines or go for diagnostic investigations.

14. Two-Day Joint Coastal Security Exercise 'Sagar Kavach' Begins in Odisha

- A two-day joint coastal security exercise, "Sagar Kavach" was launched at Paradip Coast, Odisha. The exercise is being carried out by a joint effort of the state of Odisha and West Bengal governments.
- The main purpose of the exercise is to carry out the exercise on the coast of Paradip this year, just like every year after the 26/11 Mumbai attacks. The exercise is being carried out to prevent a repeat of the Mumbai attacks by sea.
- More than 10 such departments, including the Indian Navy, the Indian Coast Guard, the Odisha Police, the local fishermen, the forest

department, and the port marine department, have joined the joint exercise. It will run for two days, with red and green forces being formed to infiltrate and prevent attacks. This year for coastal security the exercise was named "Sagar Kavach".

15. World famous Tourism spot Pangong Tso route gets 4G services at Tangtse

- World famous Tourism spot Pangong Tso route now gets 4G services at Tangtse. This first-ever Jio mobile tower in the entire Changthang region, connects Tangtse sub division with the rest of the world digitally.
- Mr. Tashi congratulated the people of Tangtse area for having a Jio mobile tower facility for the first time which was one of the pending demands of the area. Pangong Tso or Pangong Lake is an endorheic lake spanning eastern Ladakh and West Tibet.

16. India's first solar-based water supply project launched in Arunachal Pradesh

- India's first solar-based Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project (IMVWSP) was dedicated to the people of Arunachal Pradesh by Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.
- The solar-based lift water supply project for 39 villages in Lower Dibang Valley district in northeastern Arunachal Pradesh was commissioned at a cost of Rs 28.50 crore.
- The project is designed to provide drinking water to 17,480 people and has been conceived as an integrated project with an element of drinking water, green energy and tourism component in it.

17. Ex-SPG officer Sasindran Kallinkeel pens novel on transgenders

- Ex-SPG officer, Sasindran Kallinkeel's has penned a novel named "Rasaathi: The Other Side of a Transgender".
- The main character in the novel, published by Book Mitra, is a transgender named Rasaathi born in a well-to-do family in South India.
- Rasaathi, meaning princess, is in the late 40s who wants people to treat transgenders like human beings by showering love, affection, sympathy and recognise their pathetic and horrible life.

18. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveils A-SAT missile model at DRDO Bhawan

- A model of Anti-Satellite Missile installed inside the DRDO Bhawan premises was unveiled by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- 'Mission Shakti' was the country's first ever Anti-Satellite (A-SAT) Missile Test successfully conducted on 27th March 2019 from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha, where a fast-moving Indian orbiting

target satellite in Low Earth Orbit was neutralised with pinpoint accuracy.

- This was a highly complex mission, conducted at extremely high speed with remarkable precision.
- The successful conduct of Mission Shakti made India the fourth nation in the world with the capability to defend its assets in outer space.

19 Indian Army Gifts 10 Mine Detection Dogs & 20 Trained Military Horses to Bangladesh

- The Indian army gifted 20 horses and 10 dogs to the Bangladesh army. These equines and canines were trained by the Remount and Veterinary Corps of Indian Army.
- The fully trained military horses and mine detecting dogs were gifted to Bangladesh in order to further strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries.
- The Indian Army has also trained Bangladesh Army personnel for training and handling these specialist dogs and horses.

20. IFSCA approves Draft Banking Regulations for International Financial Services Centres

- IFSCA Approves Draft Banking Regulations for International Financial Services Centres. The International financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) on Wednesday approved draft banking regulations for banking operations at IFSCs.
- Banking constitutes one of the major focus areas of IFSCs (International Financial Services Centres) and is expected to drive and facilitate the other constituent operations in IFSCs in due course, IFSCA said in a statement.
- "A self-contained regulation laying down the major principles of banking operations at IFSCs is thus an important step in the IFSC reaching its desired potential," it said. The authority approved the draft banking regulations at its meeting held on Wednesday, as per the statement.

21. Indian Navy's fifth Scorpene class submarine Vagir launched

- Indian Navy's fifth Scorpene class submarine Vagir, having superior stealth features like the advanced acoustic absorption technique, was launched on Thursday at the Mazagon Dock in south Mumbai.
- Vijaya, wife of Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik, launched the submarine through video conferencing. The minister was the chief guest at the event and attended it via video link from Goa.
- Vagir is part of the six Kalvari-class submarines being built in India. The submarines, designed by French naval defence and energy company DCNS, are being built as part of Indian Navy's Project-75.

22. **China sends 'world's first 6G' test satellite into orbit**

- China has successfully launched what has been described as "the world's first 6G satellite" into space to test the technology.
- It went into orbit along with 12 other satellites from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in the Shanxi Province.
- The telecoms industry is still several years away from agreeing on 6G's specifications, so it is not yet certain the tech being trialled will make it into the final standard. It involves use of high-frequency terahertz waves to achieve data-transmission speeds many times faster than 5G is likely to be capable of. The satellite also carries technology which will be used for crop disaster monitoring and forest fire prevention.

23. **Google Photos will end free unlimited storage from June 2021**

- Google said starting June 1, 2021, it will no longer offer unlimited free backup for high quality photos, after providing the free service for five years.
- The search-giant will start charging for storage once 15GB on the account has been used. If users wish to add photos beyond the 15GB limit, they must pay for additional storage on Google One.
- Google is exempting all high quality photos and videos that users back up before June 1. It estimated that 80% of people should take at least three years to reach 15GB.

24. **CSIR-SERC, Chennai Develops Indigenous Emergency Retrieval System (ERS) for Power Lines**

- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) constituent laboratory Structural Engineering Research Centre (SERC) based in Chennai has developed an indigenous technology, Emergency Retrieval System (ERS), for quick retrieval of power transmission in the event of failure of transmission line towers. CSIR-SERC has signed an agreement for licensing of the ERS technology with M/s Advait Infratech, Ahmedabad.
- At present, the ERS systems are imported. There are very few manufacturers across the world and the cost is relatively high. This technological development will enable the manufacturing in India for the first time, which will be an import substitute and will cost about 40% of imported systems. ERS has huge market requirement in India as well as in SAARC and African countries. Hence, this technological development is a big leap forward towards Atma Nirbhar Bharat and Make in India.
- ERS is a lightweight modular system that is used as temporary support structure to restore power immediately after the collapse of transmission line towers during natural calamities such as cyclone/earthquake, or manmade disruptions. ERS can be assembled

quickly at the disaster site for restoration of power in 2-3 days, whereas the permanent restoration may take several weeks. This development is very significant as failure of transmission lines severely impact lives of common people and causes huge monetary loss to the power companies. As the total losses/damages are directly proportional to the outage duration, time is a crucial factor in reinstating or remediating the damaged/fallen structures.

25. **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.

26. **.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.

27. **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.

28. **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

29. **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.

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- 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.

30. **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.

31. **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.

32. **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.

33. 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.

34. 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.

35. 30th India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol took place between Nov 18-20

- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karmuk, an indigenously built Missile Corvette and His Majesty's Thailand Ship (HTMS) Kraburi, a Chao Phraya Class Frigate along with Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both the navies are participating in the CORPAT.
- "As part of Government of India's vision of SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region), the Indian Navy has been involved in assisting countries in the Indian Ocean Region with EEZ Surveillance, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), and other

capacity building and capability-enhancement activities on their request," said the release.

- The release further stated that both countries have enjoyed a friendly relationship, covering a wide spectrum of activities and interactions.
- To reinforce maritime links, the navies of both nations have been carrying out CORPAT along their International Maritime Boundary Line twice a year since 2005, with the aim of keeping this vital part of the Indian Ocean safe and secure for commercial shipping and international trade.

36. Indian Naval Ship Airavat arrives at Port of Mombasa, Kenya under mission Sagar II

- In continuation of the ongoing humanitarian mission 'Sagar-II', Indian Naval Ship Airavat today arrived at Port of Mombasa, Kenya. The Government of India is providing assistance to Friendly Foreign Countries to overcome natural calamities and COVID-19 pandemic, and towards the same INS Airavat is carrying food aid for the people of South Sudan.
- The Mission Sagar-II is aligned with Prime Minister's vision of SAGAR - Security and Growth for All in the Region. It reiterates India's position as a dependable partner in Indian Ocean Region with Indian Navy as the principal maritime agency and first responder in the maritime domain. The mission also highlights the importance accorded by India to relations with South Sudan and further strengthens the existing bond.

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

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- 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.

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.

6. Novak Djokovic equals Pete Sampras' year-end World No. 1 record

- Tennis star Novak Djokovic yet again clinched year-end world number one ranking, his record sixth time after the Sofia Open draw was published on November 6, 2020.
- With this, the 33-year-old player has equaled the record of American Tennis great Pete Sampras, who ended with world number one ranking for six straight years between 1993 and 1998.
- Pete Sampras was somebody Djokovic looked up to when he was growing up and so to match his record is a dream come true for the Serbian player. Djokovic was the year-end world no.1 champion previously in 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, and 2018.

7. Russian Daniil Medvedev wins Paris Master 2020

- Russian, Daniil Medvedev has won Paris Master 2020 title in tennis when he beat Alexander Zverev 5-7, 6-4, 6-1 in Paris. He became the fourth Russian to capture the Rolex Paris Masters title.

- The World No. 5 earned his first service break at 4-4 in the second set and charged to the title from that point by winning eight of the final nine games.
- Medvedev joins countrymen Marat Safin, Nikolay Davydenko and Karen Khachanov on the Paris honour roll.

8 Mumbai Indians clinch 5th IPL title by beating Delhi Capitals

- Mumbai Indians beat Delhi Capitals by five wickets in the final of Indian Premier League 2020.
- With this win, Mumbai added a fifth IPL title to their kitty, more than any other team in the 13-year history of the league.

9. Sports Ministry announces new incentive structure to fund 500 private academies

- In a first-ever move, the Sports Ministry has introduced a incentivisation structure to extend monetary support to 500 private academies, through the Khelo India Scheme over the next four years starting FY 2020-21.
- In this model, private academies shall be graded into different categories based on quality achievement of players trained by the academy, level of coaches available at the academy, quality of Field of Play and allied infrastructure, availability of sports science facilities and staff. The 14 priority disciplines identified for excellence in 2028 Olympics will be eligible for receiving support in the first phase.
- Speaking of the decision, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri. Kiren Rijiju said, "It is important for the government to extend support to these institutions so that sporting talent can be groomed even in the most remote areas of the country. There are a lot of small academies in various parts of the country that are doing very good work in identifying and training athletes. This move aims to encourage all academies, especially the private academies to continue improving the level of infrastructure, resources and sports science support so that athletes can get best in class training."

10. 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.
- WARRIOR 4.0 | Banking Awareness Batch for SBI, RRB, RBI and IBPS Exams | Bilingual | Live Class
- 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.

11. **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 Sports persons, 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.

12. **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.

13. **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.

14. **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.

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.

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- 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 Jayalithaa'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-defunct 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.

46th & 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).

5. Alex Trebek, host of Jeopardy, dies at 80

- Popular American game show host Alex Trebek passed away on November 8, 2020. He was 80. He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer last year. Trebek's popular show 'Jeopardy!' announced the news of his death through a Twitter post, which read that he passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by family and friends. Alex Trebek had hosted the show for almost four decades.
- He had first announced that he had been diagnosed with stage IV pancreatic cancer when he was on air in March 2019 and he had continued to shoot for the episodes while undergoing cancer treatment. He had also returned to host the show's 36th season during summer last year, despite his health condition.

6. Veteran author & Gujarati columnist Father Carlos Gonzalez Valles SJ passes away

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- Veteran author and Gujarati columnist of Father Carlos Gonzalez Valles SJ, popularly known as Father Valles passed away. A Jesuit priest born in Spain, he was a Mathematics teacher in Gujarat.
 - He wrote extensively in Gujarati, English and Spanish.
 - He translated many mathematical concepts into Gujarati and coined terms for them.

7. Bahrain's long-serving PM Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa dies

- Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, His Royal Highness Prince Khalifabin Salman Al Khalifa, passed Away.
- He died at the age of 84. After his demise, Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa named crown prince Salman al-Khalifa as the new Prime Minister of the Kingdom.

8. Ghana's ex-President Jerry Rawlings dies aged 73

- Ghana's former President Jerry John Rawlings has died at the age of 73. He led two coups, first in 1979, before twice being elected president in multiparty polls.
- He led two coups, first in 1979, before twice being elected president in multiparty polls.
- He was also seen as a champion of the poor, but came to be criticised for alleged human rights abuses. He died in hospital in the capital, Accra, after a short illness.

9. 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

10. PM Modi pays tributes to Bhagwan Birsa Munda on his Jayanti

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- 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

11. **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. Also an educationist, Belagere started Prarthana School, where his morta.

12. **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.

13. **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. 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.

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- 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. 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. 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.

3 Haryana Statehood Day observed on 1 November

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- 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 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.

5. National Cancer Awareness day observed on 7 november

- National Cancer Awareness Day is celebrated in India on 7 November to educate people about cancer, its treatment, and its symptoms. National Cancer Awareness Day was first announced by the Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan in September 2014.
- The day coincides with the birth anniversary of the eminent scientist Madame Curie.
- Marie Curie is remembered for her discovery of radium and polonium, and her huge contribution to the fight against cancer. Her work led to the development of nuclear energy and radiotherapy for the treatment of cancer.

6. Nagaland decides to celebrate Hornbill Festival 2020 virtually

- Nagaland Tourism Department has informed that the state government decided to celebrate the Hornbill Festival 2020 in a complete virtual mode.
- Dubbed as the "Festival of Festivals", the Hornbill Festival is celebrated every year from December 1 to 10, showcasing the rich cultural heritage and tradition of the Nagas in one platform at Naga Heritage Village Kisama under Kohima District.
- The first festival was held in 2000
- The festival is named after the Indian hornbill, the large and colourful forest bird which is displayed in the folklore of most of the state's tribes.

7. Legal Services Day observed on 9 November

- Legal Services Day is observed on 9 November in India to raise awareness among the people where Legal Literacy is lacking. On this day, in 1995, the Legal Services Authorities Act was enforced.
- The main aim of this observance is to spread legal awareness among people.
- It also aims as a means to provide free legal aid and advice to the poor and weaker sections of the society, so as to ensure justice for all.

8. World Science Day for Peace and Development observed on 10 November

- World Science Day for Peace and Development is observed every year on 10 November. The day highlights the significant role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues.
- It was proclaimed by UNESCO in 2001 and was first celebrated worldwide on 10 November 2002.
- 2020 Theme: "Science for and with Society in dealing with the global pandemic."

9. Uttarakhand celebrates its 20th foundation day on 09 November

- Uttarakhand celebrated its 20th foundation day on 09 November. Governor Baby Rani Maurya, Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat and Assembly Speaker Prem Chand Agrawal have greeted the people on the occasion.
- The demand for the creation of Uttarakhand as a separate state of Uttarakhand arose in the year 1897.
- The demand for a separate state turned into a full fledged mass movement in 1994. The movement led to the formation of the Uttarakhand state in 2000.
- The state was earlier named as 'Uttaranchal' when it was formed. But in 2007, state was renamed to Uttarakhand.

10 Public Service Broadcasting Day is celebrated every year on November 12

- Public Service Broadcasting Day is celebrated every year on November 12 as the remembrance of the first and only visit of Mahatma Gandhi to the studio of All India Radio, Delhi in 1947.
- During his visit to the All-India Radio station, Gandhi addressed people who were displaced after partition of Haryana and were temporarily settled in Kurukshetra.
- Every year, a special event is organized to observe the Public Service Broadcasting Day in the premises of All India Radio, New Delhi.

11. World Diabetes Day observed on 14 November

- World Diabetes Day is observed on 14th November every year. The campaign aims to raise awareness around the crucial role that nurses play in supporting people living with diabetes.
- The theme for World Diabetes Day 2020 is “The Nurse and Diabetes.”
- In 2007 General Assembly adopted resolution 61/225 designating 14 November as World Diabetes Day.
- The document recognized “the urgent need to pursue multilateral efforts to promote and improve human health, and provide access to treatment and health-care education.”
- Diabetes is a major cause of blindness, kidney failure, heart attack, stroke and lower limb amputation. Healthy diet, physical activity and avoiding tobacco use can prevent or delay type 2 diabetes. In addition diabetes can be treated and its consequences avoided or delayed with medication, regular screening and treatment for complications.

12. PM Modi greets people of Jharkhand on their Statehood Day

- 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.

13 .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.”

14 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.

15. 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.

16. Four-day celebrations of Chhath Puja begin from 18 November

- The four-day celebrations of Chhath Puja began from 18 November 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.

17. 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.

18. World Children's Day 2020: 20 November

- World Children's Day 2020 is being celebrated across the world today, November 20.

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- 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.

19. **World Fisheries Day: 21 November**

- World Fisheries Day is celebrated on 21 November every year throughout the world by the fisher folk communities.
- It highlights the importance of healthy oceans ecosystems and to ensure sustainable stocks of fisheries in the world.
- 2020 is the fourth World Fisheries Day. The World Fisheries Day helps in highlighting the critical importance to human lives, of water and the lives it sustains, both in and out of water.
- Water forms a continuum, whether contained in rivers, lakes, and ocean. Fishing communities worldwide celebrate this day through rallies, workshops, public meetings, cultural programs, dramas, exhibition, music show, and demonstrations to highlight the importance of maintaining the world's fisheries.

20. **National Newborn Week celebrated on 15 November to 21 November**

- Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan on Friday chaired an event to mark National Newborn Week 2020, being observed from November 15-21 to "reinforce the importance of newborn health as a key priority area of health sector and to reiterate commitment at the highest level".
- The minister said that India has taken giant strides to achieve targets set for reducing the newborn mortality rate and stillbirth rate.
- "India became the first country to launch the India Newborn Action Plan (INAP) in 2014, in alignment with the Global Every Newborn Action Plan towards eliminating preventable deaths of newborns and stillbirths. Initiatives like Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN) scheme are testimony to our commitment to avoid all preventable maternal or pregnancy-related deaths as well as that of the newborns. We are working meticulously to update our practices and plug any gaps in the system to improve our performance," he said.

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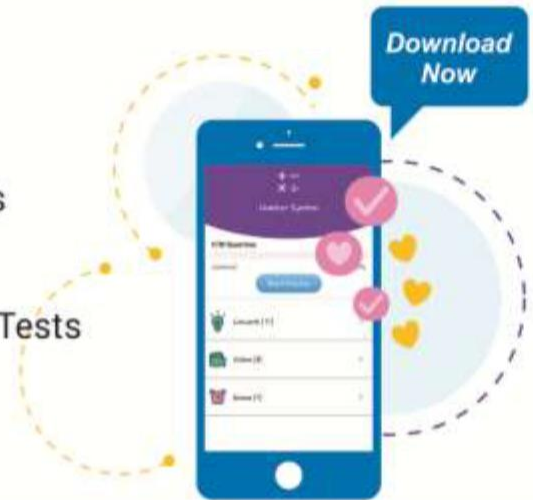
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