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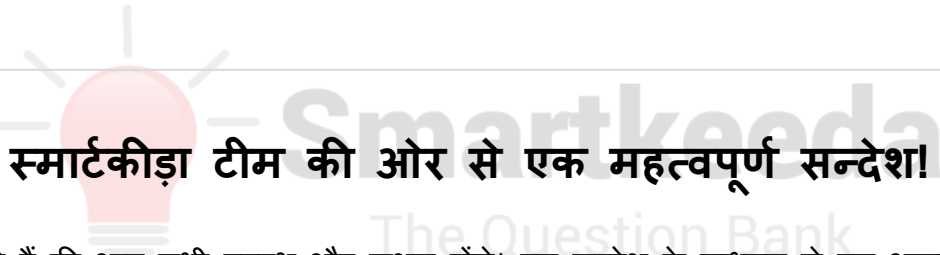
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the MockDrill Test of December 2020 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial if you want to score a high rank in Current Affairs Mocks at Testzone. Therefore, we urge you to go through each piece of information carefully and try to remember the facts and figures because the questions to be asked in the Current Affairs MockDrill will be based on the information given in the PDF only.

We hope you will make the best of use of this PDF and perform well in MockDrill Tests at Testzone.

All the best!

Regards

Team Smartkeeda



स्मार्टकीड़ा टीम की ओर से एक महत्वपूर्ण सन्देश!

मित्रों! हम आशा करते हैं की आप सभी स्वस्थ और कुशल होंगे। इस सन्देश के माध्यम से हम आपसे यह कहना चाहते हैं की ये PDF दिसम्बर माह में Testzone पर MockDrill Test में आपकी तैयारी को बेहतर करने के लिए उपलब्ध करायी जा रही है। इस PDF में हमने कुछ अति आवश्यक 'Key-Points' के माध्यम से आपको सम-सामयिकी (Current Affairs) सूचनाओं से अवगत कराया है और अगर आप MockDrill में अपनी योग्यता सिद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो आपके लिए हर सूचना को पढना, समझना और उसे याद रखना भी अति आवश्यक है क्योंकि MockDrill में शामिल किए गए प्रश्न PDF में दी गयी सूचना या जानकारी पर ही आधारित होंगे।

हम आशा करते हैं की आप इस PDF का भरपूर लाभ उठाते हुए आने वाले MockDrill Test में बेहतर अंक प्राप्त करेंगे।

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा



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National & States Affairs

1. The Centre has formed a 5-member committee to oversee construction of the new Parliament house and to ensure heritage and aesthetics of the complex are maintained. The presentation was facilitated by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. The construction of the new building is expected to be completed by November 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Centre formed a 5-member committee to oversee construction of the new Parliament house
- The construction is expected to be completed by – November 2022

2. Madhya Pradesh government aims to completely eliminate AIDS by 2030 as the number of AIDS patients is growing rapidly in the state. The AIDS infection rate in MP is 1.64%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh – aims to completely eliminate AIDS by 2030
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

3. Besides Uttar Pradesh, Assam will bring laws for transparency in marriage. It will make it mandatory for both the bride and the groom to disclose information including the source of income and religion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam – to bring laws for transparency in marriage
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

4. In an attempt to save reptiles and small animals from vehicular accidents while crossing the road, the Ramnagar Forest Division of Uttarakhand has constructed the state's first eco-bridge across Kaladhungi-Nainital highway. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttarakhand – constructed the first Eco-bridge across Kaladhungi-Nainital highway
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya



5. Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda has launched the virtual edition of “Aadi Mahotsav - Madhya Pradesh”. The 10-day long festival is commenced on December 1, 2020. The main focus of this festival is on the tribal craft and culture of Madhya Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arjun Munda – launched the virtual edition of “Aadi Mahotsav”
- The main focus of this festival is on the tribal craft and culture of – Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs – Arjun Munda (Constituency – Khunti, Jharkhand)

6. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has constituted a 17 members High-level inter-ministerial Apex Committee for Implementation of Paris Agreement (AIPA) under the chairmanship of C. K. Mishra (Secretary of MoEFCC). The committee is constituted for the execution of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoEFCC – constituted a 17 members Apex Committee for Implementation of Paris Agreement (AIPA)
- Chairmanship – C. K. Mishra (Secretary of MoEFCC)
- Prakash Javadekar – Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Ministry of Info. & Broadcasting
- Constituency – Maharashtra

7. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has launched India's first ‘100 Octane petrol’, helping India join a select league of nations globally that have such superior quality fuel. The ‘XP100’ premium petrol will initially be available at select outlets of Indian Oil in 10 cities including Delhi and Mumbai. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IOC – launched India's first 100 Octane petrol (XP100)
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya

8. Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh has launched the “Green Charcoal Hackathon”, which would focus on deliberating on technology to convert farm residue into green charcoal. The Hackathon has been organised by Energy Efficiency Service Ltd and NVVN (NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:



- R K Singh (MoPNRE) – launched the “Green Charcoal Hackathon” – Organised by EESL & NVVN
- HQs of EESL – New Delhi | Chairman – Rajeev Sharma
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh

9. A first-of-its-kind initiative in Maharashtra, Pune City Police has started the ‘Balsnehi (child-friendly) Police Station’ on the premises of the Lashkar police station in Pune Camp. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The ‘Balsnehi (child-friendly) Police Station’ – inaugurated in Pune, Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

10. Tens of thousands of farmers were still camped on the Delhi-Haryana border, on their way to the national capital for “Dilli Chalo” protest against the Centre’s 3 new farm laws. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Dilli Chalo” protest – started by Farmers of India – against the Centre’s 3 new farm laws

11. The 9th edition of the “International Sand Art Festival” has begun at the Chandrabhaga Beach of Konark in Odisha’s Puri district with adherence to government prescribed Covid-19 protocols. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 9th edition of the “International Sand Art Festival” – began at the Chandrabhaga Beach, Konark, Odisha
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

12. Karnataka has laid the foundation for 11.5 MW “Waste-to-Energy” plant set up by the Karnataka Power Corporation Limited and the Bengaluru civic agency at Bidadi in Ramanagara district. The plant will come up in the next two years. The estimated cost of this plant is Rs 260 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka laid the foundation for 11.5 MW “Waste-to-Energy” plant - at Bidadi in Ramanagara, Karnataka
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala



13. The Indian government has reduced the import tax on crude Palm Oil to 27.5% from 37.5%, aiming to bring down rising food prices with the measure. India is the world's biggest importer of Palm Oil. India imports around 9 million tonnes of palm oil annually. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Indian government has reduced the import tax on crude Palm Oil to 27.5% (from 37.5%)
- India is the world's biggest importer of Palm Oil (9 million tonnes/year)

14. Universal Sampo General Insurance Company Limited has launched its mobile application the “USGI PULZ” with the main intention of enhancing service delivery. It believes that just with this offering its digital sign-ups will increase by 25-30%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Universal Sampo General Insurance – launched its mobile application the “USGI PULZ”
- HQs of Universal Sampo Gen. Ins. – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sharad Mathur

15. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has completed private placement of 4.63% of its equity shares worth ₹81.64 Cr. NPCI made an offer for private placement to 131 RBI-regulated entities, out of which 19 showed interest and were allotted shares. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NPCI – completed private placement of 4.63% of its equity shares worth ₹81.64 Cr
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe

16. Bihar is holding a 3-day long Bird Festival for the first time as part of its initiative to save migratory birds in Bhagalpur starting from December 11, 2020. The festival is being jointly organised by the Bhagalpur forest division, non-profit Bombay Natural History Society and the local Mandar Nature Club. This was because the 60-kilometre-long stretch of the ‘Vikramshila Dolphin Sanctuary’ between Sultanganj and Kahalgaon had long been a hub of migratory birds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3-day long Bird Festival for the first time as part of its initiative to save migratory – held in Bhagalpur, Bihar
- Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary – located in Bhagalpur, Bihar
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan



17. Ratan Tata-backed startup Repos Energy recently announced the launch of a Double-dispenser mobile Petrol Pump, named “VO Alpha”, which stands for Voice of Innovation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Repos Energy – to launch a Double-dispenser mobile Petrol Pump named “VO Alpha”
- HQs of Repos Energy – Pune, Maharashtra | CEO – Chetan Walunj

18. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has named the newly-built “Majerhat” bridge in Kolkata as “Jai Hind” bridge to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Majerhat” (Kolkata) bridge named as “Jai Hind” bridge – to commemorate 125th birth anniversary of S. C. Bose
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

19. Lucknow has become the first city in north India and ninth city in India to have raised funds by issuing municipal bonds. The 200-Cr Lucknow Municipal Corporation (LMC) bonds were listed on Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) on December 2. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lucknow – become the 1st city in north India and 9th city in India to have raised funds by issuing municipal bonds
- 200-Cr LMC bonds were listed on – BSE
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

20. India's first mobile Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) dispensing unit was launched by Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan. The Mobile Refuelling Unit will be operated by Mahanagar Gas Ltd (MNGL) in Pune. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dharmendra Pradhan launched India's first mobile Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) dispensing unit
- The Mobile Refuelling Unit will be operated by – Mahanagar Gas Ltd (MNGL) in Pune
- HQs of Mahanagar Gas – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Rajeev Mathur | Chairman – Bhuwan Chandra Tripathi
- HQs of International Gas Union – Barcelona, Spain | President – Joe M. Kang



21. Lufthansa has launched 'Calendar of Hope' to help Street Children in India. Lufthansa is partnering with ImpactGuru (a Harvard incubated start-up and India's leading healthcare crowdfunding platform) for this initiative. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lufthansa – launched 'Calendar of Hope' to help Street Children in India
- HQs of Lufthansa – Cologne, Germany | CEO – Carsten Spohr

22. HDFC Life has launched a new digital campaign namely "HDFC Click2Wealth" plan that focuses on the role of Unit Linked Insurance Plans (ULIPs) as part of a prudent financial plan. Through the central message of '#SirfSafeNahiSmartBhiBano', the brand aims to change the way consumers look at ULIPs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Life – launched a new digital campaign namely "HDFC Click2Wealth" focused on ULIPs
- HQs of HDFC Life – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Vibha Padalkar

23. The State Board for Wildlife in Maharashtra has decided to declare 10 new Conservation Reserves (CRs) along with a new sanctuary - Kanhargaon Wildlife Sanctuary (the state's 50th) in Chandrapur district. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – decided to declare 10 new Conservation Reserves (CRs) + 1 new Wildlife Sanctuary
- Kanhargaon Wildlife Sanctuary (the state's 50th) – located in Chandrapur, Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

24. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched "Mera Covid Kendra" app that gives users the locations of free Covid test centres within a radius of 5 kilometres in the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – launched "Mera Covid Kendra" app
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel



25. Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa has laid the foundation stone for a Waste-to-Energy (WtE) plant at Bidadi, being developed by Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd (KPCL). The plant is expected to be operational by the end of 2022 and is set to be the first WtE plant in the State. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- B.S. Yediyurappa has laid the foundation stone for a Waste-to-Energy plant – at Bidadi, Karnataka
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

26. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has made it mandatory to mention 8-digit HSN or tariff code for 49 chemical based products while issuing Goods and Services Tax (GST) invoice. Currently, businesses mention up to 4-digit tariff code while issuing invoices. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CBIC made it mandatory to mention 8-digit HSN code for 49 chemical based products while issuing GST invoice
- HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairperson – M. Ajit Kumar

27. The Dandupur Railway Station situated in Uttar Pradesh has been renamed as “Maa Barahi Devi Dham”. It is situated between Pratapgarh and Badshahpur on Lucknow-Varanasi rail section. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Dandupur Railway Station” (Uttar Pradesh) is renamed as – “Maa Barahi Devi Dham”
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

28. PSU major NHPC Ltd has stated that the 2,000 MW Subansiri Hydropower Project, which was stalled for nearly 8 years due to intense protests by many groups in Assam, will be commissioned by March 2022. It will be commissioned on Subansiri River. The initial project cost was estimated at Rs 6,285 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The “2,000 MW Hydropower Project” will be commissioned by March 2022 – on Subansiri River
- Lower Subansiri Hydroelectric Power Project (LSHEP) is located in = Assam + Arunachal Pradesh
- Subansiri River – a tributary of Brahmaputra River

29. At the 37th General Body meeting of Central Zoo Authority chaired by Union Minister Prakash Javadekar, two new zoos - the Rajgir Zoo Safari in Nalanda, Bihar and Shaheed Ashfaque Ullah Khan Prani Udyaan in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh were granted recognition. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 37th General Body meeting of Central Zoo Authority – chaired by Prakash Javadekar
- 2 new Zoos granted recognition = Rajgir Zoo Safari (Bihar) & Shaheed Ashfaque Ullah Khan Prani Udyaan (UP)

30. Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) has secured authorization from the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) to operate as a Gas Exchange for a period of 25 years. IGX is India's first automated delivery-based gas trading platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IGX – secured authorization from the PNGRB to operate as a 'Gas Exchange' for a period of 25 years
- HQs of IGX – Ahmedabad, Gujarat

31. The Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department has signed an MoU with Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) to promote and encourage tourism industry by developing river tourism in the state. The MoU was regarding the operation of PAX Vessel in Varanasi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh + IWAI = an MoU to promote River Tourism in the state
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel
- HQs of IWAI – Noida, UP | Chairperson – Jalaj Shrivastava

32. West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee has announced that the state cabinet has approved the construction of a Deep Sea Port in Tajpur. Tajpur Deep Sea Port will be built at a cost of Rs 15,000 Cr and will generate employment for 25,000 people. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- West Bengal approved the construction of state's 1st Deep Sea Port – in Tajpur (Cost: Rs 15,000 Cr)
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar



33. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the construction of Phase 1 of Agra Metro Rail Project (AMRP) through video conference at the 15 Battalion PAC parade ground in Agra. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – inaugurated the construction of Phase 1 of Agra Metro Rail Project (AMRP)
- Agra – the 5th city of Uttar Pradesh to get a Metro System
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

34. The 8th North East Festival (NEF) was held in Guwahati on December 19 and 20. Assam Government is the host State. The North East Festival is an attempt to showcase and create awareness about India's North East and to promote entrepreneurship and tourism. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 8th North East Festival (NEF) was held in – Guwahati | Host State – Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

35. The Union Health Ministry has developed a digital platform, including a mobile application namely "Co-WIN" for real-time monitoring of COVID-19 vaccine delivery, recording data and to enable people to get themselves registered for vaccination. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Health Ministry – launched “Co-WIN” app for real-time monitoring of COVID-19 vaccine delivery
- Health & Family Welfare Minister – Dr. Harsh Vardhan | Constituency – Chandni Chowk, New Delhi

36. The Mizoram government has launched a project christened as “Livelihood Generation for Returned Migrant Workers” to assist the migrant workers find suitable employment who lost their jobs due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is Rs 3.3 Cr project under the Mizoram Youth Commission (MZC). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mizoram – launched a project christened as “Livelihood Generation for Returned Migrant Workers”
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai



37. The Gujarat forest department has transferred 12 leopards to 'Greens Zoological Rescue and Rehabilitation Kingdom' in Jamnagar for their maintenance and upkeep as part of a public private partnership (PPP) project between the state government and Reliance Industries Limited (RIL). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gujarat – transferred 12 leopards to 'Greens Zoological Rescue and Rehabilitation Kingdom' in Jamnagar
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat
- HQs of Reliance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani

38. Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated 15 National Highway projects worth ₹4,127 Cr in Nagaland. 55 highway projects worth ₹11,711 Cr were approved for the state in the last 6 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nitin Gadkari – inaugurated 15 National Highway projects in Nagaland (worth ₹4,127 Cr)
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Ravindra Narayana Ravi

39. The Delhi government has launched a forum to engage with stakeholders for the successful implementation of its recently launched Electric Vehicles (EV) policy. It aims at having an electric vehicle market share of 25% across all new vehicle sales in Delhi by 2024. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi – launched a forum for the successful implementation of Electric Vehicles (EV) policy
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

40. The northeastern state of Mizoram has entered the solar map of the country with the commissioning of the first solar power plant at Tlungvel. The grid-connected 2-megawatt Solar PhotoVoltaic (SPV) plant was inaugurated by the state's Power Minister R Lalzirliana. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mizoram – inaugurated the first 2-MW Solar PhotoVoltaic (SPV) plant – at Tlungvel
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai



41. Jharkhand school education and literacy (SEL) department has launched 2 educational applications “Learnytic” & “Digischool” for students of class 9 to class 12 & class 1 to class 8 respectively. It aims to provide classroom-like education experience at home and reduce educational loss due to lockdowns. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jharkhand – launched 2 educational applications “Learnytic” & “Digischool”
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Draupadi Murmu

42. The Uttar Pradesh government has recently embarked upon a scheme to take the unique culture of its ethnic ‘Tharu tribe’ across the world. The intention is to put Tharu villages on the tourism map, and to create jobs and bring economic independence to the tribal population. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – launched a scheme to take the unique culture of its ethnic ‘Tharu tribe’ across the world
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

43. Japan Foundation New Delhi has launched the 4th edition of Japanese Film Festival (JFF) 2020 in India on 4 December 2020. The one-of-a-kind 10-day digital Film Festival will be held from 4 to 13 December. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 4th edition of Japanese Film Festival (JFF) 2020 – held in India from 4 to 13 December
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

44. The cyber wing of the Maharashtra Police has recently acquired a software “Crawler” from Interpol that would help them track down child pornography uploaded online. TRACE unit was set up by Maharashtra Cyber to counter child pornography. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra Police – acquired “Crawler” software from ‘Interpol’ to crack down on child porn
- TRACE – Tactical Response Against Cyber Child Exploitation
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- HQs of Interpol – Lyon, France | President – Kim Jong Yang



45. The AYUSH Ministry has announced that the upcoming new campus of the National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN), Pune will be called 'Nisarg Gram'. This decision has been taken to invoke recollections of Mahatma Gandhi's famous nature cure campaign of 1946 at the 'Nisarg Upchar' Ashram in Pune. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The upcoming new campus of the National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN), Pune will be called 'Nisarg Gram'
- [MoS of AYUSH – Shripad Yesso Naik | Constituency – North Goa](#)
- [HQs of NIN – Pune, Maharashtra](#)

46. On December 10, Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance has launched its new digital campaign - 'Heroes of My City' celebrating real life heroes and their acts of generosity during the ongoing pandemic. This two month long campaign is an extension to the initiative 'me for my city' which was launched in 2018 by Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance – launched its new digital campaign - 'Heroes of My City'
- [HQs of Canara HSBC OBC Life Ins. – Gurugram, Haryana | CEO – Anuj Mathur](#)

47. On December 9, Insurance regulator IRDAI has proposed a standard personal accident product with common coverage and policy wordings across the industry. General and health insurers should offer the product from April 1, 2021 onwards with minimum sum insured of Rs 2.5 lakh and a maximum sum insured of Rs 1 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IRDAI asked all General and health insurers to offer the standard personal accident product – from April 1, 2021
- Minimum sum assured – Rs 2.5 lakh | Maximum sum insured – Rs 1 Cr
- [HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur](#)

48. On December 9, Max Life Insurance has announced the launch of "Max Life Critical Illness and Disability Rider" and with it, the launch of "Max Fit", a comprehensive wellness programme. The rider provides comprehensive financial protection against a range of 22 to 64 critical illnesses and disability. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Max Life Insurance launched “Max Life Critical Illness and Disability Rider” & “Max Fit” programme
- HQs of Max Life Ins. – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Prashant Tripathy

49. On December 10, Tourism Department of Odisha has kick started the 2nd Edition of its flagship “Eco-Retreat” programme. It is a 3-month-long glamping festival. Odisha Tourism has started Eco-Retreats at 5 major tourist destinations in Konark, Bhitarkanika, Daringibadi, Hirakud and Satkosia this year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – started the 2nd Edition of its flagship “Eco-Retreat” programme
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

50. On December 9, The Union Cabinet has approved the Provision of Submarine Optical Fibre Cable Connectivity between Mainland (Kochi) and Lakshadweep Islands (KLI Project). The estimated cost of implementation is about Rs 1,072 Cr. The Project would be funded by the Universal Service Obligation Fund. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Provision approved for Submarine Optical Fibre Cable Connectivity – between Kochi & Lakshadweep Islands
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan
- Lakshadweep: Kavaratti | Administrator – Dineshwar Sharma

51. On December 10, The Union cabinet has cleared a proposal recommended by TRAI, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to allow Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs) to set up public Wi-Fi networks. The public Wi-Fi Access Network Interface will be known as “PM-WANI”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union cabinet approved a proposal to set up the public Wi-Fi Access Network Interface - “PM-WANI”
- WANI – Wi-Fi Access Network Interface
- HQs of TRAI – New Delhi | Chairman – P D Vaghela



52. On December 10, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of the new Parliament building in New Delhi. He also performed the ground-breaking ceremony for the building, which is expected to be completed by 2022. The new building will have an area of 64,500 square metres. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – laid the foundation stone of the new Parliament in New Delhi
- Area: 64,500 square metres | Expected to be completed by – 2022
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

53. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has standardised all health policies across health insurers and specifically for Robotic and Bariatric Surgeries in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IRDAI – standardised Robotic and Bariatric Surgeries in India
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

54. India has added a 763.47 MW Renewable Energy (RE) capacity in November this year, which took the total installed RE capacity to 90.39 GW as on 30 November 2020. India has set an ambitious target of 175 GW capacity by 2022, which would include 100 GW of solar energy, 60 GW of wind energy, 10 GW of small hydro power, and 5 GW of biomass-based power projects. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Total installed Renewable Energy capacity in India – 90.39 GW (as on 30 November 2020)
- Government's Target: 175 GW – by 2022 & 450 GW – by 2030

55. Ministry of Commerce and Industry has decided to set up an Export promotion council for AYUSH products. The Ministries of Finance, Commerce and Industry, and AYUSH will work together to facilitate more exports of such products, by standardising their HS (Harmonised System) codes used for global trade. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mini. of C & I + Ministries of Finance + AYUSH = to set up an Export promotion council for AYUSH products
- MoS of AYUSH – Shripad Yesso Naik | Constituency – North Goa
- Nirmala Sitharaman – Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs | Constituency – Karnataka



56. In 2016, Sikkim became the first state to be 100% organic. Now, after Sikkim, Lakshadweep has been become the first Union Territory of India to be 100% organic. The UT opted for 100% organic farming without synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lakshadweep – became the first UT of India to be 100% organic (1st state – Sikkim)
- Lakshadweep: Kavaratti | Administrator – Dineshwar Sharma
- Sikkim: Capital – Gangtok | CM – Prem Singh Tamang | Governor – Ganga Prasad

57. On December 12, BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange) in collaboration with Frontier Agriculture Platforms has launched an electronic spot platform for agricultural commodities – “BSE E-Agricultural Markets Ltd. (BEAM)” - through its subsidiary BSE Investments. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BSE – launched “BEAM” - an electronic spot platform for agricultural commodities
- BEAM – BSE E-Agricultural Markets Ltd
- HQs of BSE – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sethurathnam Ravi

58. On December 6, the iconic “Stone chariot” located in Hampi (Karnataka) has got protective ring from Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to avoid damage through public contact. Now, Tourists can no longer get too close to the iconic stone chariot in front of the Vijaya Vittala Temple in the UNESCO World Heritage site of Hampi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The iconic “Stone chariot” (Hampi, Karnataka) – got protective ring from Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)
- Vijaya Vittala Temple – the UNESCO World Heritage site – located in Hampi, Karnataka
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala
- HQs of ASI – New Delhi | Director General – V. Vidyavathi

59. Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated the three-lane 1.5-km-long “Koilwar Bridge” over Sone river in Bihar. The bridge is major road for transport between Bihar and UP. A sum of Rs 266 Cr was spent to construct this bridge. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Nitin Gadkari – inaugurated the three-lane 1.5-km-long “Koilwar Bridge” – over Sone river in Bihar
- Cost of the Bridge – Rs 266 Cr
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

60. The Centre has launched a programme for socio-economic profiling of the beneficiaries of the PM Street Vendor’s Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) and their families. Quality Council of India (QCI) has been appointed as the implementing partner for the programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- QCI appointed as the implementing partner for a programme for socio-economic profiling
- The programme is for the beneficiaries of “PM SVANidhi” Scheme
- HQs of QCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Adil Zainulbhai

61. Shri A.K. Singh (CMD of NHPC) has laid the foundation stone of “Indo-Nepal Link Canal” at Barrage of 94.2 MW Tanakpur Power Station of NHPC located in Banbasa, Champawat (Uttarakhand) on 8th December 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shri A.K. Singh – laid the foundation stone of “Indo-Nepal Link Canal” at ‘Tanakpur Power Station’ (Uttarakhand)
- HQs of NHPC – Faridabad, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Abhay Kumar Singh
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

62. The Talcher Fertilizers Ltd’s (TFL) plant at Talcher will be India’s first coal gasification-based fertiliser plant with pet coke blending. It will facilitate seamless supply of urea and fertiliser in Odisha and eastern India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s first coal gasification-based fertiliser plant with pet coke blending – being set up at Talcher, Odisha
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal



63. Bharti Infratel has received approval from the Registrar of Companies for changing its name to Indus Towers, following the recent merger of the two companies (Bharti Infratel & Indus Towers Ltd) to create a mega tower entity. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharti Infratel – received approval from the Registrar of Companies to change its name to ‘Indus Towers’
- HQs of Bharti Infratel – New Delhi | CEO – Devender Singh Rawat
- HQs of Indus Towers – Gurugram, Haryana | CEO – Bimal Dayal

64. The post-mortem report of an elephant calf which was found dead on December 2 has revealed the presence of ‘Anthrax’ at the Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve in Dibrugarh district. The forest department has started a vaccination drive to prevent the spread of the bacterial infection. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam forest department started a Vaccination drive after ‘Anthrax’ detection in wild elephant
- It was detected at the “Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve” – in Dibrugarh, Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

65. The Indian Coast Guard has pressed into service an aircraft for “Operation Oliva”, the coastal patrolling as part of its annual mission to ensure the safe mid-sea sojourn of breeding Olive Ridley sea turtles in Odisha. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Coast Guard – conducted “Operation Oliva” to ensure safe breeding of ‘Olive Ridley Turtles’ in Odisha
- HQs of ICG – New Delhi | Director General – Krishnaswamy Natarajan
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

66. Bharti AXA Life Insurance has launched “GotYouCovered” campaign observing the Universal Health Coverage Day. It is a special initiative to appreciate frontline healthcare workers who are striving to protect people from the Covid-19 pandemic. Bharti AXA Life Insurance has joined hands with Primero Skills & Training for this purpose. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharti AXA Life Insurance + Primero Skills & Training = launched “GotYouCovered” campaign



- HQs of Bharti AXA Life Ins. – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Parag Raja
- HQs of Primero Skills & Training – New Delhi | Director – Jayanta Das

67. Gujarat is the 1st state to bring the fire safety certification process online through a portal called “Fire Safety COP”. The system will be implemented from January 26, 2021. The portal will help the State government monitor the compliance level of FSC approval and renewal and bring about transparency. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gujarat – the 1st state to bring the fire safety certification process online through a portal called “Fire Safety COP”
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

68. Maharashtra state government has launched “Mahasharad” a digital platform where people with disabilities can register for their needs, such as hearing aid, battery-operated wheelchair, prosthesis, Braille kits etc. ‘Mahasharad’ stands for Maharashtra System of Health Rehabilitation And Assistance for Divyang. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – launched “Mahasharad” a digital platform to help disabled
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

69. Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI), India’s first cloud-native insurer, has launched a first of its kind, “Open API” (Application Programming Interface) Gateway, to facilitate complete digital collaboration with its business partners. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Edelweiss General Insurance – launched a first of its kind, “Open API” Gateway
- HQs of Edelweiss General Insurance – Mumbai, MH | CEO and Executive Director – Shanai Ghosh

70. NITI Aayog has released a White Paper titled “Vision 2035: Public Health Surveillance in India” on a more responsive and citizen-friendly public health surveillance system which would have a better data-sharing mechanism between the Centre and States while ensuring individual privacy and confidentiality. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:



- NITI Aayog – released a White Paper titled “Vision 2035: Public Health Surveillance in India”
- NITI Aayog HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

71. A rare genus of malaria, “Plasmodium Ovale” has been detected in Kerala. The disease was detected in a soldier who travelled from Sudan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Plasmodium Ovale” - a rare genus of malaria – detected in Kerala
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

72. Indian Railways launched a Trial Project of the Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) on December 11 in a bid to achieve a paradigm shift in the healthcare system maintained by the railway network. The hospital management information system is developed by RailTel Corporation Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Railways – launched a Trial Project of the Hospital Management Information System (HMIS)
- HMIS is developed by – RailTel Corp
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman – Vinod Kumar Yadav
- HQs of RailTel – Gurugram, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Puneet Chawla

73. The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in Mumbai has claimed to have seized the contraband “Malana Cream” from a person linked to actor Sushant Singh Rajput’s death. It is the charas or hash or hashish which comes from the Malana Valley in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narcotics Control Bureau – seized the contraband “Malana Cream”
- “Malana Cream” – a charas or hash or hashish coming from the Malana Valley, Kullu, Himachal Pradesh
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya



74. Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company Ltd has launched its 5-city outdoor campaign to increase awareness about its recently launched health insurance product - "Kotak Health Shield". The campaign is spread across 5 major metros of Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad and Pune. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kotak Mahindra Life – launched "Kotak Health Shield" across 5 major metros
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Uday Kotak

75. BSE Ebix Insurance Broking Private Ltd has announced the beta launch of term Insurance of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Co Ltd, on its state-of-the-art hi-tech platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BSE Ebix Insurance Broking – launched beta version of term Insurance of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
- HQs of ICICI Prudential Life Ins. – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – N. S. Kannan
- HQs of BSE Ebix Insurance Broking Pvt Ltd – Mumbai, MH

76. Andhra Pradesh CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched "YSR Free Crop Insurance" scheme and credited ₹1,252 Cr into the bank accounts of 9.48 lakh farmers in insurance claims for the agricultural season 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – launched "YSR Free Crop Insurance" scheme
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

77. The Quality Council of India (QCI) has come out with a scheme for approval of "Hygiene Rating Audit Agencies" with an aim to help consumers. FSSAI's initiative of "Food Hygiene Rating Scheme" - a certification system is also launched. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Quality Council of India – launched a scheme for approval of "Hygiene Rating Audit Agencies"
- HQs of QCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Adil Zainulbhai
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Sangita Reddy



78. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has visited Dhordo in Gujarat's Kutch on December 15 and laid the foundation stone of several development projects in the state. These projects include first-of-its-kind world's largest Hybrid Renewable Energy Park and a fully Automated Milk Processing and Packing Plant. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – visited Dhordo in Gujarat's Kutch on December 15
- Narendra Modi – laid foundation stone of world's largest 'Hybrid Renewable Energy Park' – in Dhordo, Kutch, Guj
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

79. Himalayan Serow, a goat antelope that is rarely spotted, has been sighted by the state wing of Himachal Pradesh in the state's remote Spiti Valley. This rare species has been spotted for the first time as per the reports. It is categorised as Vulnerable in IUCN List. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Himalayan Serow – spotted in 'Spiti Valley' of Himachal Pradesh for the first time
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

80. Maharashtra government has now unveiled Unified Development Control and Promotion Regulations (UDCPR) across the state which is expected to boost real estate activity across the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – unveiled Unified Development Control and Promotion Regulations (UDCPR)
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

81. The government is all set to launch a "Brand India" mission, focused on the promotion of quality products that are manufactured in the country. The move is being piloted by the Piyush Goyal-led commerce and industry ministry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian government – to launch a "Brand India" mission to promote quality products manufactured in India
- The move is being piloted by – Ministry of Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)



82. The Ministry of AYUSH has approved 200 AYUSH Health and Wellness Centres in Almora district of Uttarakhand under centrally sponsored scheme of National AYUSH Mission. The Central Government has decided to operationalise 12,500 AYUSH Health and Wellness Centres in phased manner by the year 2023-2024 throughout the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of AYUSH – approved 200 AYUSH Health and Wellness Centres in Almora, Uttarakhand
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

83. The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi has approved the Telecom Spectrum auction to be held in March, 2021. The government will sell total 2251.25 MHz spectrum worth ₹3.92 lakh Cr (₹3,92,332.70 Cr) in March. The last auction was held in October 2016 and bids worth around ₹65,789 crore were received. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Cabinet – approved the Telecom Spectrum auction to be held in March, 2021
- Government will sell – Total 2251.25 MHz spectrum worth ₹3.92 lakh Cr (₹3,92,332.70 Cr)
- The last auction was held in – Oct 2016

84. The Indian government has approved the 6th multi-facilitated Integrated Check Post (ICP) along the India-Bangladesh borders to boost trade, economy and easier movement of people. Finance Ministry has given approval of Rs 90.60 Cr to the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) to acquire land for setting up the new ICP at Sabroom in Tripura. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gov approved the 6th multi-facilitated ICP along the India-Bangladesh borders at Sabroom, Tripura
- Finance Ministry Rs 90.60 Cr to the LPAI to acquire land for setting up the new ICP
- HQs of LPAI – New Delhi | Chairman – Aditya Mishra (LPAI functions under Ministry of Home Affairs)

85. The Nehru Zoological Park has become the first in India to acquire ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Standards Certification. The zoo was assessed on the basis of sanitisation, food processing, animal breeding, medicare, animal care, hygiene maintenance and establishment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nehru Zoological Park (Telangana) – became the first in India to acquire “ISO Certification”
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan



86. The CCEA (Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the revised cost estimate of Rs 6,700 Cr for North Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project (NERPSIP) for 6 states to strengthen intra-state transmission and distribution systems. The scheme is being implemented through PowerGrid. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCEA approved revised cost of Rs 6,700 Cr for power transmission project for 6 North-eastern states
- Arunachal Pradesh – is not in the list of states covered under NERPSIP
- The scheme is being implemented through – PowerGrid
- HQs of PGCIL – Gurgaon, Haryana | CMD – Kandikuppa Sreekant

87. Mr. Kishan Reddy has formally inaugurated the first of its initiative, the National Centre for Divyang Empowerment (NCDE), an exclusive facility for training the CRPF personnel in Hyderabad. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mr. Kishan Reddy formally inaugurated the 1st National Centre for Divyang Empowerment (NCDE) in Hyderabad
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan
- MoS for Home Affairs – G. Kishan Reddy



88. Dr Harsh Vardhan has approved the health data management policy of the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) that intends to digitise the entire healthcare ecosystem of India by creating digital health records and creating and maintaining registries for healthcare professionals and health facilities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan – approved the health data management policy of National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare – Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Chandni Chowk, Delhi)

89. Nitin Gadkari has launched “Vedic paint” made from cow dung by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to give a boost to the rural economy and help farmers make extra income. The eco-friendly paint will be launched in two variants – Distemper and Emulsion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nitin Gadkari has launched “Vedic paint” made from cow dung – by KVIC
- HQs of KVIC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Vinai Kumar Saxena

90. With the recent inauguration of the “Haldibari-Chilahati” rail link, 5 out of 6 rail links are now operational. The Haldibari-Chilahati route is expected to enhance the connectivity to Assam and West Bengal from Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Haldibari-Chilahati Rail Link” is inaugurated – connecting Assam and West Bengal with Bangladesh (5th rail link)
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

91. Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar has launched a website of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Economic Diplomacy to provide a vast repository of resources on economic opportunities and news and facilitate two-way economic engagement. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S. Jaishankar – launched a website on Economic Diplomacy
- Ministry of External Affairs – Subrahmanyam Jaishankar | Constituency – Gujarat

92. India is planning to establish a Regional Climate Centre for the Himalayan mountain region to provide weather-related services within the country as well as to its neighbours too. China is also building a similar regional climate centre in the same region. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – to establish a Regional Climate Centre for the Himalayan mountain region
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

93. Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath has approved the design, name and logo of the international airport to be constructed in Noida's Jewar. It will be named “Noida International Greenfield Airport” and a picture of ‘Stork’ - the state bird will be used in its logo. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UP – approved the design, name & logo of the International Airport to be constructed in – Jewar, Noida
- Name – Noida International Greenfield Airport | Logo – ‘Stork’ - the state bird
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

94. As a part of the commemoration of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's 125th birth anniversary in 2022, the Union Culture Ministry is planning to build a museum in Kolkata, an exhibition at the Victoria Memorial and cultural performances in West Bengal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Culture Ministry – to build a Museum in Kolkata – for Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's 125th birth anniversary in 2022
- Prahlad Singh Patel – Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture (Constituency – Damoh, Madhya Pradesh)
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

95. The world's tallest rail bridge on the Chenab in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory is expected to be completed by 2021. The 1,315-metre-long bridge between Bakkal and Kauri villages of Reasi is coming up at a height of 359 metres. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The world's tallest rail bridge – on Chenab river – in Reasi, J&K – to be completed by 2022
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

96. On December 17, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched "PARESHRAM" portal along with 22 online services of Labour and Employees' State Insurance (ESI) department. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – launched "PARESHRAM" portal along with 22 online services of Labour & ESI department
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

97. Uttar Pradesh government will launch a special program to double the income of farmers. The program named as "Kisan Kalyan Mission" will cover all assembly constituencies of the state. Farmers will be given benefit under the various schemes of agriculture department during these events. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – to launch a special program named as "Kisan Kalyan Mission" to double the income of farmers
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel



98. The first Glass Bridge of Bihar has been constructed in Rajgir Nature Safari. The 200-feet-high, 85-feet-long and 6-feet-wide glass bridge is set to open in 2021, welcoming 40 visitors at a time. The skywalk at Rajgir which became operational in March 2020, is the nation's second such construction after Laxman Jhoola in Rishikesh. It is also the first sky-hanging rope walk in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The first Glass Bridge of Bihar constructed in Rajgir district – set to open in 2021 (Height – 200 ft & length – 85 ft)
- Laxman Jhoola – located in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

99. One of the world's largest furniture retailer Sweden-based Ikea opened its second store in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra. The first store in India was opened in 2018 in Hyderabad. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Ikea" opened its 2nd store in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | 1st store – in Hyderabad (2018)
- HQs of IKEA – Delft, Netherlands | CEO – Jesper Brodin (Founded – in 1943, in Almhult, Sweden)

100. The first Centre of Excellence for skill development in the 'Power Sector' was inaugurated by the Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), R K Singh. The Centre of Excellence is located in Gurugram and it is an outcome of collaboration between the MSDE (India), France and Schneider Electric. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- R K Singh – inaugurated the 1st Centre of Excellence for skill development in the 'Power Sector' – in Gurugram, Haryana
- It is an outcome of collaboration between = MSDE (India) + France Government + Schneider Electric (France)
- MSDE Minister – Mahendra Nath Pandey (Constituency – Chandauli, UP)
- MoS for MSDE – R K Singh (Raj Kumar Singh)

101. The East Coast Railway (ECoR) has commissioned End of Train Telemetry (EOTT) system to run trains without guards. It is the first railway zone in the country to use the cutting edge technology for operation of trains without brake van and guards. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:



- East Coast Railway – commissioned End of Train Telemetry (EOTT) system (1st railway zone to do so)
- HQs of ECoR – Bhubaneswar, Odisha | Principal Chief Commercial Manager – Ajoy Kumar Behera

102. On December 19, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated and laid the foundation of total 33 National Highway (NH) projects in Karnataka via virtual mode. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nitin Gadkari – inaugurated and laid the foundation of total 33 NH projects – in Karnataka
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

103. Uttar Pradesh is ready to set up India’s first Leather Park as part of its mega leather cluster in Ramaipur village of Kanpur. Kanpur is popularly known as “Leather City of the World”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – to set up India’s first Leather Park in Kanpur
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

104. The Telangana State government has declared Telangana Fiber Grid project (T-Fiber) as ‘Vital Public Purpose Project’ and accorded Right of Way (RoW) permission for laying the optical fibre network. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Telangana – declared “T-Fiber” as ‘Vital Public Purpose Project’
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

105. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami has launched a project to set up 2,000 mini-clinics across the state to provide essential healthcare services to the downtrodden/poor. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – launched a project to set up 2,000 mini-clinics across the state
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

106. A Himalayan griffon vulture, a migratory bird species native to Himalayas, has been spotted in Point Calimere wildlife sanctuary in Tamil Nadu after a gap of 12 years. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Himalayan griffon vulture – spotted in Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu)
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

107. The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has launched a multilingual call centre for Aqua-farmers at Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh, which will address their technical issues and impart knowledge about efficient farming methods. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MPEDA – launched a multilingual call centre for Aqua-farmers – at Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh
- HQs of MPEDA – Kochi, Kerala | Chairman – K S Srinivas
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

108. On December 18, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has launched the “eVIN” - Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network in order to rationalize vaccine flow and distribution. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J & K – launched “eVIN” - Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

109. The Uttar Pradesh government has launched a 2-month long campaign “Varasat” to curb property & land-related disputes in rural areas. This special campaign will continue till 15th February next year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – launched a 2-month long campaign “Varasat” to curb property & land-related disputes
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

110. On 17 December, Uttar Pradesh has launched India and South Asia's first blockchain-enabled Peer to Peer (P2P) Trading of Rooftop Solar Power in Lucknow. The project is being implemented by India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF) along with blockchain technology partner Power Ledger, Australia and Abajyon Consulting. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India and South Asia's 1st blockchain-enabled P2P Trading of Rooftop Solar Power – launched in Lucknow, UP
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

111. On December 19, the 8th edition of the “North East Festival” was started with a colourful inaugural function in Guwahati. Union DoNER Minister Jitendra Singh addressed the inaugural function of the two-day North East Festival (NEF). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 8th edition of the “North East Festival” started – in Guwahati (addressed by - Jitendra Singh)
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

112. Nagaland Government has totally banned the use of flex banners, boards and posters by departments, institutions and agencies during functions or programmes in government offices with immediate effect. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nagaland – totally banned the use of flex banners, boards and posters by departments, institutions and agencies
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Ravindra Narayana Ravi

113. The Embassy of Japan in India has shared some photos of the ‘E5 Series Shinkansen bullet train’. Indians can now witness the first pictures the bullet train, which probably will be the India avatar for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- E5 Series Shinkansen bullet train – belongs to Japan
- Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) project – India's first high-speed rail corridor (to be built by L&T)
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

114. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has opened India's 8th hydrocarbon producing basin when it started oil flow from a well in the Basin in West Bengal. The Bengal basin is spread across nearly 1.22 lakh square km. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:



- ONGC – opened India's 8th hydrocarbon producing basin – in West Bengal
- HQs of ONGC – New Delhi | CMD – Sashi Shanker
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

115. On December 15, Paytm has launched a 24x7 RTGS facility to support the companies that make high-value transactions. It also enables businesses to make bulk and instant money transfers to their employees, vendors & partners. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Paytm – launched a “24x7 RTGS facility” to support the companies that make high-value transactions
- Paytm HQs – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | Paytm CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma
- Paytm Payment Bank CEO – Satish Kumar Gupta | Paytm General Ins. CEO – Vineet Arora

116. On December 19, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda has inaugurated 2 Tribes India showrooms (Kolkata in person and Gwalior virtually) in a grand opening ceremony in Kolkata. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arjun Munda – inaugurated 2 Tribes India showrooms – in Kolkata & Gwalior
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs – Arjun Munda (Constituency – Khunti, Jharkhand)

117. The Modi government has decided to constitute a high-level committee headed by home minister Amit Shah to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose which will be on January 23. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government decided to constitute a High-level committee to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose
- The committee will be headed by – Amit Shah (Ministry of Home Affairs – Gandhinagar, Gujarat)

118. “International Gita Festival” was held in Haryana's Kurukshetra from December 17 to 25. Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, Haryana Tourism and Education Minister Kanwar Pal and Kurukshetra MP Nayab Singh Saini inaugurated the festival. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:



- “International Gita Festival” – held in Kurukshetra, Haryana (from December 17 to 25)
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

119. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has proposed the adoption of “E20” fuel (a blend of 20% of Ethanol and the rest Gasoline) as an automobile fuel in order to reduce vehicular emissions as well as the country’s oil import bill. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoRTH – proposed the adoption of “E20” fuel (mising 20% Ethanol with Gasoline) to cut vehicular emissions
- Nitin Gadkari – Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Ministry of MSMEs (Nagpur, Maharashtra)

120. National Water Mission(NWM), Ministry of Jal Shakti in collaboration with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has launched the “JSA II: Catch the Rain” Awareness Generation Campaign for rainwater harvesting. The tagline of the campaign is “catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NWM + NYKS – launched the “JSA II: Catch the Rain” Awareness Generation Campaign
- NWM – under Ministry of Jal Shakti (Gajendra Singh Sekhawat | Constituency – Jodhpur, Rajasthan)

121. Reliance Industries (RIL) and BP (British Petroleum Co.) of the U.K. have announced the commencement of natural gas production from Asia’s Deepest Gas Field “R-cluster” situated in the KG-D6 block, Krishna-Godavari basin of the Bay of Bengal. “R-Cluster” is the first of the three deepsea projects Reliance-BP are developing in the eastern offshore block. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RIL + BP (UK) = started natural gas production from Asia’s Deepest Gas Field “R-cluster”
- “R-cluster” – situated in the KG-D6 block of ‘Krishna-Godavari basin’
- HQs of Reliance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani

122. In Gujarat, the Ahmedabad division of Western Railway has created a record by loading 10.06 crore litres of milk and running the highest milk special trains in Indian Railways during 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ahmedabad division of Western Railway – created a record by loading 10.06 crore litres of milk in 2020

- HQs of Western Railway Zone – Mumbai, Maharashtra | GM – Shri Alok Kansal

123. The Karnataka government has unveiled the Farmer Registration and Unified beneficiary Information System (FRUITS), an e-governance portal, to create a repository of farmland information and farm loan details on a single platform. Canara Bank has agreed to run FRUITS on a pilot basis. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka unveiled the “FRUITS” an e-governance portal
- FRUITS – Farmer Registration and Unified beneficiary Information System
- Canara Bank – agreed to run FRUITS on a pilot basis
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala
- HQs of Canara Bank – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Lingam Venkat Prabhakar
- Tagline of Canara bank – “Together We Can”

124. India is planning to set up Coastal Radar Stations in Maldives, Myanmar & Bangladesh as part of efforts to further expand the Coastal Surveillance Network (CSN). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – to set up Coastal Radar Stations in Maldives, Myanmar & Bangladesh to expand CSN
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih
- Myanmar – Naypyitaw – Kyat | President – Win Myint
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

125. To commemorate the completion of 25 years of the Controller of Defence Accounts (CDA), Secunderabad, a special postal cover was released by S. Rajendra Kumar (Chief Postmaster General) in the presence of Sanjiv Mittal, Controller General of Defence Accounts. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A special postal cover was released – to commemorate the completion of 25 years of the CDA, Secunderabad
- CGDA (Secunderabad) – Sanjiv Mittal | 52nd CGDA – Rajendra Kumar Nayak



126. On December 22, PM Narendra Modi has released a special postal stamp to mark the centenary celebrations of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU). This is the first time in 5 decades that a Prime Minister has attended an AMU event as the Chief Guest. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – released a special postal stamp to mark the centenary celebrations of ‘Aligarh Muslim University’
- AMU is located in – Uttar Pradesh | Established in – 1875 | Founder – Sir Syed Ahmad Khan

127. Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda has e-launched new ‘Tribes India Outlet’ at the Departure Lounge of Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, Guwahati, Assam. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arjun Munda – e-launched new ‘Tribes India Outlet’ at Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

128. On December 20, Faridabad Police has launched a programme called “Police ki Pathshala”, which aims to change the perception of the youth about the police. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Faridabad Police (Haryana) – launched a programme called “Police ki Pathshala”
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

129. On December 21, Union Finance Ministry has decided to extend the suspension of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) till March 31, 2021, to help businesses cope with the lingering difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Finance Ministry – decided to extend the suspension of the IBC – till March 31, 2021
- Finance Minister – Nirmala Sitharaman (Constituency – Karnataka)

130. On December 23, CEO of NITI Aayog Amitabh Kant has virtually launched India's first digital asset management platform “DigiBoxx”. The platform provides an easy and secure way to store all the files in one centralised location. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amitabh Kant – launched “DigiBoxx” India's first digital asset management platform



- NITI Aayog HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

131. On December 27, Mastercard has launched its “Team Cashless India” campaign for cashless transactions, especially in the SME sector. The campaign is engaging with merchants and consumers of Tier 2 & 3 cities to create awareness about digital payments. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mastercard – launched its “Team Cashless India” campaign for cashless transactions in the SME sector
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, USA | CEO – Ajay Banga (From Jan 2021 - Michael Miebach)

132. On December 21, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has deputed an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT), led by a Joint Secretary to assess damages caused by Cyclone “Burevi” in Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Home Affairs deputed an Inter-Ministerial Central Team to assess damages caused by Cyclone “Burevi”
- Tamil Nadu – was affected by Cyclone “Burevi”
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit
- Ministry of Home Affairs – Shri Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat

133. The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) along with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) India has come up with a unique initiative - a “Firefly Bird Diverter” to save Great Indian Bustard (GIB) populations. Firefly bird diverters are flaps installed on power lines. The firefly detectors have been installed along 2 stretches of approximately 6.5 km in Rajasthan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoEFCC + WCS = launched a unique initiative - a “Firefly Bird Diverter” to save ‘Great Indian Bustard’
- The firefly detectors have been installed – in Rajasthan
- Prakash Javadekar – Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (Constituency – Maharashtra)
- HQs of WCS – New York, USA | President and CEO – Dr. Cristian Samper
- HQs of WCS India – Bengaluru, Karnataka



134. In 5 years, India has become the 6th country in the world to produce High Power Electric Locomotives indigenously. In 2015, Ministry of Railways & Alstom had signed a contract worth €3.5 billion (Rs 25,000 Cr) to produce High Power Electric Locomotives at Madhepura Electric Loco Factory in Bihar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – the 6th country in the world to produce High Power Electric Locomotives indigenously
- Railway Ministry & Alstom (France) = €3.5 billion contract to produce HP locos – at Madhepura, Bihar (in 2015)
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman – Vinod Kumar Yadav
- Minister of Railways – Piyush Goyal (Maharashtra) | MoS for Railway Ministry – Suresh Angadi

135. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) along with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has launched “CoWIN”, a grand challenge for strengthening the Covid Vaccine Intelligence Network (CoWIN) system. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoHFW + MeitY = launched “CoWIN” - Covid Vaccine Intelligence Network
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare – Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Chandni Chowk, Delhi)
- Ravi Shankar Prasad – Ministry of Communications, MeitY, Law and Justice (Patna Sahib, Bihar)

136. Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) is set to build the world's largest zoo in Jamnagar, Gujarat. The zoo will house close to 100 different species of animals, birds and reptiles from India and across the world. It will be built on about 280-acre land. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Reliance Industries – to build the world's largest zoo in Jamnagar, Gujarat (in 280-acre land)
- HQs of Reliance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

137. On December 23, the Union Cabinet has approved revised guidelines for Direct-to-Home (DTH) broadcasting services, allowing 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) as well as increasing the licence period to 20 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Cabinet has approved revised guidelines for DTH broadcasting services allowing 100% FDI
- The Cabinet also increased the licence period to – 20 years



138. Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh has launched a mobile application - "PR Insight" to receive feedback from people on Schemes and programs implemented. He also launched a mobile application "DigiNest" to give people digital access to the state government's directory. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab launched – "PR Insight" & "DigiNest" mobile applications
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

139. On December 25, the Department of School and Mass Education, Government of Odisha in collaboration with UNICEF has launched a career portal for Secondary and Higher Secondary students to help them with expert advice on their future careers. The Odisha Career guidance portal is available in Odia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha + UNICEF = launched a 'Career Portal' for Secondary and Higher Secondary students
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay

140. On December 24, Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot has launched a Mobile Application "Swachhata Abhiyan" in the presence of Ministers of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Ram Das Athawale and Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar to Identify and Geotag the data of Insanitary Latrines and Manual Scavengers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Thaawarchand Gehlot – launched a Mobile Application "Swachhata Abhiyan"
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment – Thawar Chand Gehlot (Shajapur, Madhya Pradesh)
- MoS for Social Justice and Empowerment – Ram Das Athawale & Krishan Pal Gurjar

141. Minister for Forest and Environment A. Indrakaran Reddy has inaugurated a "Monkey Rescue, Rehabilitation and Sterilisation Centre" near Chincholi village in Nirmal district of Telangana. The centre is the first-of-its-kind in South India and second in across India. It has been built at a cost of Rs 2.25 Cr. The one is available in Himachal Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Second "Monkey Rescue, Rehabilitation and Sterilisation Centre" – inaugurated in Nirmal, Telangana
- First one is available in – Himachal Pradesh



- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

142. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually addressed the centenary celebrations of “Visva-Bharati University” in West Bengal’s Santiniketan on December 24. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – addressed the centenary celebrations of “Visva-Bharati University” in West Bengal
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

143. Ladakh’s Tso Kar Wetland has been declared as an International Ramsar site by the Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change. Tso Kar is the 42nd Ramsar site in India. The site is an A1 Category Important Bird Area (IBA) and also one of the most important breeding areas of the ‘Black-necked Crane’ (*Grus nigricollis*) in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tso Kar Wetland (Ladakh) – declared as an International Ramsar site (A1 Category IBA)
- It is the most important breeding areas of – ‘Black-necked Crane’
- Ramsar Convention or the Convention on Wetlands signed – at Ramsar, Iran (in 1971)
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur

144. The Andhra Pradesh government has launched a programme titled as the “YSR-Jagananna Shaswatha Bhoo Hakku/Bhoo Raksha”. It a comprehensive survey of all types of lands in the state to streamline land records and prevent land disputes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – launched a programme titled as the “YSR-Jagananna Shaswatha Bhoo Hakku/Bhoo Raksha”
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

145. Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot has launched One Stop Shop (OSS) facility for fast approval of new enterprises. Being established at Udhyog Bhawan, Jaipur under the Bureau of Investment Promotion (BIP) the facility will host officers from 14 departments, around 100 types of clearances with a timeline of 7-45-days for completion of various approvals. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan – launched One Stop Shop (OSS) facility for fast approval of new enterprises – under BIP
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra



146. Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has launched a web portal and mobile app “e-Sampada” to boost transparency and accountability in providing various Estate Services like allotment, retention, regularisation and no dues certificate. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hardeep Singh Puri – “e-Sampada” a web portal and mobile app for various Estate Services
- MoHUA Minister – Hardeep Singh Puri

147. The 1st batch of training at the Tata-Indian Institute of Skills, Mumbai was launched to provide an impetus to the Skill India programme through private sector participation. This is a joint initiative between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Tata Indian Institute of Skills. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MSDE & Tata-Indian Institute of Skills = launched 1st batch of training at the Tata-Indian Institute of Skills, Mumbai
- MSDE Minister – Mahendra Nath Pandey (Constituency – Chandauli, UP)
- MoS for MSDE – R K Singh (Raj Kumar Singh)



Smartkeeda
The Question Bank

148. India’s first Lithium refinery will be set up in Gujarat. It will process Lithium ore to produce battery-grade material. Manikaran Power Ltd will be investing over Rs 1,000 crore to set up this refinery. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s first Lithium refinery will be set up in – Gujarat
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

149. CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (CSIR-NISCAIR), Ministry of Earth Sciences and Vijnana Bharati have jointly organised the inaugural session of the “Vigyanika - International Science Literature Festival-2020” to mark the birth anniversary of renowned Indian mathematician, Srinivasa Ramanujan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CSIR-NISCAIR + Mini. of Earth Sciences + Vijnana Bharati = organised “Vigyanika – Int. Science Literature Festival”



- This festival marks the birth anniversary of – Srinivasa Ramanujan

150. The Jal Jeevan Mission and the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) have launched a “Water Quality Testing Innovation Challenge” to develop portable devices for water testing. The JJM is a national mission to provide potable water on tap to every household by 2024. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jal Jeevan Mission + DPIIT = launched a “Water Quality Testing Innovation Challenge”
- Aim of JJM – to provide potable water on tap to every household by – 2024
- DPIIT works under – Ministry of Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)
- HQs of DPIIT – New Delhi | DPIIT Secretary – Guruprasad Mohapatra

151. India's first hot air balloon wildlife safari was launched in the world famous Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve by Madhya Pradesh. People can watch tigers, leopards, Indian sloth bear and other wild animals from a height. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's first hot air balloon wildlife safari = launched in “Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve” – by Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

152. Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur has unveiled an 18 feet statue of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee at the historic Ridge Maidan on his 96th birth anniversary. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Himachal Pradesh – unveiled an 18 feet statue of ‘Atal Bihari Vajpayee’ – in Shimla
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

153. East Delhi MP Gautam Gambhir has launched “Jan Rasoi” a fully developed private canteen in New Delhi, which will provide food to those in need at ₹1. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gautam Gambhir – launched “Jan Rasoi” a fully developed private canteen | Charge – ₹1
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev



154. The Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI) will establish the “Dr. F C Kohli Centre of Excellence” for Advanced Research in Mathematical and Computing Sciences in honor of the visionary who created and shaped the IT industry in India and made it synonymous with excellence, globally. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chennai Mathematical Institute – to establish the “Dr. F C Kohli Centre of Excellence”
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

155. Smartphone maker Oppo has set up of 5G innovation lab at its Hyderabad research and development centre. With this, Oppo became the first tech brand to launch 5G mobile products in the European market and organised the first 5G WhatsApp call from India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Oppo – set up of 5G innovation lab in Hyderabad
- Oppo – first tech brand to launch 5G mobile products in the European market
- Oppo – first tech brand to organise the first 5G WhatsApp call from India

156. On December 27, Indian and Vietnamese Navy have concluded the 2-day Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the South China Sea as part of efforts to boost maritime cooperation between the two countries. As a part of the ongoing Mission Sagar-III, INS Kiltan has arrived at Nha Rong Port in Vietnam with 15 tonnes of humanitarian relief supplies for people affected by floods. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy & Vietnamese Navy = concluded the 2-day Passage Exercise (PASSEX) 2020
- INS Kiltan – arrived at Nha Rong Port in “Vietnam” with 15 tonnes of humanitarian relief supplies
- Vietnam – Hanoi – Vietnamese dong | PM – Nguyen Xuan Phuc

157. On December 26, Oil India Limited (OIL) has launched “OIL Shakti” - a society-based sanitary napkin production and marketing unit in Assam, to promote menstrual health and hygiene management among women of vulnerable communities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- OIL – launched “OIL Shakti” - a society-based sanitary napkin production and marketing unit – in Assam
- HQs of OIL – Noida, UP | CMD – Sushil Chandra Mishra
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

158. Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has recently announced that FASTag will be mandatory for all vehicles in India from January 1. The FASTags were launched in 2016. As per the Central Motor Vehicles Rules - 1989, FASTag has been made mandatory for registration of new four-wheelers since December 1, 2017. Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) is used to make payments through FASTag. The NHAI has updated “My FASTag App” with a new feature to Check Balance Status by simply entering the vehicle number. [{Read more}](#)

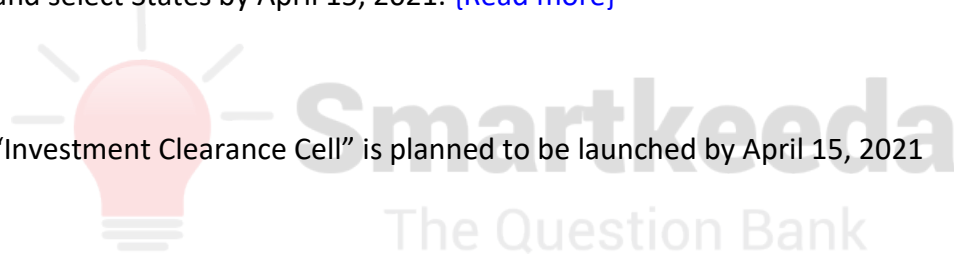
Key Points:

- FASTag will be mandatory for all vehicles in India from January 1, 2021 (launched in 2016)
- Central Motor Vehicles Rules - 1989
- Nitin Gadkari – Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Ministry of MSMEs (Nagpur, Maharashtra)

159. The Centralised “Investment Clearance Cell”, under the proposed Single Window System, aimed at facilitating businesses through a one-stop digital platform, is planned to be launched with relevant Ministries and Departments and select States by April 15, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Centralised “Investment Clearance Cell” is planned to be launched by April 15, 2021



160. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated India’s first driverless train operations on Magenta Line of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi inaugurated India’s first driverless train – at Delhi Metro
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

161. India will implement a Coal Import Monitoring System (CIMS) from February 1 that would require coal importers to submit advance information in an online system for import and obtain an automatic registration number. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – to implement “CIMS” system from February 1, 2021
- CIMS – Coal Import Monitoring System



162. On December 29, PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 351-km “New Khurja - New Bhaupur section” of the Eastern Dedicated Rail Freight Corridor (EDFC) situated in Uttar Pradesh and also inaugurated the Operation Control Centre (OCC) located at Prayagraj. The Eastern DFC is a 1,856-km stretch starting from Sahnewal near Ludhiana to Dankuni in West Bengal. The Western DFC with a length of 1,504 km is from JN Port (Mumbai) to Dadri. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – inaugurated the 351-km “New Khurja - New Bhaupur section” of EDFC – located in UP
- Narendra Modi – also inaugurated Operation Control Centre (OCC) located at – Prayagraj, UP
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

163. On December 29, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has flagged off the 100th run of the ‘Kisan Rail’ starting from Sangola in Maharashtra and culminating in Shalimar in West Bengal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – flagged off the 100th run of ‘Kisan Rail’ – from Sangola (Maharashtra) to Shalimar (West Bengal)
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

164. The Himachal Pradesh government will frame an integrated Drug Prevention Policy for the state, which would include the policy of drug prevention, treatment, management and rehabilitation/ social/integration programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Himachal Pradesh – to frame an integrated Drug Prevention Policy
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

165. Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar has launched “DGNCC Digital Forum” - development for National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets in New Delhi. The Digital Forum, hosted on the DGNCC website (indiancc.nic.in) is aimed at providing NCC cadets all over the country to share their experiences of various NCC activities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajay Kumar (Defence Secretary) – launched “DGNCC” Digital Forum – in New Delhi
- HQs of NCC – New Delhi | Director General – Lt. Gen. Rajeev Chopra
- Ministry of Defence – Rajnath Singh (Constituency – Lucknow, UP)



166. On December 29, the IRDAI has proposed Standard Guidelines for Travel Insurance with a view to ensuring uniformity and certainty about coverage, exclusions and terms of coverage for domestic as well as international travel. It is to be offered from April 1, 2021 by every general insurer and health insurer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IRDAI – proposed Standard Guidelines for Travel Insurance
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – SC Khuntia | ED – Suresh Mathur | Established in – 1999

167. On December 28, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar has virtually hoisted International Blue Flags in 8 beaches across India. Blue Flag certification is a globally recognised eco-label accorded by “Foundation for Environment Education in Denmark” based on 33 stringent criteria. These beaches are as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prakash Javadekar – virtually hoisted International Blue Flags in 8 beaches across India
- Kappad – Kerala | Rushikonda – Andhra Pradesh | Golden – Puri, Odisha | Radhanagar – A&N Islands
- Shivrajpur – Dwarka, Gujarat | Ghoghla – Diu | Kasarkod & Padubidri – Karnataka

168. President Ram Nath Kovind has recently inaugurated and laid foundation stones for several projects in Diu including the inauguration of the INS Khukri Memorial. Diu city has now become the first city in India, which is fulfilling 100% of its energy requirement during the day with solar energy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ram Nath Kovind – inaugurated and laid foundation stones for several projects in Diu
- Ram Nath Kovind – inaugurated INS Khukri Memorial – in Diu
- Diu – became the first city in India fulfilling 100% of its energy requirement with solar energy during the day
- Lt. Governor & Administrator of Diu & Daman – Praful Khoda Patel

169. In order to promote river tourism in Assam, Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated River cruise “Brahmaputra’r Mukuta” at the bank of the Brahmaputra near Bogibeel bridge in Dibrugarh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam – inaugurated river cruise “Brahmaputra’r Mukuta” at the bank of the Brahmaputra
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi



170. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has commissioned a Monpa handmade paper making unit in Tawang which not only aims at reviving the art but also engaging the local youths with this art professionally and earn. The Monpa Handmade Paper of Arunachal Pradesh is 1000-year old heritage art. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KVIC commissioned a Monpa handmade paper making unit in – Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh
- HQs of KVIC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Vinai Kumar Saxena
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra

171. Uttar Pradesh transport department has started cracking down on vehicles displaying castes, religions on windscreens, number plates of four and two-wheelers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – started taking action against owners of vehicles displaying caste or religion identities
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

172. Dr Harsh Vardhan has inaugurated the web-based ‘Digital Ocean’ application in a virtual meeting from New Delhi. It is developed by Hyderabad-based Indian National Centre for Ocean Information System (INCOIS). It is India’s 1st of its kind Digital platform for Ocean Data Management. It will play a central role in sustainable management of our oceans and expanding our ‘Blue Economy’ initiatives. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan – inaugurated the web-based ‘Digital Ocean’ application (developed by – INCOIS)
- HQs of INCOIS – Hyderabad, Telangana | Director – Tummala Srinivasa Kumar | Founded in – 1998

173. Gujarat’s Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has announced the state’s new “Solar Power Policy-2021” which will be valid for the next 5 years. There will be no limitations on solar power production capacity for Individuals or Industries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gujarat – announced its new “Solar Power Policy-2021” valid for the next 5 years
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat



174. Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan has inaugurated the Indian Oil launched “Remote Monitoring and Operation Centre” in Hyderabad. It is a facility set up by BHEL-GE Gas Turbine Services, which is a joint venture of BHEL and General Electric for Tracking of Refinery Gas Turbines. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Oil launched “Remote Monitoring and Operation Centre” in Hyderabad
- A joint venture of = BHEL + General Electric
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya

175. The Uttarakhand forest department has dedicated the newly built Pollinator Park to the public, claiming it to be the country’s first such park, spread over 4 acres in Haldwani in Nainital district. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s 1st Pollinator Park inaugurated – in Haldwani, Nainital, Uttarakhand
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

176. Minister for Earth Sciences (MoES) Dr Harsh Vardhan has virtually inaugurated the Highest Meteorological Centre (MC) in Leh, Ladakh which is located at 3,500 metres above sea level. After Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh, the Leh centre is the second MC located in the Himalayas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the Highest Meteorological Centre (MC) – in Leh, Ladakh
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur
- HQs of IMD – New Delhi | Director General – Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra

177. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami has inaugurated the newly-formed Mayiladuthurai district. The 38th district in the state has been carved out of Nagapattinam district. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mayiladuthurai (38th district) – carved out of Nagapattinam district – in Tamil Nadu
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit



178. The External Affairs Ministry has launched the “Global Pravasi Rishta” portal and app to connect with the nearly 3.12-crore strong Indian diaspora across the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- External Affairs – launched the “Global Pravasi Rishta” portal and app
- Ministry of External Affairs – Subrahmanyam Jaishankar | Constituency – Gujarat

179. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved a modified scheme to enhance Ethanol Distillation Capacity in the country for producing 1st Generation (1G) ethanol from feed stocks such as cereals (rice, wheat, barley, corn & sorghum), sugarcane and sugar beet. The government has fixed target of 10% blending of fuel-grade ethanol with petrol by 2022 and 20% blending by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCEA approved a modified scheme to enhance ‘Ethanol Distillation Capacity’ in India for producing 1G Ethanol
- Target: 10% blending of fuel-grade ethanol with petrol by – 2022 & 20% blending by – 2030

180. The Cabinet Committee has approved Industrial Corridor Nodes at Andhra Pradesh's Krishnapatnam & Karnataka's Tumakuru under Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC) and also approved Multi Modal Logistics Hub and Multi Modal Transport Hub (MMTH) at Greater Noida. The estimated cost of MMLH at Greater Noida is Rs 3,883.80 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCEA approved approved Industrial Corridor Nodes at Krishnapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) & Tumakuru (Karnataka)
- Multi Modal Logistics Hub and Multi Modal Transport Hub (MMTH) – at Greater Noida, UP (Cost: Rs 3,883.80 Cr)

181. PM Narendra Modi has praised the newly designed “Vistadome Tourist Coaches” developed by Indian Railways’ Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai. It has completed the 180 kmph trial run recently and will have a larger viewing area including roof top glass along with 44 number of seats for passengers that can rotate up to 180 degrees. The vistadome coach has been built on the Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- New “Vistadome Tourist Coaches” of Indian Railways – developed by Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai
- The vistadome coach has been built on – Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) platform



- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Suneet Sharma

182. Till several years ago, the Kolar Leaf-Nosed Bat was found in only two caves in Kolar district of Karnataka. But now, the bat became locally extinct in one of the two caves. The Karnataka Forest Department, along with the Bat Conservation India Trust (BCIT), is on a war footing to save the remaining bats, which are endemic to the area. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kolar Leaf-Nosed Bat – found in Karnataka – became locally extinct
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

183. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated several development projects in Manipur including the e-office and Thoubal Multipurpose Project (Thoubal Dam) in Imphal through virtual mode. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Shah – inaugurated Thoubal Multipurpose Project (Thoubal Dam) – in Imphal, Manipur
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – Najma Heptulla

184. Madhya Pradesh Government has introduced Campaign regarding promotion of “Ek Zila- Ek Shilp”. And also, the first of kind of exhibition called “Raag-Bhopali” is being organized to promote Zari-Zardozi crafts of Bhopal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh – introduced “Ek Zila- Ek Shilp” Campaign
- “Zari-Zardozi” crafts – belongs to Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel



International Affairs

1. Cyclonic storm “Burevi”, formed in the Bay of Bengal is likely to hit near Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu. The storm is named by the Maldives. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cyclonic storm “Burevi” – to hit near Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu (Named by - Maldives)
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

2. Merriam-Webster and Dictionary.com have chosen same word of the year: “Pandemic”. On the day (March 11) the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak of the novel coronavirus a global health emergency and announced COVID-19 as pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The word “Pandemic” – named the as the ‘Word of the Year 2020’ – by ‘Merriam-Webster’ & ‘Dictionary.com’
- “Lockdown” – by Collins Dictionary | “Quarantine” – by Cambridge Dictionary

3. First-ever luxury Cruise service namely “Ramayan Cruise Tour” on the Sarayu river in Ayodhya will be launched soon. It aims to give mesmerizing experience to devotees with one-of-its-kind spiritual journeys. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- First-ever luxury Cruise service “Ramayan Cruise Tour” to be launched – on Sarayu river, in Ayodhya, UP
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

4. Eat Just Inc., a maker of meat and egg substitutes, has been approved to sell its laboratory-created chicken in Singapore, which becomes the first government to allow the sale of cultured meat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Eat Just Inc – allowed to sell its laboratory-created chicken in Singapore
- Singapore – became the first country to allow the sale of lab-created cultured meat
- HQs of Eat Just Inc – California, USA | CEO – Josh Tetrick
- Singapore – Singapore – Dollar | PM – Lee Hsien Loong | President – Halimah Yacob



5. Britain's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) granted emergency use approval to the "Pfizer-BioNTech" vaccine. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Britain (UK) approved "Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine" for emergency public use
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

6. Scotland has made sanitary products free to all women, becoming the first nation in the world to take such a step against "period poverty". The Period Products (Free Provision) Scotland Bill passed unanimously. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Scotland – the first nation in the world to make sanitary products free to all women
- Scotland – Edinburgh – Pound sterling

7. The Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority will be renamed to Saudi Central Bank under a new law approved by Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud. The Saudi Central Bank will continue to use the acronym "SAMA". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority – renamed to "Saudi Central Bank" (acronym "SAMA")
- Saudi Arab – Riyadh – Saudi Riyal | King – Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud

8. The Iranian parliament has passed a bill aimed at revitalising the country's nuclear activities in the wake of the assassination of Iranian nuclear physicist Mohsen Fakhriadeh. The bill is dubbed "The strategic measure for the removal of sanctions". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Iran – passed a bill to boost nuclear activity in the wake of the assassination of its physicist 'Mohsen Fakhriadeh'
- Iran – Tehran – Rial | President – Hassan Rouhani

9. New Zealand has joined 32 other countries that have declared a 'Climate Emergency' and promised its public sector would become Carbon Neutral by 2025. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- New Zealand – declared a ‘Climate Emergency’ | New Zealand promised to become Carbon Neutral – by 2025
- Total number of countries in the World that have declared ‘Climate Emergency’ = 33 (as of December 2020)
- New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar (NZD) | PM – Jacinda Ardern

10. Libra Association, a cryptocurrency project started by Facebook Inc. has changed its name to “Diem Association” named for the word “day” in Latin. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Libra Association – changed its name to “Diem Association”
- Libra Association, a cryptocurrency project started by – Facebook
- Facebook: HQs – California, United States | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg

11. On the 63rd session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (UN-CND), the 53-member CND has chosen to affirm a World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendation from 2019 to remove Cannabis from its ‘most dangerous’ category, with 27 Member States voting in favour, 25 against, and one abstention. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 63rd session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (UN-CND)
- Cannabis – has been removed from the ‘most dangerous’ category

12. Nepal and China have jointly announced the revised height of ‘Mount Everest’ as 8,848.86 meters in a high-profile virtual ceremony. The new height is 86 cm more than the previous measurement. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nepal & China – jointly announced the revised height of ‘Mount Everest’ as 8,848.86 meters
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping



13. Oman is the 1st country from West Asia that has announced to establish Friendship Association with India. Oman is India's oldest strategic partner in West Asia. Indian counterpart S Jaishankar has attended the dialogue. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Oman – the 1st country from West Asia to establish Friendship Association with India
- Oman – Muscat – Rial | Sultan – Haitham bin Tariq Al Said

14. The world's loneliest elephant "Kaavan" has reached Cambodia - on a flight from Islamabad in Pakistan and will now spend his days at the Cambodia Wildlife Sanctuary in the country's northwest. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The World's loneliest elephant "Kaavan" has been shifted to Cambodia (from Pakistan)
- Cambodia – Phnom Penh – Riel
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi

15. The UK is examining Ella's death, possibly the first in the world to be legally certified as having been caused by "air pollution". She had died in February, 2013. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The first death in the world to be legally certified as having been caused by "air pollution" – in the UK
- Ella's death took place in – 2013
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

16. Argentina has passed a 'Millionaire's Tax' on about 12,000 of the country's richest people, to pay for coronavirus measures including medical supplies and relief for the poor and small businesses. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Argentina – passed a 'Millionaire's Tax' on about 12,000 of the country's richest people
- Argentina – Buenos Aires – Peso

17. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency has banned cotton and cotton products from the Chinese Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC) citing 'Slave Labour'. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- USA – banned cotton imports from China citing ‘Slave Labour’
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

18. Bangladesh has signed its first Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with Bhutan allowing duty free access to a range of goods between the 2 countries. This is the first PTA Bangladesh has signed with any country in the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bangladesh – signed its first Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with Bhutan
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid
- Bhutan – Thimphu – Bhutanese Ngultrum

19. Australia’s “Go for Zero” policy has helped it bring Covid-19 cases down to a trickle. Since October 27, Australia has reported just 1 Covid-19-related death out of the 908 fatalities in the country, having a fatality rate of 3.2%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Australia’s “Go for Zero” policy helped it bring Covid-19 cases down
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

20. India and Qatar have agreed to set up a task force on Energy to identify projects for the country’s largest natural gas supplier for investment. Qatar is India’s biggest gas supplier, shipping 8.5 million tonnes per annum of LNG (liquefied natural gas) to India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Qatar = agreed to set up a Task Force on Energy
- Qatar – Doha – Riyal | PM – Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani



21. In recognition of the United Nations' International Anti-Corruption Day, Microsoft has launched "Anti-Corruption Technology and Solutions" (ACTS) to help empower governments and other stakeholders in their corruption fight. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Microsoft – launched "Anti-Corruption Technology and Solutions" (ACTS)
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | CEO – Satya Nadella

22. The 2nd Bangladesh-India Cotton Festival was held recently in December in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It was organised by Bangladesh Cotton Association (BCA). More than 30 Indian companies participated at the festival. Bangladesh Prime Minister's Adviser Salman F Rahman was the Chief Guest of the event. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 2nd Bangladesh-India Cotton Festival – held in Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Chief Guest of the event – Salman F Rahman
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

23. "Swadhinata Sarak" a road linking India with Mujibnagar, Bangladesh will be opened on March 26 next year to mark 50 years of the country's independence and to boost people-to-people ties. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Swadhinata Sarak" – Between India & Bangladesh (Mujibnagar) – to be opened on March 26, 2021
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

24. Bangladesh has begun moving Rohingya families from refugee camps near Ukhia in Cox's Bazar district of Bangladesh to 'Bhasan Char' - an island formed from a build-up of silt in the Bay of Bengal only 20 years ago. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bangladesh is shifting Rohingyas families to Bhasan Char Island (Char Piya) in Bangladesh
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

25. The USA has imposed sanctions on Turkey for its purchase of Russia's S-400 missile defence system. The issue of sanctions is under Section 231 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA). [{Read more}](#)

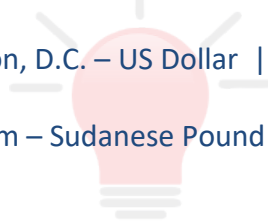
Key Points:

- USA – imposed sanctions on Turkey for its purchase of Russia's S-400 missile defence system
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin
- Turkey – Ankara – Lira | President – Recep Tayyip Erdogan

26. United States has decided to remove Sudan from the list of "State Sponsors of Terrorism" after 27 years. It will eliminate a burden that had weighed on Sudan's economy since 1993 and restricted its ability to receive aid. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- USA – removed 'Sudan' from the list of "State Sponsors of Terrorism" after 27 years
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden
- Sudan – Khartoum – Sudanese Pound



Smartkeeda
The Question Bank

27. The Royal Bengal Tiger has been spotted at an altitude of 3,165 meter above sea level for the first time in Nepal, raising concerns about the impact of global warming on wildlife. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Royal Bengal Tiger – spotted at an altitude of 3,165 meter above sea level for the first time – in Nepal
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari

28. "International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers" is annually observed on December 17 since 2003 to remember the sex workers who lost their lives due to violence and stigma encountered across the globe. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 17 – "International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers" – since 2003



29. Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina has launched “Bangabandhu-Bapu Digital Exhibition” during India-Bangladesh virtual summit, in New Delhi. The two prime ministers jointly unveiled a commemorative postal stamp issued by the government of India on the occasion of the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi + Sheikh Hasina = launched “Bangabandhu-Bapu Digital Exhibition”
- A commemorative postal stamp issued by India – unveiled on birth centenary of ‘Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Seikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

30. The 20th Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting was held virtually on December 17. France has finally obtained membership of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and became the association’s 23rd member. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- France (23rd member) – obtained membership of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)
- HQs of IORA – Ebene, Mauritius | Secretary Gen. – Dr Nomvuyo Nokwe | MC – 23 | Founded in – 1997

31. On December 16, India and the UK have launched a Virtual Vaccines Hub to facilitate the delivery of vaccines for Covid-19 and other viruses. It will foster cooperation between experts on clinical trials and regulatory approvals. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + UK = launched a Virtual Vaccines Hub to facilitate the delivery of Covid-19 vaccines
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

32. The Movimiento San Isidro or the San Isidro Movement (MSI), started two years ago in 2018 to protest state censorship of artistic works, and has now become a platform for Cuban dissidents both within and outside the Caribbean nation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Movimiento San Isidro or San Isidro Movement (MSI) – related to Cuba
- Cuba – Havana – Peso | President – Miguel Díaz-Canel



33. One of Singapore's most popular attractions, its vibrant street "Hawker Culture" was designated as an Intangible Cultural Heritage by the UNESCO. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Singapore's "Hawker Culture" – designated as an Intangible Cultural Heritage by the UNESCO
- Singapore – Singapore – Dollar | PM – Lee Hsien Loong | President – Halimah Yacob
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay

34. France's President Emmanuel Macron announced a referendum to add the Climate Goals in constitution to fight against climate change. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- France – announced a referendum to add the Climate Goals in constitution
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | New PM – Jean Castex

35. Two people died when category-five "Cyclone Yasa" passed through Fiji's second-largest island "Vanua Levu" on December 17 night. The cyclone destroyed hundreds of buildings and caused hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of damage. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Cyclone Yasa" – passed through Fiji's second-largest island "Vanua Levu"
- Fiji – Suva – Fijian Dollar

36. Google has a subsidiary called Project Loon, which comprises of helium-filled balloons that aim to deliver internet access to remote parts of the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Project Loon – a subsidiary of Google
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai

37. "International Human Solidarity Day" is celebrated every year on December 20. The day has been observed since December 2002, when the United Nations General assembly established the World Solidarity Fund. On December 22, 2005, the UN General Assembly identified solidarity as a universal value. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 20 – "International Human Solidarity Day" – since 2002



38. The UNICEF has launched an interactive tool “Covid-19 Vaccine Market Dashboard” to follow the developments of the rapidly evolving coronavirus vaccine market and the efforts of the COVAX Facility. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNICEF – launched an interactive tool “Covid-19 Vaccine Market Dashboard”
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, United States | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore

39. Pakistan has approved the chemical castration of rapists as part of sweeping new legislation. New laws are approved by President Arif Alvi on December 15. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pakistan – approved a law for Chemical Castration of rapists
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi

40. Xinxing, the world's oldest giant panda in captivity, has passed away recently due to multiple organ failure at the age of 38 years and four months. She died at a zoo in southwest China. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Xinxing – the world's oldest giant panda – passed away – in South China
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

41. Israel is headed for its fourth election in less than two years. The government headed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had been inching towards collapse. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Israel – headed for its fourth election in less than 2 years
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu

42. A deadly brain-consuming amoeba “Naegleria Fowleri” is spreading fast in the USA. According to a report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the geographic range of these cases has been advancing northward. Naegleria fowleri is a free-living microscopic amoeba. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Naegleria Fowleri” a species of amoeba – spreading fast in the USA
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden



43. Bangladesh has finalised a Bilateral Rice Deal consisting of 1,50,000 tonnes of rice from India's NAFED (the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd). India is the world's biggest rice exporter. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bangladesh finalised a Bilateral Rice Deal consisting of 1,50,000 tonnes of rice from India's NAFED
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid
- HQs of NAFED – New Delhi | MD – Shri Sanjeev Kumar Chadha | Chairman – Bijender Singh

44. Japanese government has recently joined the 'Five Eyes' intelligence-sharing alliance. Five Eyes is a network of five nations - Australia, Britain, Canada, New Zealand and the US who collaborated to better respond to increasing threats by North Korea and China. Japan is on its way to become the 'sixth eye'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Japan – joined the 'Five Eyes' intelligence-sharing alliance
- Members in Five Eyes intelligence alliance: US, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

45. On December 30, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the opening of 3 Indian Missions in Estonia, Paraguay and Dominican Republic in 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved the opening of 3 Indian Missions in – Estonia, Paraguay and Dominican Republic
- Estonia – Tallinn – Euro | President – Kersti Kaljulaid
- Paraguay – Asuncion – Guarani | President – Mario Abdo Benitez
- Dominican Republic – Santo Domingo – Peso | President – Luis Rodolfo Abinader

46. Britain (UK) has decided to restrict promotion of unhealthy food from April 2022. "Buy one get one free" promotions for food high in fat, sugar or salt and free refills of sugary soft drinks in restaurants will be banned. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Britain (UK) – to restrict promotion of Unhealthy Food – from April 2022
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson



47. China's central bank has asked billionaire Jack Ma's financial behemoth, the Ant Group to rectify its services as the company was about to create the largest IPO of all time. The Ant Group needs to overhaul its business model. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ant Group – is asked to rectify its business model / services – by People's Bank of China
- HQs of Ant Group – Hangzhou, China | CEO – Simon Xiaoming Hu



Banking & Economic Affairs

1. S&P Global Ratings has retained its forecast of 9% contraction in the Indian economy for the current fiscal year. S&P, in its report on Asia Pacific, projected the Indian economy to grow at 10% in the next fiscal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S&P Global Ratings projected India's GDP = (-9%) for 2020-21 [{Flexible News}](#)
- S&P Global Ratings projected India's GDP = (10%) for 2021-22 [{Flexible News}](#)
- HQs of S&P Global Ratings – New York, USA

2. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has raised prospects of India's economy by pegging contraction at 9.9%, against 10.2% it projected in September in a report titled "A Brighter Outlook But Recovery Will Be Gradual". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "A Brighter Outlook But Recovery Will Be Gradual" report – released by OECD
- OECD projected India's GDP = (-9.9%)
- HQs of OECD – Paris, France | Secretary-General – Angel Gurría | Member countries – 37

3. Yes Bank has launched "Yes Premia" that offers personalized solutions focused on the particular needs of key consumer segments. Yes Bank aims to disburse retail and small business loans worth Rs 10,000 Cr in the current quarter of the financial year and plans to expand the portfolio to over 60% of its loan book by 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yes Bank has launched "Yes Premia"
- Yes Bank aims to disburse retail and small business loans worth Rs 10,000 Cr
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – "Experience our Expertise"



4. State Bank of India (SBI), in association with Japan's JCB International Co Ltd (JCB), has launched "SBI RuPay JCB Platinum Contactless Debit Card" on National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) RuPay network. [{Read more}](#)

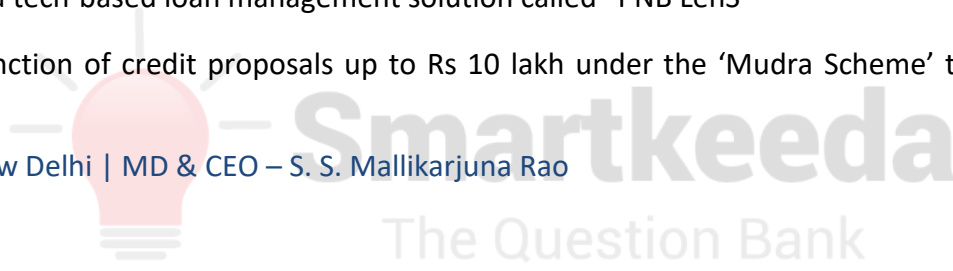
Key Points:

- SBI + JCB Int. = launched "SBI RuPay JCB Platinum Contactless Debit Card"
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Arjit Basu | Ashwani Bhatia
- HQs of JCB Co. Ltd – Tokyo, Japan | CEO – Takao Kawanishi

5. Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched a tech-based loan management solution called "PNB LenS" to speed up and maintain accuracy in online loan processing and sanctioning of credit proposals. Processing and sanction of credit proposals up to Rs 10 lakh under the Mudra Scheme, including MSME loans (fresh/ renewal/ enhancement/ review) shall be done through PNB LenS w.e.f. 01.12.2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PNB – launched a tech-based loan management solution called "PNB LenS"
- Processing & sanction of credit proposals up to Rs 10 lakh under the 'Mudra Scheme' to be done through 'PNB LenS'
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao



6. Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT) City regulator International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has obtained membership of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IFSCA – obtained membership of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS)
- HQs of IFSCA – Gandhinagar, Gujarat | Chairman – Injeti Srinivas
- HQs of IAIS – Basel, Switzerland | Secretary General – Jonathan Dixon

7. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked HDFC Bank to temporarily stop all launches of its upcoming digital business-generating activities and sourcing of new credit card customers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI asked HDFC Bank to temporarily stop all launches of its upcoming Digital Business & new Credit Cards
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – "We understand your world"



8. According to the official data released by Controller General of Accounts (CGA), the Union Government's fiscal deficit has further increased to ₹9.53 lakh Cr or 119.7% of the annual budget estimate, at the end of October of the current fiscal. The fiscal deficit at the end of September 2020 was about 114.8%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- As per data released by CGA – Government's fiscal deficit increased to ₹9.53 lakh Cr or 119.7% (on Oct-2020)
- Present CGA – Soma Roy Burman
- Total Expenditure – Total Receipts/Revenue (excluding borrowings) = Fiscal Deficit

9. Axis Bank has partnered with Rupifi to offer a business credit card powered by Visa. The card will be offered to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to transact on aggregator platforms for their business purchases. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rupifi + Axis Bank + Visa = partnership to launch credit card for MSMEs
- HQs of Rupifi – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Anubhav Jain
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry
- HQs of Visa – Foster City, California | CEO – Alfred F. Kelly



10. PayNearby, India's largest hyperlocal fintech startup has partnered with YES Bank and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch "PayNearby Shopping Card". The new offering aims to enable PayNearby retailers to seamlessly consume a range of digital services. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PayNearby + YES Bank + NPCI = to launch "PayNearby Shopping Card"
- HQs of PayNearby – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Anand Kumar Bajaj
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – "Experience our Expertise"
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe

11. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its 4th bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, has decided to keep Repo Rate unchanged at 4%, the Reverse Repo Rate at 3.35% and Bank Rate at 4.25%. The RBI has also projected India's GDP for FY21 at (-7.5%). [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- The RBI's 4th bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting held on December 4
- Repo Rate – 4% | Reverse Repo Rate – 3.35% | Bank Rate/MSF Rate – 4.25%
- RBI projected India's GDP for FY21 = (-7.5%) {Flexible News}
- Total members in the RBI's MPC = 6 (3 of RBI + 3 of GoI)
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

12. Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank (KVGB), has launched an overdraft (OD) facility namely “Kirishi OD” scheme for farmers. The limit is capped to a maximum of ₹1.5 lakh per acre to irrigated lands and ₹1 lakh per acre to dry land. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank – launched “Kirishi OD” scheme for farmers
- HQs of KVGB – Dharwad, Karnataka | Chairman – P Gopi Krishna

13. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to bring the 26 stressed sectors - identified by the Kamath Committee, within the ambit of sectors eligible under on-tap Targeted Long-Term Repo Operations (TLTRO). {Read more}

Key Points:

- RBI – to bring the 26 stressed sectors (identified by the Kamath Committee) under TLTRO
- TLTRO – Targeted Long-Term Repo Operations
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

14. ICICI Bank has launched the “iMobile Pay” app which offers payments and banking services for all. The ‘iMobile Pay’ app offers a combination of facilities of a payment app such as enabling customers to pay to any UPI ID or merchants, pay bills etc. {Read more}

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank – launched the “iMobile Pay” app
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”



15. Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company has launched of Kotak International REIT Fund of Funds, which is India's first diversified Real Estate Investment. The open-ended scheme will invest in units of SMAM Asia REIT Sub Trust Fund. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kotak Mahindra AMC – launched “REIT Fund of Funds” scheme
- REIT – Real Estate Investment Trusts
- HQs of Kotak Mutual Fund – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & President – Nilesh Shah

16. On December 8, Fitch Ratings in its “Global Economic Outlook” report has raised India's GDP forecast to -9.4% in the current fiscal year to March 2021 from a previously projected contraction of 10.5%. For the global economy, it projected a less severe decline in GDP at -3.7% in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Global Economic Outlook” report – released by Fitch Ratings
- Fitch Ratings projected India's GDP = (-9.4%) for FY21
- Fitch Ratings projected the GDP of Global Economy = (-3.7%) for FY21
- HQs of Fitch Solutions – New York, USA | President – Brian Filanowski

17. On December 4, UBS Principal Capital Asia Ltd has sold more than 20,70,000 shares of IndusInd Bank worth Rs 184.51 Cr via Open Market Transaction. The shares of IndusInd Bank were purchased by BofA Securities Europe SA. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UBS Principal Capital Asia – sold more than 20,70,000 shares of ‘IndusInd Bank’ – to ‘BofA Securities Europe SA’
- HQs of UBS – Zurich, Switzerland | HQs of BofA Securities Europe SA – Paris, France
- HQs of IndusInd Bank – Pune, MH | MD & CEO – Sumant Kathpalia | Tagline – “We Make You Feel Richer”

18. Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched the “Atmanirbhar Women Scheme” as part of its Baroda Gold Loan. Under the scheme, the bank is offering loans at 0.50% concession for women, agri-gold loan at 0.25% concession and retail loan at 0.50% concession. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BoB – launched the “Atmanirbhar Women Scheme” (0.50% concession for women)
- HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat | CEO – Sanjiv Chadha



19. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has introduced a new channel “Money Mitra” to make banking services accessible to customers in their neighbourhood. The bank has established over 100 Money Mitra outlets across the country and plans to scale up further. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ujjivan SFB – introduced a new channel “Money Mitra”
- HQs of Ujjivan SFB – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Nitin Chugh

20. HDFC Bank has invested an undisclosed amount in investment startup Smallcase Technologies. CEO Vasant Kamath has estimated that there are about 2 million users and as much as Rs 50,000 crore has been transacted in smallcases. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Bank – bought a minority stake of an undisclosed amount – in Smallcase Technologies
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO & MD – Aditya Puri (Sashidhar Jagdishan – from Nov.)
- HQs of Smallcase – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Founder & CEO – Vasanth Kamath

21. ICICI Bank has been designated for all financial transactions under National Health Mission (NHM) in West Bengal. The West Bengal government has decided to implement a single bank account system for NHM. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank – designated for all financial transactions in West Bengal – under NHM
- ICICI Bank: HQs – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

22. Federal Bank has entered into a tie-up with OrbitRemit Limited, a money transfer company, to facilitate money transfer from New Zealand to India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Federal Bank + OrbitRemit Ltd = to facilitate money transfer from New Zealand to India
- HQs Federal Bank – Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan
- HQs of OrbitRemit Ltd – Wellington, New Zealand



23. On December 9, the RBI has cancelled the licence of The Karad Janata Sahakari Bank Ltd, Karad, Maharashtra, as it does not have adequate capital and earning prospects. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI cancelled the licence of – Karad Janata Sahakari Bank Ltd
- Karad Janata Sahakari Bank Ltd – Karad, Satara, Maharashtra

24. ICICI Bank has inaugurated its representative office Kathmandu, marking the foray of an Indian private sector bank in Nepal. ICICI Bank has expanded its global footprint to 15 countries, including India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank – the first Private Bank of India to open its representative office – in Kathmandu, Nepal
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”

25. To ensure the adoption of digital payments in a safe and secure manner, the RBI has proposed to increase the limit for contactless card transactions to Rs 5,000 from Rs 2,000 per transaction from January 1, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – proposed to increase the limit for contactless card transactions to Rs 5,000 from Rs 2,000 (from Jan 1, 2021)
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

26. The RBI has announced introduction of Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) & Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). These include Implemented Core Banking Solution (CBS), a minimum CRAR of 9% and full compliance with the terms and conditions for availing LAF and MSF issued by Financial Markets Operations Department (FMOD). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI introduced Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) & Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) – for RRBs
- CBS – Core Banking Solution | FMOD – Financial Markets Operations Department
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)



27. The government has launched the Quarterly Return filing & Monthly Payment of Taxes (QRMP) scheme for Small Taxpayers under GST system. Taxpayers with aggregate annual turnover of up to Rs 5 crore in the preceding financial year and have filed their October GSTR-3B (sales) return by November 30, 2020, are eligible for this scheme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian government launched – “Quarterly Return filing & Monthly Payment of Taxes (QRMP)” scheme
- The scheme is for Small Taxpayers with annual turnover of up to Rs 5 Cr in the preceding FY

28. The “Asian Development Outlook (ADO) Supplement” by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has upgraded its forecast for the Indian economy, projecting 8% contraction in 2020-21 as compared to 9% estimated earlier. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB projected India’s GDP – (-8%) for 2020-21 [{Flexible News}](#)
- ADB: HQs – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68

29. The central government has sold nearly 1 Cr shares of Axis Bank worth around ₹600 Cr through the Specified Undertaking of the Unit Trust of India (SUUTI). SUUTI sold 61.43 lakh shares of Axis Bank for ₹374.21 Cr between 2 and 4 December and 36.25 lakh shares for ₹221.47 Cr between November 26 and 27. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central government has sold nearly 1 Cr shares of ‘Axis Bank’ through SUUTI (worth around ₹600 Cr)
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry

30. On December 12, Yes Bank in partnership with Mastercard, has recently launched “Yes Private Prime Credit Card” for India’s affluent and ultra High-Net-Worth Individuals (HNIs). The credit card is available on the Mastercard World Elite platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yes Bank + Mastercard = launched “Yes Private Prime Credit Card”
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, USA | CEO – Ajay Banga (From Jan 2021 - Michael Miebach)



31. With a view to ensure financial discipline and transparency, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed guidelines for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) for declaring dividends. Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) comply with minimum prudential requirements under Section 45 IC of the RBI Act, 1934 in order to declare dividend. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – proposed guidelines for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) for declaring dividends
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

32. Equitas Small Finance Bank has launched a 3-in-1 account or tripartite account (Savings +Trading+ Demat), which allows its customers to invest in wide variety of financial product using a single platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Equitas SFB – launched a 3-in-1 account or tripartite account (Savings +Trading+ Demat)
- HQs of Equitas SFB – Chennai, TN | MD & CEO – Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan

33. DBS Bank India has joined hands with social enterprise Haqdarshak Empowerment Solutions to enable recovery of Indian MSMEs through its newly launched platform. Haqdarshak will provide application support services to business owners for availing the right schemes that the government has announced. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DBS Bank India + Haqdarshak = to enable recovery of Indian MSMEs from COVID-19 pandemic
- HQs of DBS Bank India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Surojit Shome

34. With a view to effectively deal with increasing circulation of banknotes, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to set up an Automated Banknote Processing Centre (ABPC) in Jaipur for receipt, storage and dispatch of currency notes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – to set up an Automated Banknote Processing Centre (ABPC) in Jaipur, Rajasthan
- It will be for – Receipt, Storage & Dispatch of currency notes
- Coins minting places – Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Noida
- Current Notes printing places – Nasik, Dewas, Mysore, Salboni
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)



35. Market regulator SEBI has set up a specialised department to tackle cases of diversion of funds, bank loans and resources by company promoters. The new department will be known as the Corporation Finance Investigation Department (CFID). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – set up a Corporation Finance Investigation Department (CFID)
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi

36. Aceware, a fintech company based in Infopark, has launched “AceMoney Micro ATM Service” in association with ICICI Bank. Initially, the service will be available in Kochi city. The customers can place the order for money on the Ace Money app and the money will be delivered at the doorstep within 30-40 minutes after the order is placed. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aceware + ICICI bank = launched “AceMoney Micro ATM Service” to deliver money at the doorstep
- ICICI Bank: HQs – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”
- HQs of Aceware – Kochi, Kerala | MD & CEO – Jimmin James Kurichiyil

37. On December 15, S&P Global Ratings has raised India's growth projection for the current fiscal to -7.7% from -9% estimated earlier for the year ending March 2021 on rising demand and falling COVID infection rates. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S&P Global Ratings projected India's GDP = (-7.7%) in FY21 [{Flexible News}](#)
- HQs of S&P Global Ratings – New York, USA

38. Rating agency CRISIL has projected a slower contraction of 7.7% for the Indian economy in the ongoing fiscal (FY21), compared to the (-9%) forecast in September. The agency expects the growth to bounce back to 10% in FY22. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CRISIL projected India's GDP = (-7.7%) for FY21 [{Flexible News}](#)
- CRISIL projected India's GDP = 10% for FY22 [{Flexible News}](#)
- HQs of CRISIL – Mumbai, Maharashtra



39. Ewire Softtech (under Kerala Startup Mission) has launched a Prepaid Card in association with YES Bank, enabling the next-generation payment platform provider chart an all-India presence. This can be done via its dedicated RuPay prepaid cards platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ewire Softtech + YES Bank = launched a Prepaid Card
- HQs of Ewire Softtech – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Rakesh Kumar Upadhyay
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”

40. Canara Bank has launched “FX 4 U” through internet banking helping users to manage and handle their forex transactions seamlessly. Currently the outward remittances module is active while the remaining modules will be activated soon. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Canara Bank – launched “FX 4 U” to manage and handle their forex transactions
- HQs of Canara Bank – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Lingam Venkat Prabhakar
- Tagline of Canara bank – “Together We Can”

41. The State Bank of India (SBI), in its latest research update Ecowrap, has stated that India's FY21 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is estimated at -7.4% as compared to earlier estimate at -10.9%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI has projected India’s GDP = (-7.4%) for FY21
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Arjit Basu | Ashwani Bhatia

42. The National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) and Citibank have partnered to offer “Citi-NCPA Scholarships” (Hindustani Music Scholarships) to Young Musicians. The entries are limited to the age group of 18 to 35 years and applications will be accepted till 15th January 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NCPA + Citibank = partnership to offer “Citi-NCPA Scholarships” (Hindustani Music) to Young Musicians
- HQs of Citibank India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Ashu Khullar
- HQs of NCPA – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – K N Suntook



43. Yes Bank in partnership with VISA, has launched a new line of debit cards E-series to enhance payments efficiency for salaried and Yes First account holders. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yes Bank + VISA = launched a new line of debit cards E-series to enhance payments efficiency
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”
- HQs of Visa – Foster City, California | CEO – Alfred F. Kelly

44. On December 16, the World Bank Board of Executive Directors has approved 4 India projects worth over \$800 million. The four projects will support India’s efforts to build back better by creating a sustainable and resilient economy. The projects approved are: Chhattisgarh Inclusive Rural and Accelerated Agriculture Growth Project (CHIRAAG), Nagaland: Enhancing Classroom Teaching and Resources Project, Second Accelerating India's COVID-19 Social Protection Response Program & Second Dam Improvement and Rehabilitation Project (DRIP-2). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World Bank – approved 4 India projects worth over \$800 million
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 190
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

45. ICRA has forecast India’s GDP would contract 7.8% in FY21. The recovery under way in the Indian economy in Q3 FY2021 is fragile, according to ICRA rating agency. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICRA projected India’s GDP = (-7.8%) for FY21 [{Flexible News}](#)
- HQs of ICRA – Gurgaon, Haryana | President – Ramnath Krishnan | CEO – N. Sivaraman

46. IndusInd Bank in partnership with Mastercard announced the launch of its first metal credit card - “PIONEER Heritage” for the Bank's ultra-high net worth segment of customers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IndusInd Bank + Mastercard = partnership to launch first metal credit card - “PIONEER Heritage”
- HQs of IndusInd Bank – Pune, MH | MD & CEO – Sumant Kathpalia | Tagline – "We Make You Feel Richer"
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, USA | CEO – Ajay Banga (From Jan 2021 - Michael Miebach)

47. The RBI has announced the 2nd cohort of Regulatory Sandbox initiative under the theme of “Cross-Border Payments”. The first cohort was based on “Retail Payments” theme and two offline payments ideas 'eRupaya' and 'Payse' were selected by the RBI to push digital payments in the rural areas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI announced the 2nd cohort of Regulatory Sandbox initiative | Theme – “Cross-Border Payments”
- Theme of the 1st cohort – “Retail Payments”
- Two offline payments ideas namely 'eRupaya' & 'Payse' were selected by the RBI
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

48. India’s retail inflation based on the consumer price index (CPI) has declined marginally in November to 6.93%, from 7.61% recorded in October. The inflation rate for rural area was 7.20% and urban area 6.73% in November 2020. The food price inflation has also declined to 9.43% from 11% in the previous month. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s retail inflation based on CPI declined to – 6.93% in November (Rural – 7.20% | Urban – 6.72%)
- The Food Price Inflation declined to – 9.43% in November

49. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has introduced “RuPay Contactless (Offline) feature”, which also provides reloadable wallets within RuPay Card, for day to day transit payments. It has also introduced RuPay Contactless (Offline) feature for retail payments on pilot basis. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NPCI introduced “RuPay Contactless (Offline) feature” for retail payments on pilot basis
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe

50. On December, PayU - an online payments solutions provider, has collaborated with Google Pay to introduce tokenised payments flow for merchants. With this collaboration, PayU’s merchants can offer Google Pay users the option to use their debit cards, credit cards, or Google Pay UPI to make repeated payments without having to physically share their card details. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PayU + Google Pay = collaboration to introduce tokenised payments flow for merchants
- HQs of PayU – Netherlands | CEO – Laurent le Moal
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai



51. The RBI has asked all regulated entities to upload 'Know Your Customer' (KYC) data pertaining to accounts of legal entities opened on or after April 1, 2021, onto the Central KYC Registry (CKYCR). The MD on KYC, dated February 25, 2016, has come into force with an immediate effect. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The RBI has asked all entities to upload KYC data pertaining to accounts opened – on or after April 1, 2021
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

52. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the validity period of its Directions for the scam-hit Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank for a further period from December 23, 2020 to March 31, 2021, subject to review. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI extended the validity period of its Directions for Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank – to March 31, 2021
- HQs of PMC Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | New Administrator – A K Dixit

53. ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund has launched the "ICICI Prudential Business Cycle Fund", an open-ended equity scheme. The New Fund Offer (NFO) opens on December 29 and closes on January 12. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund – launched the "ICICI Prudential Business Cycle Fund"
- HQs of ICICI Prudential MF – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Nimesh Shah

54. IIFL Home Finance (wholly owned subsidiary of IIFL Finance) and ICICI Bank have partnered to extend credit to the affordable housing loans & MSME loans (loan against property). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIFL Home Finance + ICICI Bank = partnered to offer Housing Loans & MSME loans
- HQs of IIFL Finance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Nirmal jain
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – "Hum Hain Na!"



55. On December 22, the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has projected a contraction of 7.3% in India's GDP in FY21, as per its report titled "2020-21 Mid-Year Review of the Indian Economy". NCAER has forecast the annual CPI inflation at 6.7%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NCAER projected India's GDP = (-7.3%) for FY21 – in its report "2020-21 Mid-Year Review of the Indian Economy"
- HQs of NCAER – New Delhi | DG – Shekhar Shah

56. Bank of Baroda (BoB) has signed an MoU with Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard to offer customised services along with a host of facilities to account holders. The bank has also renewed its existing MoU with the Indian Army to offer specially customised banking services through 'Baroda Military Salary Package'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BoB + Indian Navy + ICG = an MoU to offer customised services
- BoB renewed its existing MoU with 'Indian Army' – for new 'Baroda Military Salary package'
- HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat | CEO – Sanjiv Chadha
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – S K Saini

57. Central Bank of India has launched contactless "RuPay Select" debit card in association with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). Users of Central Bank RuPay Select Debit Card can avail complementary membership and concessional access to golf courses, gyms, spas and restaurants. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CBI + NPCI = launched contactless "RuPay Select" debit card
- HQs of Central Bank of India – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Pallav Mohapatra
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe

58. On December 21, The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) has announced the final close of the 'Master Fund' after raising \$107 million investment from Canada's PSP Investments, US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and Axis Bank. The overall size of the 'master fund' has touched \$2.34 billion exceeding its target of \$2.1 Billion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:



- NIIF – announced the final close of the ‘Master Fund’ after raising \$107 million – Canada’s PSP, US’ DFC, Axis Bank
- The overall size of the ‘master fund’ touched – \$2.34 billion (exceeding target - \$2.1 Billion)
- HQs of NIIFL – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Sujoy Bose

59. State Bank of India (1st), Axis Bank (2nd), HDFC Bank (3rd) and Paytm Payments Bank Ltd. (4th) have led the pack in November among the top UPI Remitter Banks, as per the “UPI Ecosystem Statistics” for November by NPCI. These banks have initiated close to half or 1.1 billion of the total UPI transactions processed in November. SBI closed almost 608 million UPI transactions in November. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “UPI Ecosystem Statistics” for November by NPCI – topped by SBI (608 million UPI transactions)
- 2nd – Axis Bank | 3rd – HDFC Bank | 4th – Paytm Payments Bank
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe

60. ICICI Bank has become the 1st bank in India to launch “Infinite India” - a new online platform for foreign firms looking to set up or expand their business in India. It will offer foreign businesses banking solutions and value-added services. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank – the 1st bank to launch “Infinite India” - a new online platform for foreign firms
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”

61. Mortgage lender HDFC has entered into an MOU with the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) to promote Green Buildings in the country. HDFC has disbursed over 14,000 Cr worth retail loans to home buyers in 310 certified green building projects across the country as of December 23. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC + IGBC = an MOU to promote Green Buildings in the country
- HQs of HDFC Ltd – Mumbai | CEO – Keki Mistry

62. On December 24, Central Bank of India has exited its Housing Finance joint venture (JV) by selling its entire stake of more than 64% to Centrum Housing Finance, a subsidiary of Centrum Capital, for ₹160 Cr. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Central Bank of India – sold its entire stake (over 64%) in its Housing Finance JV – to Centrum Housing Finance
- HQs of Central Bank of India – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Pallav Mohapatra
- HQs of Centrum Capital – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Jaspal Singh Bindra

63. On December 24, India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra) has lowered its estimate for gross domestic product (GDP) contraction during FY 2020-21 to 7.8% from the earlier projection of 11.8%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ind-Ra projected India's GDP = (-7.8%) for FY2020-21 [{Flexible News}](#)
- HQs of Ind-Ra – Mumbai, Maharashtra

64. On December 24, the RBI has cancelled the licence of Subhadra Local Area Bank, Kolhapur as the bank had breached the minimum net worth requirement for two quarters in the financial year 2019-20. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – cancelled the licence of Subhadra Local Area Bank
- HQs of Subhadra Local Area Bank – Kolhapur, Maharashtra
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

65. On January 1, 2021, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will introduce the 'Positive Pay System' for cheque transactions above Rs 50,000 in a bid to enhance safety and eliminate frauds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – to introduce the 'Positive Pay System' for cheque transactions above Rs 50,000 – from Jan 1, 2021
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

66. Axis Mutual Fund has renamed its "Axis Multicap Fund" scheme as "Axis Flexicap Fund" from January 31 and moved it to a new category where it will not be constrained by market cap restrictions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Axis Mutual Fund – renamed its "Axis Multicap Fund" scheme as "Axis Flexicap Fund"



- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry

67. On December 25, Punjab National Bank (PNB) has introduced “PNB e-Credit Card”, a digital replica of a physical Credit Card. Customers can view PNB e-Credit Cards details by clicking on e-Credit Card facility in PNB Genie Mobile app. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PNB – introduced “PNB e-Credit Card” a digital replica of a physical Credit Card
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao

68. On December 28, Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched the “Digital Lending Platform” to enable prospective retail loan seekers to get loans digitally through a paperless process. Customers can also avail the amount into their Savings bank account and convert it to EMIs from 3 to 18 months through m-Connect+ (Bank’s mobile banking app) in 60 seconds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BoB – launched the “Digital Lending Platform” to digitize the entire process of getting a loan
- HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat | CEO – Sanjiv Chadha

69. HDFC Bank has emerged as the top player among the 100 Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) companies in the country. Apart from HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and State Bank of India (SBI) ranked second and third, respectively. Besides banks, the list of wallet & UPI segment, Neo Banks & payment bank was also released as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Top player among the 100 Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) companies
- Top Bank: 1st – HDFC Bank | 2nd – ICICI Bank | 3rd – SBI
- Wallet and UPI segment: 1st – Google Pay | 2nd – Phone Pe
- Neo Banks: 1st – YONO | 2nd – Niyo | 3rd – Kotak 811
- Payments Bank Category: 1st – Airtel Payments Bank | 2nd – Paytm Payments Bank | 3rd – Jio Payments Bank

70. The SEBI has granted an approval to small lender Suryoday Small Finance Bank to float its Initial Public Offering (IPO). This IPO comprises fresh issuance of 1,15,95,000 equity shares and an offer for sale of up to 84,66,796 equity scrips by existing shareholders [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Suryoday SFB – received approval from the SEBI to float its IPO
- HQs of Suryoday SFB – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Baskar Babu
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi

71. Cashaa, a blockchain-based fintech, has joined hands with United Multistate Cooperative Society to launch world's 1st Crypto Bank joint venture namely "UNICAS" that allows users to transact in cryptocurrency and fiat from one account. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cashaa + United Multistate Cooperative Society = partnership to launch world's 1st Crypto Bank - "UNICAS"

72. AU Small Finance Bank has entered into a strategic partnership with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance to offer need and Goal-based Life Insurance Solutions to the small finance bank's customers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AU SFB + ICICI Prudential Life Ins. = partnership to offer need and Goal-based Life Insurance Solutions
- HQs of AU Small Finance Bank – Jaipur, Rajasthan | MD & CEO – Sanjay Agarwal
- HQs of ICICI Prudential Life Ins. – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – N. S. Kannan

73. On December 28, ICICI Bank has joined hands with Google Pay to issue FASTag through Unified Payments Interface (UPI) on its payment's app. This collaboration enables Google Pay users to order, track and even recharge ICICI Bank FASTag digitally on the payments platform itself. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank + Google Pay = partnership to issue FASTag through UPI
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD&CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | ED – Sandeep Batra | Tagline – "Hum Hain Na!"
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai

74. The CBIC has introduced "Rule 86B" in GST Rules, to be applicable from January 1, 2021, which restricts use of input tax credit for discharging GST liability to 99%. Businesses with monthly turnover of over Rs 50 lakh will have to mandatorily pay at least 1% of their GST liability in cash.



Key Points:

- CBIC introduced “Rule 86B” in GST Rules – applicable from January 1, 2021
- Businesses with monthly turnover of over Rs 50 lakh have to pay at least 1% of their GST liability in cash
- HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairperson – M. Ajit Kumar

75. DBS Bank India has introduced “Travel Now”, a one-stop travel marketplace within the digibank app. The insurance offering is available to customers for flight and bus bookings in partnership with Bharti AXA General Insurance Company Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DBS Bank India + Bharti AXA = introduced “Travel Now” - a one-stop travel marketplace
- HQs of DBS Bank India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Surojit Shome
- HQs of Bharti AXA Life Ins. – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Parag Raja

76. Yes Bank has collaborated with Salesforce to build a next generation technology platform to power the retail lending business. This collaboration aims to engage customers with a unified experience and drive aggressive retail led growth for the Bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yes Bank + Salesforce = partnership to build a Next Generation Technology platform
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”
- HQs of Salesforce – California, USA | CEO – Marc Benioff

77. The paper, authored by RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra and another official Harendra Kumar Behera, has found a steady decline in trend inflation to 4.1 - 4.3% since 2014. Under the current dispensation, the RBI has been mandated by the government to maintain Retail Inflation at 4% with a margin of 2% on either side. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI is mandated by the government to maintain Retail Inflation – at 4% (with a margin of 2% on either side)
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

78. The government has approved the 15th tranche of Electoral Bonds which will be open for sale between January 1 to 10. The State Bank of India has been authorised to issue and encash Electoral Bonds through its 29 Authorised Branches. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- The government – approved the 15th tranche of Electoral Bonds open for sale between January 1 to 10
- SBI – is authorised to issue and encash Electoral Bonds
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Arjit Basu | Ashwani Bhatia



Defence Affairs

1. The Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) has entered final phase of its construction at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), will be commissioned by 2021 end or by early 2022. Basin Trials of the aircraft carrier were successfully conducted at CSL. Sea trials of the IAC are planned in the first half of 2021, and then it will be ready for induction into the Indian Navy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IAC – entered final phase of its construction at Cochin Shipyard Limited ([Kerala](#))
- Basin Trials of the IAC were successfully conducted at CSL ([Kerala](#))

2. The Indian Air Force (IAF) has carried out 10 testfirings of the indigenously developed “Akash” Air Defence Missiles and the “Igla” shoulder-fired Air Defence Missiles at the Suryalanka test range in Andhra Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IAF – carried out 10 testfirings of the “Akash” and “Igla” Air Defence Missiles – in Andhra Pradesh
- “Igla” – Russian-Origin Short-Range Missile
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

3. The DRDO has merged its 2 laboratories to create a new one named “Defence Geo-Informatics Research Establishment” to conduct focused research on terrain and avalanches along the borders with China and Pakistan. The two labs merged by the government are Snow and Avalanche Studies Establishment (SASE-Manali) and Defence Terrain Research Establishment (Delhi). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The DRDO has created “Defence Geo-Informatics Research Establishment” by merging its 2 labs
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy

4. American firm Lockheed Martin has shared the first picture of the “MH-60” multi-role 'Romeo' Seahawk helicopter for the Indian Navy. India has placed orders for 24 of these helicopters under a government to government deal which were approved by the USA in April. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lockheed Martin – shared the first picture of the “MH-60” multi-role 'Romeo' Seahawk helicopter
- HQs of Lockheed Martin – Maryland, USA | CEO – Jim Taiclet

5. Indian Navy has begun a 2-day Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Russian Federation Navy (RuFN) in the Eastern Indian Ocean Region (IOR) aimed at enhancing interoperability. Indian Navy is being represented by indigenously constructed guided-missile frigate Shivalik and anti-submarine corvette Kadmatt along with integral helicopters. This exercise is being conducted on the occasion of 'Navy Day' on December 4. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “PASSEX” – began between India & Russia – in the Eastern Indian Ocean Region
- 2 Indian Warships participated: 1. Shivalik 2. Kadmatt
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

6. The Indian Navy has ordered to procure “SMASH 2000 Plus systems” from Israel to destroy high-speed enemy drones. It will be installed mainly on AK-47 and AK 203 rifles and it is manufactured by Israel Firm ‘Smart Shooter’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy – ordered Israel to procure “SMASH 2000 Plus systems” to tackle enemy drones
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu

7. The air forces of Pakistan and China have commenced a joint exercise “Shaheen (Eagle)-IX” in Sindh province. It is designed to deepen practical cooperation and improve the actual-combat training level of the two sides. The first such drill was held in Pakistan in March 2011. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Shaheen (Eagle)-IX” a joint exercise – commenced between the Air Forces of Pakistan & China
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi

8. The 5.56x30 mm Joint Venture Protective Carbine (JVPC) developed by the DRDO has successfully completed its final phase user trials meeting all the parameters related to General Staff Qualitative



Requirements (GSQRs). JVPC is a Gas Operated Semi Bull-pup automatic weapon. It is designed and developed by Pune-based Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), a DRDO lab. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 5.56x30 mm Joint Venture Protective Carbine (JVPC) – successfully completed its final phase user trials
- It is designed and developed by – Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) - Pune
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy

9. A webinar between India and Brazil was held with a theme of “Indian Defence Industry Global Outreach for Collaborative Partnership: Webinar and Expo”. This webinar which is the first is a part of the series of webinars which are being organized with friendly foreign countries in order to boost Defence Exports and achieve Defence Export Target of \$5 billion in the next 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Brazil = held 1st webinar in order to boost Defence Exports
- Defence Export Target – \$5 billion in the next 5 years
- Brazil – Brasilia – Brazilian real | President – Jair Bolsonaro

10. Production of ammunition under the Joint Venture between Companhia Brasileira de Cartuchos (CBC) Brazil and Stump Schuele & Somappa India (SSS Defence) will take off in August 2021 in Andhra Pradesh. The focus of the Indian envoy to Brazil was on the “Triple-Helix” approach to lay emphasis on innovation and R&D for its army, navy and air force. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Production of ammunition under JV between CBC Brazil & SSS Defence – to start in Andhra Pradesh (in Aug 2021)
- Brazil – Brasilia – Brazilian real | President – Jair Bolsonaro
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

11. Russia will join a military exercise “Aman-2021” next year that will become its first joint drill with NATO countries in a decade. The exercise will take place in February off the coast of Pakistan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:



- Russia – to join a military exercise “Aman-2021” (its first joint drill with NATO countries) – off the coast of Pakistan
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

12. “INS Himgiri”, the first of the 3 Indian Navy ‘Project 17A’ - a Nilgiri-class frigate for the Indian Navy was launched on December 14 by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “INS Himgiri” the first of the 3 Indian Navy ‘Project 17A’ - a Nilgiri-class frigate – launched by GRSE
- HQs of GRSE – Kolkata, India | CMD – Rear Admiral Vipin Kumar Saxena

13. Indian Coast Guard (ICG) ship “Sujeet”, the second in the series of 5 Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) built by Goa Shipyard Limited, was commissioned at Goa on December 15. ICGS Sachet - the 1st ship in the series of 5 OPVs was launched in May, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICGS Sujeet (2nd in the series of 5 OPV) – commissioned at Goa (built by - Goa Shipyard Ltd)
- ICGS Sachet – the 1st ship in the series of 5 OPVs
- HQs of ICG – New Delhi | Director General – Krishnaswamy Natarajan

14. The first of 3 stealth frigates, INS Himgiri was launched into water from Kolkata. It is built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) under Project 17A for the Navy. The contract for construction of 3 stealth frigates under Project 17A is valued at over ₹19,293 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- INS Himgiri – launched into water from Kolkata (built by – GRSE)
- FPVs – Fast Patrol Vessels
- HQs of GRSE – Kolkata, India | CMD – Rear Admiral Vipin Kumar Saxena
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

15. Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) has launched the 5th and final Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) out of an order of 5 such vessels in Goa. The vessel has been named “ICGS Saksham”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:



- Goa Shipyard Ltd – launched “ICGS Saksham” - the 5th and final Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV)
- MD & Chairman of Goa Shipyard Limited – Bharat Bhushan Nagpal
- HQs of ICG – New Delhi | Director General – Krishnaswamy Natarajan

16. Israel’s Defense Ministry along with the US Missile Defense Agency has successfully conducted a series of live fire drills with its Multi-Range Missile-Defense System. They are the “Arrow”, “David's Sling” and “Iron Dome”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Israel + USA = successfully test fired 3 multi-range missiles – “Arrow”, “David's Sling” & “Iron Dome”
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu

17. An indigenously built interceptor boat was handed over to the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) at an event at Hazira in Surat. The interceptor boat “C-454” was commissioned at Hazira, Surat (Gujarat) by Surat Police Commissioner Ajay Tomar. It is built by Larsen and Toubro at its Hazira plant. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICGS “C-454” commissioned at Hazira, Surat (Guj) | Built by – L&T, Hazira plant
- HQs of ICG – New Delhi | Director General – Krishnaswamy Natarajan

18. The country’s first Maritime Theatre Command (MTC) is set to take concrete shape by next year, with its commander-in-chief having full operational control over the western and eastern naval fleets. The MTC will have its headquarters at the Karwar naval base in coastal Karnataka. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s 1st Maritime Theatre Command (MTC) – to take concrete shape by 2021 – in Karwar naval base, Karnataka
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

19. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has approved 7 capital acquisition proposals for various weapons, platforms, equipment and systems required by the army, navy and air force at an approximate overall cost of Rs 28,000 Cr. Six of these acquisitions, worth Rs 27,000 Cr, will be made from Indian industry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:



- DAC – approved total 7 capital acquisition proposals for various military equipment worth Rs 28,000 Cr
- DAC – Chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh (Constituency – Lucknow, UP)

20. The 35th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (Ind-Indo CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy was conducted from 17 to 18 December 2020. Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kulish along with P8I Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) had participated in it. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 35th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (Ind-Indo CORPAT) conducted from 17 to 18 December
- INS Kulish – participated
- Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah | President – Joko Widodo

21. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has handed over 3 indigenously developed systems to Army, Navy and Air Force at a function held in DRDO Bhawan. Rajnath Singh handed over the Indian Maritime Situational Awareness System (IMSAS) to the Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh, ASTRA Mk-I Missile to Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria and Border Surveillance System (BOSS) to the Chief of Army Staff General M M Naravane. Rajnath Singh has also presented Lifetime Achievement Award 2018 to NV Kadam for his contributions for developing control and guidance schemes for missiles. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh – handed over 3 indigenously developed systems to Army, Navy and Air Force
- IMSAS – to the Indian Navy | ASTRA Mk-I Missile – to the IAF | BOSS – to the Indian Army
- NV Kadam – received “Lifetime Achievement Award 2018”
- Ministry of Defence – Rajnath Singh (Constituency – Lucknow, UP)

22. A Defence Cooperation Webinar and Expo between India and Maldives were held on December 17. The theme of the webinar was “Joint Indo Maldives High-Level Defence Engagement”. This webinar is a part of Aero India 21 series of webinars which is organised by Defence Ministry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A “Defence Cooperation Webinar and Expo” – held between India & Maldives
- Theme of the webinar – “Joint Indo Maldives High-Level Defence Engagement”
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

23. L&T has stated that its defence arm, L&T Defence has been awarded the coveted “Green Channel Status” for major Naval weapon delivery systems from the Directorate General Quality Assurance (DGQA), Ministry of Defence. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- L&T Defence – awarded the coveted “Green Channel Status” – by the DGQA, Ministry of Defence
- HQs L&T – Mumbai | MD & CEO – SN Subrahmanyam

24. On December 23, Indian Army has successfully conducted the maiden test of “Medium Range Surface to Air Missile” (MRSAM) from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, off the Coast of Odisha. The missile is jointly developed by the DRDO and Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian + Israel – conducted the test of “Medium Range Surface to Air Missile” (MRSAM) – in Chandipur, Odisha
- Missile developed by – DRDO + IAI
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – SK Saini

25. On December 21, Boeing in coordination with U.S. Navy has successfully demonstrated the compatibility of its “F/A-18 Super Hornet” fighter jets with the Indian Navy’s aircraft carriers at the Naval Air Station Patuxent river in Maryland, U.S. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Boeing + USA = demonstrated the compatibility of “F/A-18 Super Hornet” fighter jets – in Maryland, U.S.
- HQs of Boeing – Chicago, USA | CEO – Dave Calhoun
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden

26. The Indian Army has received 3 sets of 10-metre short span bridges developed and manufactured by the DRDO in collaboration with Larsen & Toubro Ltd (L&T). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army – received 3 sets of 10-metre short span bridges
- Bridges are developed & manufactured by = DRDO + L&T



- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – S K Saini
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy
- HQs L&T – Mumbai | CMD – SN Subrahmanyam

27. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) along with the Indian Navy has conducted the successful maiden test trial of “SAHAYAK-NG” India’s first indigenously designed and developed Air Dropped Container from IL 38SD aircraft (Indian Navy) off the coast of Goa. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO + Indian Navy conducted = conducted the successful maiden test trial of “SAHAYAK-NG” – at Goa
- It is India’s first indigenously designed and developed Air Dropped Container
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

28. The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi has approved the export of indigenously-developed surface-to-air “Akash” missile system. The Akash missile systems have over 96% indigenous components and the weapon can hit targets at a range of 25 km. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved the export of indigenously-developed surface-to-air “Akash” missile system
- Range of the missile – 25 km

29. Rafale fighter jets of India and France will carry out wargames codenamed Exercise “SKYROS” in Jodhpur from the 17 Squadron and the Su-30MKI fighters deployed there in the third week of January next year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rafale fighter jets of India and France – to carry out Exercise “SKYROS” – in Jodhpur, Rajasthan (in Jan 2021)
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | New PM – Jean Castex
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra



Schemes & Initiatives

1. Goa has launched a “One-Time Power Bill Settlement Scheme 2020” for power consumers. The Government has also provided a waiver of late payment fees to those who will make payment at one time or by installments with a minimum time period. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Goa – launched a “One-Time Power Bill Settlement Scheme 2020” for power consumers
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

2. Sanjay Dhotre has inaugurated “Five-Star Village Postal Scheme” to ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas of Uttarakhand. He also distributed ‘Sukanya Samirdhi Yojana’ passbooks, cheque books and ATM cards. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanjay Dhotre inaugurated “Five-Star Village Postal Scheme” in rural areas of Uttarakhand
- Sukanya Samirdhi Yojana: Central Gov. Scheme | Launched in 2015 | Interest rate – 7.6%
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

3. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has initiated the “Quarterly Return filing & Monthly Payment (QRMP)” scheme. Starting January 2021, 92% of taxpayers under the Goods and Services Tax regime with an annual turnover of up to ₹5 crore can opt to file their returns once a quarter instead of the present monthly system. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CBIC initiated the “QRMP” scheme - Small Taxpayers with turnover up to Rs. 5 Cr (effective from Jan 2021)
- QRMP – Quarterly Return filing & Monthly Payment
- HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairperson – M. Ajit Kumar

4. On December 7, National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC) and National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) have signed an MoU with Central Bank of India for the implementation of Interest subvention Scheme “Vanchit Ikai Samooh aur Vargon ki Aarthik Sahayta (VISVAS)” Yojana of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:



- NBCFDC + NSFDC + Central Bank of India = an MoU for the implementation of “VISVAS” Yojana
- “VISVAS” Yojana – belongs to Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
- HQs of Central Bank of India – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Pallav Mohapatra

5. A new rural development scheme in Maharashtra has been named after NCP president Sharad Pawar, who has turned 80 on December 12. The “Sharad Pawar Rural Prosperity Scheme” will focus on doubling farmers’ income in the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra launched “Sharad Pawar Rural Prosperity Scheme” (named after NCP president - Sharad Pawar)
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

6. On December 9, the Union Cabinet has approved the provision of a Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) scheme for providing mobile coverage in Arunachal Pradesh and two districts of Assam (Karbi Anglong & Dima Hasao) under the Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for North Eastern Region (NER). The project is targeted to be completed by December 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arunachal Pradesh & Assam – to be provided complete mobile coverage under the “USOF” Scheme
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

7. The Union Cabinet has approved ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana’ (ABRY) to boost employment in the formal sector and incentivize creation of new employment opportunities during the Covid recovery phase under “Atmanirbhar Bharat Package 3.0”. Cabinet has approved an expenditure of Rs 1,584 Cr for the current financial year and Rs 22,810 Cr for the entire Scheme period i.e. 2020-2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Cabinet approved ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana’ (ABRY) to boost employment in the formal sector
- Under – “Atmanirbhar Bharat Package 3.0” | Entire scheme layout – Rs 22,810 Cr



8. Andhra Pradesh CM Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has virtually launched “Jagananna Jeeva Kranthi” scheme, under which 2.49 lakh units of sheep and goats will be distributed to women in a phased manner at a cost of ₹1,869 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – launched “Jagananna Jeeva Kranthi” scheme (Cost: ₹1,869 Cr)
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

9. The Finance Ministry has notified the updated Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme which gives a push to the social infrastructure sector in India. The new scheme, applicable with immediate effect, allows for funding up to Rs 200 Cr to be sanctioned by an Empowered Committee (EC) headed by the Economic Affairs Secretary Tarun Bajaj. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Finance Ministry – notified the updated Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme
- The scheme allows for funding up to Rs 200 Cr to be sanctioned by an Empowered Committee (EC)
- Nirmala Sitharaman – Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs | Constituency – Karnataka

10. On December 26, PM Narendra Modi has launched the “Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT” scheme for the residents of Jammu and Kashmir. The beneficiaries will get the Universal Healthcare Coverage (UHC) as per the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011 database. The scheme would work in convergence with Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi – “AB-PMJAY SEHAT” scheme for the residents of Jammu & Kashmir
- Insurance coverage of “PM-JAY” - world’s largest health insurance scheme – Rs 5 lakh per family per year
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

11. The Union Cabinet has approved changes in the centrally sponsored “Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme” to benefit more than 4 Cr Scheduled Caste (SC) students in the next 5 years and approved a total investment of over Rs 59,000 Cr for the purpose. The percentage of students benefiting from the post-metric scholarship has risen to 23% from 17% in 2014-15. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved “Rs 59,000 Cr” for “Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme” to benefit ‘Scheduled Caste’ students
- Students benefiting from the post-metric scholarship rose to – 23% in 2020 (from 17% in 2014-15)



12. On December 26, the Income Tax department has introduced a new initiative called, “Jhatpat Processing” to smoothen the ITR filing experience for taxpayers. “Jhatpat Processing” has started for ITR1 and ITR4. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Income Tax dept – introduced “Jhatpat Processing” initiative to smoothen the ITR filing experience for ITR1 & ITR4
- HQs of Income Tax department – New Delhi | Executive – Pramod Chandra Modi

13. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched the flagship programme of Navaratnalu “Pedalandariki Illu” (Housing for the poor) at Komaragiri layout of Pithapuram Assembly constituency in East Godavari district. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – launched Navaratnalu “Pedalandariki Illu” (Housing for the poor) flagship programme
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

14. The Jharkhand cabinet has approved a “Farm Loan Waiver” scheme with a total budget of Rs 2,000 Cr. The loan waiver scheme will give relief to 7.83 lakh farmers in the state. In addition to this, Rs 50,000 will be waived for 1.24 lakh farmers. For each farmer, the capping is at Rs 50,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jharkhand – approved a “Farm Loan Waiver” scheme (Total budget of – Rs 2,000 Cr)
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Draupadi Murmu

15. On December 29, Jharkhand has replaced the central government's Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) with its own crop relief scheme “Kisan Fasal Rahat Yojana”. The scheme will take 3 months to come into effect. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jharkhand – launched “Kisan Fasal Rahat Yojana” crop relief scheme (by replacing government’s PMFBY)
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Draupadi Murmu



Sports & Games

1. Spanish tennis player Enrique Lopez Perez has been banned from the sport for eight years by the Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU) for his involvement in match-fixing activities in three separate instances in 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Enrique Lopez Perez (Spain-Tennis) – banned for 8 years – by Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU)
- Spain – Madrid – Euro | PM – Pedro Sanchez

2. France's Stephanie Frappart will become the first woman to referee a men's UEFA Champions League match. The 36-year-old has already made history as the first woman to referee in the French top flight and took charge of the 2019 UEFA Super Cup. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Stephanie Frappart (France) – became the first woman to referee a men's UEFA Champions League
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | New PM – Jean Castex

3. Japan will host the 18th Edition of FIFA Club World Cup in 2021, as per the announcement made by FIFA president Gianni Infantino. Japan has hosted the Club World Cup eight times before, most recently in 2016. Qatar is hosting the 2020 edition between February 1 and 11. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Japan – will host the 18th Edition of FIFA Club World Cup in 2021
- HQs of FIFA – Zurich, Switzerland | President – Gianni Infantino
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

4. The 29-year-old, Corey Anderson has retired from International Cricket and signed a three-year deal with USA's Major League Cricket (MLC). He has played 13 Tests, 49 ODIs and 31 T20Is for New Zealand. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Corey Anderson (New Zealand) – retired from International Cricket
- New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar (NZD) | PM – Jacinda Ardern



5. Kenya's Kibiwott Kandie has smashed the half marathon world record by 29 seconds, becoming the first person to break 58 minutes at the Valencia Half Marathon. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kibiwott Kandie (Kenya) – smashed the half marathon world record
- [Kenya – Nairobi – Kenyan Shilling](#)

6. Jehan Daruvala has created history when he became the first Indian to win a Formula 2 race during the Sakhir Grand Prix. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jehan Daruvala (India) – became the first Indian to win a Formula 2 race during the “Sakhir Grand Prix”
- Team – Carlin Motorsport

7. A Swedish pole vaulter Armand 'Mondo' Duplantis was named the male Athlete of the Year, while Venezuelan triple jumper Yulimar Rojas won the women's title at athletics' annual awards ceremony. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Armand 'Mondo' Duplantis (Sweden - Pole Vaulter) – named the male “Athlete of the Year-2020”
- Yulimar Rojas (Venezuela - Triple Jumper) – named the female “Athlete of the Year-2020”

8. A wicketkeeper-batsman Parthiv Patel announced his retirement from all forms of Cricket. Parthiv, 35, has featured in 25 Tests, 38 ODIs and a couple of T20Is for India. In domestic cricket, he featured in 194 first-class matches for Gujarat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Parthiv Patel (Gujarat) – retired from all forms of Cricket

9. Breakdance has become an official Olympic sport and will make its debut at 2024 Paris Games. Breakdancing will be called ‘Breaking’ at the Olympics, as it was in the 1970s by hip-hop pioneers in the United States. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Breakdance’ or ‘Breaking’ – became an official Olympic sport & to make its debut at 2024 Paris Games
- 2024 Summer Olympics – to be held in Paris, France



10. Virat Kohli has become the first Indian skipper to win a T20I series in SENA countries - South Africa, England, New Zealand, and Australia. The Indian skipper also became the only international captain to clinch a series (more than one match) across all formats in Australia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Virat Kohli – became the first Indian skipper to win a T20I series in SENA countries
- SENA countries – South Africa, England, New Zealand, and Australia

11. Italian club Napoli has renamed its stadium in honour of former captain Diego Armando Maradona. The Naples city council unanimously approved the change of name from “Stadio San Paolo” to “Stadio Diego Armando Maradona”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S.S.C. Napoli FC (Italy) – renamed its stadium in honour of former captain ‘Diego Maradona’ (Argentina)
- From “Stadio San Paolo” – to “Stadio Diego Armando Maradona”

12. Former world champion Marina Arzamasova of Belarus received a 4-year ban for doping after her defense that she had taken contaminated over-the-counter supplements was rejected. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Marina Arzamasova (Belarus) – an Athletic (Middle-distance Runner) – banned for 4 years
- Belarus – Minsk – Ruble | PM – Siarhiey Rumas

13. Sergio Perez has won “Sakhir Grand Prix” title, his first Formula One career win in his 190th race. While Renault's Esteban Ocon took second place with Lance Stroll finishing third. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sergio Perez – won “Sakhir Grand Prix” title (F1)
- Sergio Perez (Mexico) – ‘Racing Point’ Team

14. As per the original schedule, the Asia Cup 2020 was to be hosted by Pakistan in August-September but couldn't take place due to COVID-19 pandemic. Sri Lanka will host the Asia Cup in June 2021 while Pakistan has earned the rights to host the event a year after in 2022. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Sri Lanka – to host the Asia Cup in June 2021 | Pakistan – to host the Asia Cup in 2022
- Asia Cup is associated with – Cricket
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

15. Madagascar has replaced Maldives as the host of the 2023 Indian Ocean Island Games due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic. The decision came as a result of the challenges Maldives is facing in organising the event during the coronavirus crisis. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madagascar – replaced Maldives as the host of the “Indian Ocean Island Games-2023”
- Madagascar – Antananarivo – Malagasy Ariary
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

16. Bala Devi (Ngangom Bala Devi) created history by becoming the first Indian woman to score in a professional European football league, when she scored against Motherwell for Rangers FC. She also became the first Indian woman to sign a professional football contract overseas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bala Devi – became the first Indian woman to score in a professional European Football League
- Bala Devi (Football) – plays for Rangers W.F.C Team

17. During the 10th Global Sports Summit “TURF 2020”, organised by FICCI on December 8, Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has announced that the government will start 1000 Khelo India centres in the country to provide employment to Retired Sportspersons. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 10th Global Sports Summit “TURF 2020” – organised by FICCI
- Government will start 1000 Khelo India centres in India to provide Employment to Retired Sportspersons
- Sports Minister – Kiren Rijiju | Constituency – Arunachal West
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Uday Shankar



18. Max Verstappen has won the 2020 Formula One “Abu Dhabi Grand Prix”. Max Verstappen led every lap of what turned out to be a processional race to cross the line 15.9 seconds ahead of Mercedes pair Valtteri Bottas and Lewis Hamilton. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Max Verstappen – won the 2020 F1 “Abu Dhabi Grand Prix”
- Max Verstappen (Belgium) – Red Bull

19. International Hockey Federation (FIH) President Narinder Batra has stated that Rourkela has been selected as the second venue for “2023 FIH Men’s Hockey World Cup” besides Bhubaneswar in Odisha. India has previously hosted 2018 Men’s Hockey World Cup. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Venue for “2023 FIH Men’s Hockey World Cup” = Rourkela + Bhubaneswar (both in Odisha)
- HQs of FIH – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Narinder Batra | CEO – Thierry Weil

20. On December 13, Junior Asian champion Yash Vardhan has clinched the 10m air rifle event at the 6th International Online Shooting Championship (IOSC). The 17-year-old shot a score of 251.9 to lift the title with a margin of 1.2 points. The IOSC organised by former Indian shooter Shimon Sharif saw participation of shooters from around 20 different countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yash Vardhan (Shooting) – won Gold in 10m air rifle event at the 6th International Online Shooting Championship
- Silver – Martin Stempf (Austria) | Bronze – Oleksandr Halkin (Ukraine)

21. Guwahati is all set to organise the 1st Northeast MTB (Mountain Terrain Bike) Championship. The event will be held at Basistha in Guwahati. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Guwahati – organised the 1st Northeast MTB (Mountain Terrain Bike) Championship
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi



22. India's Ankita Raina and Ekaterine Gorgodze of Georgia has won the Doubles Title in the ITF Women's Tennis Tournament. Ankita Raina has now ranked No.180 on the WTA in the women's singles competition. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ankita Raina (India) & Ekaterine Gorgodze (Georgia) – won Doubles Title in the “ITF Women's Tennis Tournament”
- HQs of ITF – London, UK | President – David Haggerty

23. According to the International Cricket Council, the rescheduled Women's 50-over World Cup in New Zealand will start on March 4, 2022 with the final to be held on April 3. The tournament was originally scheduled for February-March next year but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICC Women's ODI World Cup 2022 – in New Zealand (March 4, 2022)
- New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar (NZD)

24. Four-time African badminton champion Kate Foo Kune was banned for 2 years in a doping case by the World Badminton Federation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kate Foo Kune (Badminton- Mauritius) – banned for 2 years – by the World Badminton Federation
- Mauritius – Port Louis – Mauritian rupee | PM – Pravind Kumar Jugnauth

25. The 39th Olympic Council of Asia's General Assembly was recently held on December 16. Doha (Qatar) will host “Asian Games-2030” and Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) will host in 2034. Qatar will also host the 2022 FIFA Football World Cup. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 39th Olympic Council of Asia's General Assembly – held on December 16
- Qatar – will host “Asian Games-2030” | Saudi Arabia – will host “Asian Games-2034”
- Qatar will also host – “FIFA Football World Cup-2022”
- Qatar – Doha – Riyal | PM – Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani
- Saudi Arab – Riyadh – Saudi Riyal



26. Jaffna Stallions has defeated Galle Gladiators by 53 runs in the inaugural season of the final of T20 Lanka Premier League (LPL) 2020 to lift the trophy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jaffna Stallions – won the inaugural season of the “T20 Lanka Premier League 2020”

27. All India Football Federation (AIFF) has formally announced its candidature to host the “AFC Asian Cup-2027”. AIFF president Praful Patel and sports minister Kiren Rijiju formally launched the bid for the 2027 AFC Asian Cup in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIFF – announced its candidature to host the “AFC Asian Cup-2027”
- HQs of AIFF – Dwarka, Delhi | President – Praful Patel

28. Ministry of AYUSH & Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports have recently announced in a joint press conference to work at establishing ‘Yogasana’ as a competitive sports globally. Now, Yogasana will be a competitive sport in the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sports Ministry + AYUSH ministry formally recognised “Yogasana” as a Competitive sport in India
- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports – Kiren Rijiju (Constituency – Arunachal West)
- MoS of AYUSH – Shripad Yesso Naik | Constituency – North Goa

29. Pakistan fast bowler Mohammad Amir has decided to quit international cricket alleging 'mental torture' from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). Amir had announced retirement from Test cricket last year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mohammad Amir (Pakistan) – announced retirement – from International Cricket
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi

30. Russia has been banned from using its name, flag and anthem at the next 2 Olympics or at any world championships for the next 2 years. The Court of Arbitration for Sport has also blocked Russia from bidding to host major sporting events for 2 years. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Russia – banned from using its name, flag & anthem at the Olympics or at any world championships – for next 2 years
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

31. Young Indian woman wrestler Anshu Malik has won a silver medal at the “Wrestling Individual World Cup” at Belgrade, Serbia in the 57kg category. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anshu Malik – won a silver medal at the “Wrestling Individual World Cup” at Belgrade, Serbia
- Serbia – Belgrade – Serbian Dinar

32. The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) has banned Mauritian badminton player ‘Kate Jessica Foo Kune’ for 2 years for an anti-doping violation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kate Jessica Foo Kune (Mauritius-Badminton) – banned for 2 years by the CAS
- HQs of CAS – Lausanne, Switzerland

33. On December 20, former Tamil Nadu and Chennai Super Kings pacer Vijaykumar Yo Mahesh, popularly known as Yomi, has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vijaykumar Yo Mahesh (Yomi) – announced his retirement from Cricket (former Tamil Nadu & CSK pacer)
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

34. Indian boxers have bagged total 9 medals including 3 Gold, 2 Silver and 4 Bronze at the Cologne Boxing World Cup held in Koln, Germany from December 16-20. The 3 gold medals were bagged by Amit Panghal, Manisha Moun and Simranjit Kaur. India has ended up at 2nd position in the total medal tally. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian boxers – bagged 9 medals (3 Gold + 2 Silver + 4 Bronze) – at the “Cologne Boxing World Cup” in Koln, Germany
- 3 Gold = Amit Panghal, Manisha Moun & Simranjit Kaur (Boxers) | India – stood at 2nd position in medal tally



35. The Sports Ministry has approved the inclusion of 4 indigenous sports, including Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang-Ta and Mallakhamba in the Khelo India Youth Games 2021, scheduled to take place in Haryana. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Sports Ministry – approved the inclusion of 4 indigenous sports in “Khelo India Youth Games 2021” in Haryana
- 4 indigenous sports: Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang-Ta & Mallakhamba
- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports – Kiren Rijju (Constituency – Arunachal West)

36. On December 21, Egyptian tennis player Mostafa Hatem was banned for 2 years by the Tennis Integrity Unit as part of a match-fixing case. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mostafa Hatem (Egypt - Tennis) – banned for 2 years by the Tennis Integrity Unit
- Egypt – Cairo – Egyptian Pound | President – Abdel Fattah el-Sisi

37. Indonesia has been announced as the host for the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) Asia Cup in 2021. The best 16 men's teams from Asia and Oceania are set to contest the FIBA Asia Cup from August 16 to 28, 2021. Indonesia is also due to co-host the 2023 FIBA Basketball World Cup alongside Japan and the Philippines. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indonesia – to host “FIBA Asia Cup 2021”
- Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah | President – Joko Widodo
- HQs of FIBA – Mies, Switzerland | President – Hamane Niang

38. Bengaluru FC captain Sunil Chhetri has become the 1st Indian and overall 2nd player to complete 50 goal contributions in Indian Super League's (ISL) short history. Former FC Goa striker Ferran Corominas was the first player ever to breach the 50 goal contribution-mark in ISL. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sunil Chhetri – became the 1st Indian player to complete 50 goal contributions in Indian Super League's (ISL)
- Sunil Chhetri (Football) – Bengaluru FC captain



39. Tamil Nadu government has granted permission to hold Jallikattu event, with certain restrictions. The number of players should be not to be more than 150 at an event. Jallikkattu is a traditional bull taming sport in Tamil Nadu and it is conducted during the Pongal festival. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – granted permission to hold “Jallikattu” - a traditional bull taming sport
- Number of maximum players – 150 | It is conducted during – Pongal festival
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

40. On December 24, the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) has imposed a two-year ban on basketball player Satnam Singh Bhamara for doping. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Satnam Singh Bhamara – a Basketball player – banned for 2 years by NADA
- HQs of NADA – New Delhi | CEO – Navin Agarwal

41. FIFA has canceled the Under-17 and Under-20 World Cups scheduled for 2021 due to the pandemic. The next editions are now due to be staged in 2023, with Indonesia still hosting the U20s and Peru the U17s. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “FIFA Under-17 World Cup-2021” – to take place in 2023 – in Peru
- “FIFA Under-20 World Cup-2021” – to take place in 2023 – in Indonesia
- HQs of FIFA – Zurich, Switzerland | President – Gianni Infantino

42. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has announced that India’s biggest Hockey stadium will come up at Rourkela with 20,000-capacity facility. It will host matches of FIH men’s World Cup in 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s biggest Hockey stadium – to come up at Rourkela, Odisha
- Venue for “2023 FIH Men’s Hockey World Cup” = Rourkela + Bhubaneswar (both in Odisha)
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal



43. Uzbekistan's Temur Ismailov has been banned for 7 years from tennis after being found guilty of match-fixing by the Tennis Integrity Unit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Temur Ismailov (Uzbekistan - Tennis) – banned for 7 years – by the Tennis Integrity Unit
- Uzbekistan – Tashkent – So'm
- HQs of TIU – London, UK | CEO – Jonny Gray

44. Russian doubles badminton player Nikita Khakimov has received a 5-year ban by the Badminton World Federation (BWF) after being found guilty of betting, wagering and irregular match results. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nikita Khakimov (Russia)– a Badminton player – banned for 5 years by BWF
- HQs of BWF – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | President – Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen

45. The BCCI has given approval to a 10-team Indian Premier League (IPL) during its Annual General Body Meeting but it will only materialise in 2022 instead of 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BCCI gave approval to a 10-team IPL from 2022 (instead 2021)
- HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sourav Ganguly | Founded in – 1928

46. The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) has imposed a 4-year ban on boxer Nishu for doping. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nishu – a Boxer – banned for 4 years by NADA
- HQs of NADA – New Delhi | CEO – Navin Agarwal

47. Goa's 14-year-old Leon Mendonca has become India's 67th chess Grandmaster by winning the third and final norm at a tournament in Italy. The player achieved his first GM norm at the Rigo Chess GM Round Robin in October while the second came in Budapest in November and the final one at the Vergani Cup in Italy. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Leon Mendonca (Goa) – become India’s 67th chess Grandmaster – at the Vergani Cup in Italy
- “Vergani Cup” – related to Chess
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

48. Italian cyclist Riccardo Ricco has been banned for life time by the National Anti-Doping Agency. He had already been handed a 12-year ban that was due to expire in 2024. He was also thrown off the Tour de France in 2008 for taking a blood-boosting drug. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Riccardo Ricco (Cyclist - Italy) – banned for life time by the National Anti-Doping Agency
- Italy – Rome – Euro | PM – Giuseppe Conte



Important Days & Dates

1. The 56th Raising Day of the Border Security Force (BSF) was recently observed on December 1. The BSF has always lived up to its motto "Duty Unto Death" (Jeevan Paryant Kartavya). The BSF was officially raised in accordance with an Act of the Indian Parliament on December 1, 1965, soon after the India-Pakistan War of 1965. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 1 – 56th "Raising Day" of the Border Security Force (BSF) (raised in 1965)
- Motto: "Duty Unto Death" (Jeevan Paryant Kartavya)
- HQs of BSF – New Delhi | Director General (DG) – Rakesh Asthana

2. "World AIDS Day" was observed on December 1. This year, the theme is "Ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic: resilience and impact". The 2020 global target is to achieve reduction in new HIV infections and AIDS deaths below 500,000 in a year. In 2019, we had 690,000 AIDS deaths worldwide. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 1 – World AIDS Day
- Theme – "Ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic: resilience and impact"

3. Nagaland has observed its 58th foundation day on December 1, 2020. The state was established in 1963. The government is launching the 21st edition of its annual Hornbill Festival 2020 on virtual platform to boost the industry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 1– 58th foundation day of Nagaland (Establishment year - 1963)
- 21st edition of Hornbill Festival – launched by Nagaland
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Ravindra Narayana Ravi

4. Every year, the "World Computer Literacy Day" is observed on December 2 to create awareness and drive digital literacy in underserved communities worldwide. The day was originally founded by the Indian computer company NIIT. This year mark its 20th anniversary. However, it was first observed in the year 2001 on December 2. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 2 – 20th anniversary of "World Computer Literacy Day" – since 2001



5. “National Pollution Control Day” is observed in India every year on 2 December to raise awareness about the problems of increasing pollution and to commemorate the thousands of people who lost their lives in the Bhopal Gas Tragedy in 1984. This year, the theme was “Raise awareness about the importance of pollution control and educate people on how to prevent pollution.” [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 2 – “National Pollution Control Day”
- Theme – “Raise awareness about the importance of pollution control and educate people on how to prevent pollution”

6. The UN’s International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is observed every year on December 2, all over the world since 1986 to raise awareness about slavery and put an end to all kinds of slavery. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 2 – UN’s International Day for the Abolition of Slavery – since 1986

7. “International Day of Persons with Disabilities” (IDPD), also called “World Disability Day” is observed annually on December 3. This year, the theme is “Building back better: towards an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID-19 world by, for and with persons with disabilities”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 3 – “International Day of Persons with Disabilities” or “World Disability Day”
- Theme – “Building back better: towards an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID-19 world by, for and with persons with disabilities”

8. On the 36th anniversary of the 1984 Bhopal Gas Tragedy on December 3, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced to build a memorial for Bhopal gas tragedy victims. He also announced resumption of pension of Rs 1,000 forthwith for the women who lost their husbands in the toxic gas leak. Methyl isocyanate (CH₃NCO) gas was responsible for Bhopal Gas Tragedy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 3 – 36th anniversary of the 1984 Bhopal Gas Tragedy
- Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced to build a memorial for – Bhopal Gas Tragedy Victims – in Madhya Pradesh
- Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced resumption of pension of Rs 1,000 forthwith for the women (wives of victims)
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel



9. The 136th Birth Anniversary of Dr Rajendra Prasad - the first President of India - was observed on December 3. Dr Rajendra Prasad was a teacher, lawyer, freedom fighter and finally the president. He was born in Siwan district of Bihar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 3 – 136th Birth Anniversary of Dr Rajendra Prasad (the first President of India)
- He was born – in Siwan, Bihar

10. Indian Navy day is observed on December 4 every year to commemorate the launch of ‘Operation Trident’ against Pakistan during the 1971 Indo-Pak War. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the victory in the 1971 war “Swarnim Vijay Varsh”. This year, the theme was “Indian Navy Combat Ready, Credible & Cohesive”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 4 – “Indian Navy day” – to commemorate the launch of ‘Operation Trident’ against Pakistan
- 50th Anniversary of the victory in the 1971 war “Swarnim Vijay Varsh”
- Theme – “Indian Navy Combat Ready, Credible & Cohesive”

11. Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu has virtually released a commemorative postage stamp in honour of 12th Prime Minister of India “I. K. Gujral” to mark his 101st birth anniversary on December 4, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. Venkaiah Naidu released a commemorative postage stamp in honour of I. K. Gujral’s 101st birth anniversary
- He was the 12th Prime Minister of India

12. 4 December 2020 marks the first International Day of Banks. The day was celebrated by the United Nations to recognise the vital role of the banking systems in Member States in contributing to the improvement of the standard of living. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 4 – 1st ever “International Day of Banks” – by the UN
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Director – Antonio Guterres



13. International Volunteers Day (IVD) is observed internationally on December 5 every year. The UN General Assembly has mandated the day in 1985. This year, the theme was “Together We Can Through Volunteering”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 5 – International Volunteers Day – by the UNGA – since 1985
- Theme – “Together We Can Through Volunteering”
- HQs of UNGA – NewYork, USA | President – Volkan Bozkır

14. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has inaugurated the 63rd Founding Day Celebrations of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) on December 4. On the occasion, Bravery Awards were conferred upon Najimudheen T S of DRI Cochin Zonal Unit and Sumer Sen, an independent witness of a case booked by DRI, Jaipur. [{Read more}](#)[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 4 – 63rd Founding Day of DRI – inaugurated by Nirmala Sitharaman
- “Bravery Awards” conferred upon – Najimudheen T S & Sumer Sen

15. India has been observing December 7 as the Armed Forces Flag Day since 1949 to honour those soldiers who valiantly fought on the borders to safeguard the country's honour. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh stated that Indian government will celebrate the month of December as “Gaurav Maah” (Pride Month) to honour the contributions of the armed forces and their veterans to the nation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 7 – “Armed Forces Flag Day” – since 1949
- Indian government to celebrate “December” month as “Gaurav Maah” (Pride Month)

16. “International Civil Aviation Day” is observed on December 7th every year to reinforce awareness of the role and importance of International Civil Aviation Organisation in air travel across the globe. This year, the theme was “Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 7 – “International Civil Aviation Day” – since 1994
- Theme – “Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development” (valid till 2023)



17. “SAARC Charter Day” is observed annually on 8th December. The day marks the signing of the SAARC Charter in 1985 by the Leaders of SAARC Countries at the First SAARC Summit held in Dhaka. This year marks the 36th edition of SAARC Charter Day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 8 – 36th “SAARC Charter Day” | Signing of the SAARC Charter in – 1985
- HQs of SAARC – Kathmandu, Nepal | Secretary Generals – Amjad Hussain B Sial

18. Army Service Corps (ASC) has celebrated its 260th Corps Day on December 8, 2020 at Headquarters Western Command Chandimandir, Haryana. The solemn occasion was marked by wreath laying ceremony at “Veer Smriti”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 8 – 260th Corps Day or Raising Day – celebrated by Army Service Corps (ASC)
- It was celebrated at – Western Command Chandimandir, Haryana
- Major General of Army Service Corps Western Command – Harsh Chhibber
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – SK Saini

19. The Western Naval Command of the Indian Navy observed the 53rd Submarine Day on December 8, 2020. The 53rd Submarine Day commemorates the maiden unfurling of the naval ensign on the erstwhile INS Kalvari at Riga, Latvia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 8 – 53rd Submarine Day – observed by Western Naval Command
- The first submarine of Indian Navy – INS Kalvari
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

20. The UN’s “International Anti Corruption Day” is observed on December 9 in order for us to put our thoughts and actions in preventing corruption in various organisations and institutions around the world. According to the United Nations, the theme for the year 2020 is “Recover with integrity”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 9 – The 15th “International Anti Corruption Day” - by UN
- Theme – “Recover with integrity”



21. “The International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime” or “UN International Day of Victims of Genocide” is observed on December 9. The Genocide Convention was adopted in December 1948. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 9 – “UN International Day of Victims of Genocide”
- The Genocide Convention was adopted in – 1948 (2020 marks the 72nd anniversary of the adoption)

22. Every year December 5 is celebrated as “World Soil Day” to bring people’s focus and attention on the importance of healthy soil as well as stress on the importance of sustainable management of soil resources. The theme according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) campaign, is “Keep soil alive, protect soil biodiversity”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 5 – “World Soil Day”
- Theme – “Keep soil alive, protect soil biodiversity”

23. On December 6, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has paid tributes to the architect of the Constitution Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar on his 64th death anniversary which is observed as “Mahaparinirvan Diwas”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 6 – “Mahaparinirvan Diwas” (64th death anniversary of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar)

24. UN’s Human Rights Day is observed on December 10th every year. It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. This year's theme is “Recover Better - Stand Up for Human Rights”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 10 – UN’s Human Rights Day (adopted by UNGA in – 1948)
- Theme – “Recover Better - Stand Up for Human Rights”
- HQs of UNGA – NewYork, USA | President – Volkan Bozkir

25. The 193-member UN General Assembly has approved a resolution to observe December 27 as the “International Day of Epidemic Preparedness”. India welcomed the resolutions on International Day of Epidemic Preparedness and United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing 2021-2030 tabled in the General Assembly. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- December 27 – “International Day of Epidemic Preparedness” – approved by UNGA
- HQs of UNGA – New York, USA | President – Volkan Bozkir | Member Countries – 193

26. UNICEF (United Nations Children’s Fund) Day is observed every year on December 11. The United Nations General Assembly created UNICEF on December 11, 1946, as the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 11 – “UNICEF Day” or “United Nations Children’s Fund Day”
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, USA | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore | Established in – 1946

27. The “International Mountain Day” is celebrated on December 11 every year to encourage sustainable development in mountains. The day was announced by the United Nations General Assembly in 2003. “Mountain Biodiversity” is the theme of this year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 11 – The UN’s “International Mountain Day”
- Theme – “Mountain Biodiversity”
- HQs of UNGA – New York, USA | President – Vokan Bozkir | Member Countries – 193

28. “International Day of Neutrality” is observed by the United Nations on December 12 since 2017. Turkmenistan is recognized by the UN as a permanently neutral state since 12 December 1995. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 12 – “International Day of Neutrality” (since 2017)
- Turkmenistan – the only country to get recognised by the UN as a permanently Neutral State
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Director – Antonio Guterres
- Turkmenistan – Ashgabat – Manat



29. International Universal Health Coverage Day (UHC Day) was recently observed on December 12, 2020. This year, the theme was “Health for All: Protect Everyone”. On 12 December 2017, the United Nations proclaimed 12 December as UHC Day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 12 – International Universal Health Coverage Day (UHC Day)
- Theme – “Health for All: Protect Everyone”
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Director – Antonio Guterres

30. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has celebrated December 14 as the “National Energy Conservation Day” to showcase India’s contribution to energy conservation and steps taken towards becoming an energy-efficient nation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 14 – “National Energy Conservation Day” – celebrated by BEE
- HQs of BEE – New Delhi | Director General – Abhay Bakre

31. “International Tea Day” is being observed on December 15 in many countries including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Vietnam, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Uganda, India and Tanzania. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 15 – “International Tea Day”

32. “Vijay Diwas” or “Victory Day” is celebrated in India every year on December 16 to commemorate the victory of the Indian armed forces over Pakistan in the 1971 Indo-Pak War, also known as the Bangladesh Liberation War. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 16 – 49th “Vijay Diwas” or “Victory Day”
- To commemorate the victory of the Indian armed forces over Pakistan in the “1971 Indo-Pak War”

33. The youth wing of Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) has celebrated “Losar” festival in Leh on December 15. “Losar” is celebrated to mark the beginning of the new year of the Buddhist community. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 15 – Ladakhi New year “Losar” in Leh – celebrated by Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA)
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur



34. The Minorities Rights Day is observed in India every year on December 18 by the National Commission for Minorities (NCM). The NCM was established under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. And Ministry of Minority Affairs was set up in India in 2006. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 18 – “Minorities Rights Day” – by the National Commission for Minorities (NCM)
- Ministry of Minority Affairs – Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi (Constituency – Jharkhand) | Set up in – 2006

35. Every year, December 18 is celebrated as “International Migrants Day” by the United Nations. The day was appointed by the General Assembly of United Nations on December 4, 2000. This year, the theme is “Reimagining Human Mobility”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 18 – “International Migrants Day” – by UNGA since 2000
- Theme – “Reimagining Human Mobility”

36. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) observes December 18 as the “World Arabic Language Day” every year, honouring a language that is spoken by more than 290 million people around the world. This year, the theme is “Arabic Language Academies: Necessity of Luxury?” [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 18 – “World Arabic Language Day” – by UNESCO
- Theme – “Arabic Language Academies: Necessity of Luxury?”
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay

37. Bangladesh has observed the “Martyred Intellectuals Day” on 14 December to mark the day of brutality when Pakistani forces killed hundreds of intellectuals including teachers, doctors, journalists and others in Dhaka and other parts of Bangladesh in 1971. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 14 – “Martyred Intellectuals Day” – observed by Bangladesh
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid



38. “Goa Liberation Day” is observed on December 19 every year in India and it marks the day Indian armed forces freed Goa in 1961 following 450 years of Portuguese rule. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 19 – “Goa Liberation Day”
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

39. National Mathematics Day is celebrated every year on December 22, honouring the birth anniversary of mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan. This year marks his 125th birth anniversary and it was first observed in 2012. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 22 – National Mathematics Day (125th birth anniversary of mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan)

40. “Kisan Diwas” or “National Farmers Day” is observed every year on December 23 across the country to praise the farmers. The day was chosen to honour the birth anniversary of the 5th Prime Minister of India, Choudhary Charan Singh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 23 – “Kisan Diwas” or “National Farmers Day”
- To honour the birth anniversary of – Choudhary Charan Singh (5th PM of India)

41. In India, the “National Consumer Rights Day” is observed every year on December 24 to spread awareness to about consumer importance, their rights, and responsibilities. On December 24, 1986, the Consumer Protection Act 1986 received the approval of the President of India and came into force. This year, the theme is “The Sustainable Consumer”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 24 – National Consumer Rights Day (the Consumer Protection Act 1986)
- Theme – "The Sustainable Consumer"

42. The government has observed the 7th “Good Governance Day” on December 25 to mark the 92nd birth anniversary of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 25 – 7th “Good Governance Day” (92nd birthday of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee)



43. “Good Governance Day” is observed annually on December 25 since 2014. The day aims to let the citizens, the students, who are the future of the country, know about the government's responsibilities and duties that it needs to fulfill. The day is also celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of India's former Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The Birth Anniversary of Madan Mohan Malaviya was also observed on 25 December. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 25 – “Good Governance Day” – since 2014
- To commemorate the birth anniversary of – Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- December 25 – Birth Anniversary of Madan Mohan Malaviya (One of the founders of Banaras Hindu University)

44. On Vaikuntha Ekadashi Tithi, devotees celebrate Gita Jayanti, i.e., the birth anniversary of the holy Shrimad Bhagavad Gita. This year, “Gita Jayanti” was celebrated on December 25. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 25 – “Gita Jayanti-2020”



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The Question Bank



Meetings, Conferences and Summits

1. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has virtually addressed the 20th Edition of Sri Lanka Economic Summit (SLES) 2020. The theme for this year's event is "Roadmap for Take-off: Driving a People – Centric Economic Revival". SLES was organized by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman addressed – the 20th Edition of "Sri Lanka Economic Summit (SLES) 2020"
- Theme – "Roadmap for Take-off: Driving a People – Centric Economic Revival"

2. Prakash Javadekar has represented India at the "Industry Transition Leadership Summit-2020". The event was organised by Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT). LeadIT is launched by India and Sweden along with the World Economic Forum (WEF). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prakash Javadekar – represented India at the "Industry Transition Leadership Summit-2020"
- Prakash Javadekar – Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Ministry of Info. & Broadcasting
- Constituency – Maharashtra

3. The inaugural meeting of the Counternarcotics Working Group (CNWG) was held virtually between India & USA. During the meeting, India and the US agreed to enhance their collaboration on counternarcotics regulation and law enforcement. They also agreed to enhance their data sharing operations. The Indian delegation was led by Sachin Jain (Deputy Director General of Narcotics Control Bureau). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The inaugural meeting of the Counternarcotics Working Group (CNWG) – held between India & USA
- The Indian delegation was led by – Sachin Jain (Deputy DG of Narcotics Control Bureau)
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden
- HQs of NCB – New Delhi | Director General – Rakesh Asthana

4. Dr Harsh Vardhan has chaired the inaugural session of the "Health Talks" - annual conference of the India Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre under 'Sweden India Nobel memorial week'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan – chaired the inaugural session of the "Health Talks" - annual conference
- Under – 'Sweden India Nobel memorial week'
- Sweden – Stockholm – Krona



5. The 7th India-Suriname Joint Commission Meeting (JCM), was held virtually on December 2. The meeting was co-chaired by the Minister of State for External Affairs, V. Muraleedharan. It was agreed that the next JCM Meeting would be held in 2022 in Paramaribo, Suriname. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 7th India-Suriname Joint Commission Meeting – co-chaired by V. Muraleedharan
- The next JCM Meeting would be held – in 2022 in Paramaribo, Suriname
- [Suriname – Paramaribo – Dollar | President – Chandrikapersad 'Chan' Santokhi](#)

6. Shri Kiren Rijiju has attended the 6th BRICS Youth Summit and meeting of BRICS Ministers through a virtual programme. The summit was hosted under the theme “BRICS: Challenges of the Time for the Youth.” [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kiren Rijiju – attended the 6th BRICS Youth Summit
- Theme – “BRICS: Challenges of the Time for the Youth”
- [BRICS Member Countries – 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa](#)
- [Chairmanship of BRICS – Russia in 2020 & Indian in 2021](#)

7. Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan has addressed the 7th IEF-IGU (International Energy Forum-International Gas Union) Ministerial Gas Forum. The Forum was hosted by Malaysia. Gujarat has set an example with 25% share of natural gas in primary energy mix compared to 6.3% at national level. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dharmendra Pradhan represented India in the 7th IEF-IGU Ministerial Gas Forum – hosted by Malaysia
- Gujarat has set an example with 25% share of Natural Gas in Primary Energy Mix
- [Malaysia – Kuala Lumpur – Ringgit](#)
- [Dharmendra Pradhan – Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Minister of Steel \(Madhya Pradesh\)](#)

8. The 5th BRICS Media Forum was held virtually to coincide with the recently concluded BRICS summit. N. Ram (Director of The Hindu Publishing Group) has represented India in the virtual Forum. Representatives of media organisations from BRICS countries were called from the 5 nations to work together to jointly combat the “virus of disinformation” in the pandemic era. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:



- N. Ram (Director of The Hindu Publishing Group) – represented India in the 5th BRICS Media Forum
- BRICS Member Countries – 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
- Chairmanship of BRICS – Russia in 2020 & Indian in 2021

9. Union Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan has addressed the first virtual “Shanghai Cooperation Organisation - Young Scientist Conclave 2020” (SCO-YSC). The conclave was hosted by India. The conclave was held with a theme of “Shaping SCO-STI (Science, Technology and Innovation) Partnership: Young Scientists Perspectives”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan addressed the first virtual “SCO-YSC 2020” – hosted by India
- Theme – “Shaping SCO-STI (Science, Technology and Innovation) Partnership: Young Scientists Perspectives”
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare – Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Chandni Chowk, Delhi)

10. The 7th meeting of the India-Mongolia Joint Committee on Cooperation was held virtually on December 3. External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar has participated in this meeting. Both the countries acknowledged that this year has marked the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Mongolia. S. Jaishankar has virtually handed over 25 volumes of Mongolian Kanjur, the Buddhist canonical text in 108 volumes, printed by the Government of India under the ‘National Mission for Manuscripts’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 7th meeting of the India-Mongolia Joint Committee on Cooperation – participated by S. Jaishankar
- This year marked the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Mongolia
- India printed 25 volumes of ‘Kanjur’ - a Mongolian language
- Mongolia – Ulaanbaatar – Mongolian Togrog | President – Khaltmaagiin Battulga

11. The 7th edition of a 3-day virtual conclave on “Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) -2020” was kicked off in Hyderabad, Telangana from December 2-4, 2020. It was organised by UNICEF in collaboration with the 3 State governments and the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR). The theme of this year’s conclave is “Hygiene Matters”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 7th edition of 3-day virtual conclave on “Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) -2020” – started in Hyderabad



- Theme – “Hygiene Matters” | It was organised by – UNICEF
- 3 States participated – Telangana, Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka
- Target year to provide access of safe and adequate drinking water to all households – 2024
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, United States | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore

12. Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan has addressed 'Building Bridges for Constructive Development' at the 6th India-CLMV (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam) Business Conclave held from December 3-4. A Project Development Fund titled “PDF-CLMV Fund” with a corpus of Rs 500 Cr has been created by government of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- V Muraleedharan addressed – the 6th India-CLMV (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam) Business Conclave
- Ministry of External Affairs – Subrahmanyam Jaishankar | Constituency – Gujarat

13. Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Nityanand Rai has addressed the 4th South Asian Forum of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) - 2020. The gathering was virtually organised by UNESCAP & Maldives. The key objectives of the High Level meeting were to identify the opportunities and imperatives to overcome the challenges in implementing the systemic approach to disaster and public health risk management. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nityanand Rai – addressed the 4th South Asian Forum of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) - 2020
- Minister of Home Affairs – Shri Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- Minister of State for Home Affairs – Shri Nityanand Rai

14. Narendra Modi has delivered the keynote address at the “IIT-2020 Global Summit” on December 4. The theme of this year's summit, organised by the PanIIT USA is “The Future is Now”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – addressed the “IIT-2020 Global Summit” – organised by the PanIIT USA
- Theme – “The Future is Now”

15. The 6th Joint Working Group Meeting under the India-Japan ICT (Information, Communication and Technology) Comprehensive Cooperation Framework was held virtually on December 8. The India-Japan ICT



Comprehensive Cooperation Framework was set up almost 7 years ago to advance bilateral cooperation in the field of ICT. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India & Japan – held 6th Joint Working Group Meeting under the ICT Comprehensive Cooperation Framework
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

16. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed the 4th India Mobile Congress-2020 which was scheduled for 8th - 10th December virtually. The title theme for IMC 2020 is “Inclusive Innovation - Smart, Secure, Sustainable”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – addressed the 4th “India Mobile Congress-2020” – on 8th to 10th December
- Theme – “Inclusive Innovation - Smart, Secure, Sustainable”

17. Singapore will host the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Annual Meeting in May, 2021 to discuss the ongoing global issues. It will return to Davos, Switzerland for the Annual Meeting 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Singapore – to host the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Annual Meeting – 2021
- The WEF Annual Meeting 2022 – to be held in Davos, Switzerland
- HQs of WEF – Cologny, Switzerland | Executive Chairman & Founder – Klaus Schwab

18. Rajnath Singh has attended the 7th Asean Defence Ministers’ Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus) which includes the 10 members of Asean and its eight dialogue partners. This annual meeting was chaired this year by Vietnam. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh attended the 7th Asean Defence Ministers’ Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus) – chaired by Vietnam
- Chairmanship of ASEAN 2020 – Vietnam | Secretariat of ASEAN – Jakarta, Indonesia | Members – 10
- Vietnam – Hanoi – Vietnamese dong | PM – Nguyen Xuan Phuc

19. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) held the Curtain Raiser to announce the 26th edition of Technology Summit 2020 on December 1, 2020. Portugal is the



partner country this year. The 26th edition of India-Portugal Technology Summit 2020 was held over a digital platform from December 7-9 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 26th edition of DST-CII or India-Portugal Technology Summit 2020 – held from December 7-9
- Guest of Honour – Manuel Heitor (Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education of Portugal)
- Portugal – Lisbon – Euro | President – Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa

20. Partners in Population and Development (PPD), the United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA), and National Health Commission of China have jointly organized the 17th International Inter-Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development entitled “Nairobi Commitments and the 2030 Agenda: Taking stock and looking ahead in post COVID-19 crisis”. The India was represented by Union Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 17th International Inter-Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development
- India was represented by – Dr. Harsh Vardhan

21. The TiE Hyderabad has hosted its largest ever and first virtual “The IndUS Entrepreneurs (TiE) Global Summit-2020” from December 8. The summit was inaugurated by M Venkaiah Naidu. The summit was based on the theme “Entrepreneurship 360” and was focused on issues faced by entrepreneurs and on providing a platform for funding. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated world’s largest ever “The IndUS Entrepreneurs (TiE) Global Summit-2020”
- It was hosted by – TiE Hyderabad | Theme of the Summit – “Entrepreneurship 360”

22. India and Nepal have held the 8th meeting of Joint Steering Committee (JSC) on cooperation in the Power sector through video conference in December 2020. The meeting was chaired by Sanjiv Nandan Sahai (Power Secretary of India). The JSC is an apex bilateral mechanism set up by both nations to enhance and coordinating various government-to-government led initiatives in the power sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Nepal = held the 8th meeting of Joint Steering Committee (JSC) on cooperation in the Power sector
- Meeting was chaired by – Sanjiv Nandan Sahai (Power Secretary of India)

- 900MW Arun-III Hydro Electric Project – Nepal
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari

23. The 5th India-Myanmar Bilateral Meeting on Drug Control Cooperation between the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), India and the Central Committee on Drug Abuse Control, Myanmar was held virtually on 10th December, 2020. The Indian delegation was led by the Director General Narcotics Control Bureau, Shri Rakesh Asthana. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 5th India-Myanmar Bilateral Meeting on Drug Control Cooperation – between India & Myanmar
- Indian delegation was led by – Shri Rakesh Asthana (DG of Narcotics Control Bureau)
- Myanmar – Naypyitaw – Kyat | President – Win Myint

24. The 5th round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) between India and Cyprus was held on December 10 virtually where both the countries have reviewed the cooperation in various fields including political, economic, consular and cultural areas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 5th round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) held between – India & Cyprus
- Cyprus – Nicosia – Euro | President – Nicos Anastasiades

25. Recently, the 5th India Water Impact Summit (IWIS) was held from 10th to 15th December 2020. It was organized by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and Center for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga). Theme of the summit is “Arth Ganga – river conservation synchronized development”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 5th India Water Impact Summit (IWIS) – held from December 10-15 – organised by NMCG + cGanga
- Theme – “Arth Ganga – river conservation synchronized development”

26. The 9th edition of the Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS) was held in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. The theme for this year is “Emerging Pathways for Building a Resilient Post COVID-19 Mountain Economy, Adaptation, Innovation and Acceleration”. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- The 9th edition of the Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS) was held in – Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

27. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed the “Climate Ambition Summit-2020” which is being hosted by the United Nations and United Kingdom to mark the 5th anniversary of the adoption of the Paris Agreement. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – addressed the “Climate Ambition Summit-2020” – hosted by UN + UK
- December 12 – 5th anniversary of the adoption of the Paris Agreement (adopted in 2015)
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Director – Antonio Guterres
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

28. The 1st Trilateral Working Group meeting between India, Iran and Uzbekistan on joint use of Chabahar Port was held virtually on December 14. The port is being developed by India, Iran and Afghanistan to boost trade ties among the three countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 1st Trilateral Working Group meeting – held between India, Iran and Uzbekistan
- Chabahar Port – located in Iran
- Iran – Tehran – Rial | President – Ali Khamenei
- Uzbekistan – Tashkent – So’m | President – Shavkat Mirziyoyev

29. The 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is scheduled to take place from 1–12 November 2021 in Glasgow, UK. as the scheduled meeting this year could not be organised due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It will be hosted by UK & co-hosted by Chile and Italy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 26th session of the COP 26 to the UNFCCC scheduled to take place from 1–12 Nov 2021 – in Glasgow, UK



- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

30. The Union Minister of State (IC) for Tourism & Culture Shri Prahlad Singh Patel has virtually inaugurated the ABTO (Association of Buddhist Tour Operators) International Convention. ABTO Convention a 3-day event is being held in partnership with Ministry of Tourism from 10-12 Dec 2020 in Bodhgaya, Bihar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Tourism – organised “ABTO International Convention” – in Bodhgaya, Bihar
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

31. Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar has stated that the 51st edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will be held from January 16 to 24 in Goa. A total of 224 films will be screened under different sections. The festival will be held in a hybrid format that will be both virtual and physical for the 1st time. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 51st edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) – to be held from January 16 to 24 – in Goa
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshiyari

32. India and the U.K. have agreed to set up a Joint Task Force consisting of designated Higher Education Organisations from both the countries to work towards mutual recognition of academic qualifications during a bilateral meeting between India & UK. The meeting was attended by Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ & Sanjay Dhotre. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + UK = to set up a Joint Task Force consisting of designated Higher Education Organisations
- Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ & Sanjay Dhotre – participated in the Bilateral meeting between India & UK
- Ministry of Education – Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ (Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)
- MoS for Ministry of Education – Sanjay Dhotre
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

33. M. Venkaiah Naidu has inaugurated the 12th GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment) Virtual Summit 2020. He has also launched the ‘SHASHWAT’ magazine and the book ‘30 Stories Beyond Buildings’ during the event. The theme of Summit is “Rejuvenating Resilient Habitats”. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- M. Venkaiah Naidu – inaugurated the 12th “GRIHA Virtual Summit 2020”
- Theme of the Summit – “Rejuvenating Resilient Habitats”
- M. Venkaiah Naidu – launched the book ‘30 Stories Beyond Buildings’ during the event

34. The 12th meeting of the “India-Australia Joint Working Group” on Counter-Terrorism was held virtually on 17th December, 2020 to discuss the ongoing counter-terrorism cooperation between the two countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 12th meeting of the “India-Australia Joint Working Group” on Counter-Terrorism held virtually on 17th December
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison](#)

35. The 3rd meeting of Joint Working Group (JWG) on shipping between India and Denmark was held on December 16, 2020 virtually. The delegation from Indian side was led by the Secretary of Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways - Dr. Sanjeev Ranjan. Both countries concluded the agreement for mutual cooperation between Gujarat Maritime University and Copenhagen Business School. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 3rd meeting of Joint Working Group (JWG) on shipping held between – India and Denmark
- Indian delegation led by – Dr. Sanjeev Ranjan
- Gujarat Maritime University + Copenhagen Business School = agreement for mutual cooperation
- [Denmark – Copenhagen – Danish krone](#)

36. The 4th Bilateral Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting between the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) India and the National Narcotics Board BNN, Indonesia was held on December 17. The Indian delegation was led by Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau, Rakesh Asthana. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 4th Bilateral Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting held between – India and Indonesia
- The Indian delegation was led by – Rakesh Asthana
- [HQs of NCB – New Delhi | Director General – Rakesh Asthana](#)



- Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah | President – Joko Widodo

37. PM Narendra Modi has accepted the invitation of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson to be part of the G7 meeting chaired by the UK in 2021, seeking to build a wider alliance against China's growing power. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi accepted the invitation to be part of “G7 meeting – 2021” – to be chaired by the UK
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson
- G7 member countries – US, UK, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Canada | Founded in – 1975

38. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has addressed the “Global Technology Summit-2020” organised by the Ministry of External Affairs and Carnegie India. The Theme of 2020 this summit is “Geopolitics of Technology”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S. Jaishankar – addressed the “Global Technology Summit-2020” | Theme – “Geopolitics of Technology”
- The summit is organised by = Ministry of External Affairs + Carnegie India

39. The Union Information and Broadcasting Minister, Prakash Javadekar has announced that India will hold a Global Media and Film Summit in 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – will hold a “Global Media and Film Summit in 2021”
- Prakash Javadekar – Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Constituency – Maharashtra)

40. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has delivered the inaugural address at 6th edition of India International Science Festival (IISF) 2020 on 22 December. The IISF was launched in the year 2015 as a celebration to promote science and technology. ‘Vigyan Yatra’ is a promotional activity of the IISF. This year the theme was “Science for Self-Reliant India and the Global Welfare”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – addressed the “India International Science Festival (IISF) 2020” | launched in – 2015
- ‘Vigyan Yatra’ – a promotional activity of the IISF
- Theme – “Science for Self-Reliant India and the Global Welfare”

41. On December 17, the Minister of State for Culture and Tourism, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel has chaired a meeting of the “National Museum Institute Society” in New Delhi to review the proposal of setting up an Indian Institute of Heritage. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prahlad Singh Patel – chaired a meeting of the “National Museum Institute Society” in New Delhi
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Bajjal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

42. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has proposed to create a library for traditional Buddhist literature and scriptures in his 6th Indo-Japan Samwad conference that was held virtually on December 21. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 6th Indo-Japan Samwad conference – held on December 21
- Narendra Modi – proposed to create a library for traditional Buddhist literature and scriptures

43. Indian Meteorological Society (IMS) in collaboration with North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC), Shillong, has organized a 4-day “Virtual Symposium on Tropical Meteorology” (TROPMET-2020) under the theme “Weather and Climate Services over Mountainous Regions” during 14-17 December. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Meteorological Society – organized a 4-day “Virtual Symposium on Tropical Meteorology” (TROPMET-2020)
- Theme – “Weather and Climate Services over Mountainous Regions”

44. The 51st Director General-level “Border Coordination Conference” between the Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) was held in Guwahati from December 22 to 26. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 51st DG-level “Border Coordination Conference” between = BSF (India) & BGB (Bangladesh) – in Guwahati
- HQs of BSF – New Delhi | Director General (DG) – Rakesh Asthana
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

45. On December 28, the Gender Park (Kerala) in partnership with UN Women, is organising the second edition of 3-day International Conference on Gender Equality (ICGE) at Kozhikode in February, 2021. It will be held in the Gender Parks Kozhikode campus. The focal theme is “Gender in Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Social Business: The Mediating Role of Empowerment”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:



- Gender Park (Kerala) + UN Women = to organise 2nd edition of “Int. Conference on Gender Equality” – in Feb, 2021
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan
- HQs of UN Women – New York, USA | Executive Director – Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

46. On December 30, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has chaired the 34th “Pragati” meeting and assessed projects worth around Rs1 lakh Cr in 10 states and Union territories. Modi has been holding such meetings since he became the Prime Minister in 2014. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – chaired the 34th “Pragati” meeting
- He assessed projects worth around Rs1 lakh Cr in 10 States & UTs



Arts & Cultural Affairs

1. Ladakh Lieutenant Governor R K Mathur has virtually inaugurated the 2nd edition of “Ladakh Literature Festival - 2020” in Leh. The three Day festival will host a series of talks, importance of the region, ancient knowledge of Ladakh, Folk music, cultural Dance, geology and wildlife of Himalayas and several interesting topics on YouTube and Facebook streaming. [{Read more}](#)

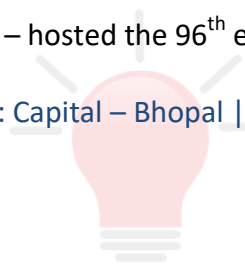
Key Points:

- R K Mathur – inaugurated the 2nd edition of “Ladakh Literature Festival - 2020” – in Leh
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur

2. Madhya Pradesh has hosted a 5-day music festival called “Tansen-Samaroh 2020” in its 96th edition from December 26 to December 30 in Gwalior. The event will be organised by the Madhya Pradesh, Department of Culture and Ustad Alauddin Khan Kala Evam Sangeet Academy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh – hosted the 96th edition of a 5-day music festival called “Tansen-Samaroh 2020”
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel



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The Question Bank



Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

1. Bollywood actor John Abraham has been named as the “Person of the Year for 2020” by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- John Abraham – named as the “Person of the Year for 2020” by PETA
- HQs of PETA – Virginia, USA | President – Ingrid Newkirk

2. Indian-American Gitanjali Rao (15 year-old), a brilliant young scientist and inventor, has been named by TIME magazine as the first-ever ‘Kid of the Year’ for her astonishing work using technology to tackle issues ranging from contaminated drinking water to opioid addiction and cyberbullying. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gitanjali Rao (Indian-American) – named the first-ever ‘Kid of the Year’ – by TIME magazine

3. A primary school teacher - Ranjitsinh Disale from Maharashtra’s Solapur district has been named the winner of the \$1 million annual “Global Teacher Prize 2020” by the Varkey Foundation. The award is given in recognition of his efforts to promote girls’ education and trigger a quick-response (QR) coded textbook revolution in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ranjitsinh Disale (Maharashtra) – named the winner of “Global Teacher Prize 2020” by the Varkey Foundation
- The award carries the prize of – \$1 million
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

4. The National Defence Academy (NDA) has instituted a trophy in the memory of Lieutenant Ummer Fayaz, an Army officer alumnus of the tri-services academy, who was kidnapped and killed by militants in May 2017 in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NDA instituted a trophy in the memory of Lt. Ummer Fayaz
- HQs of NDA – Pune, Maharashtra | Commandant – General Asit Mistry



5. President Donald Trump has awarded the “Medal of Freedom” to Lou Holtz in an Oval Office ceremony. He served as the head football coach of the University of Notre Dame and the University of South Carolina. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Donald Trump awarded the “Medal of Freedom” to – Lou Holtz (Former football coach from USA)
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden

6. British Indian journalist and author Anita Anand's book “The Patient Assassin: A True Tale of Massacre, Revenge and the Raj” has won a prestigious history-literary prize namely “PEN Hessell-Tiltman Prize for History 2020” in the UK. The prize carries the amount of £2,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Patient Assassin: A True Tale of Massacre, Revenge and the Raj” book – written by Anita Anand
- Her book won the “PEN Hessell-Tiltman Prize for History 2020” in the UK (Prize of £2,000)
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

7. Adar C. Poonawalla, the CEO of Serum Institute of India (SII), is among 6 people named “Asians of the Year” by Singapore's leading daily - The Straits Times for their work in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. SII has collaborated with Oxford University and AstraZeneca for making the COVID-19 vaccine. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Adar Poonawalla – is among 6 people named “Asians of the Year” by The Straits Times (Singapore)
- HQs of SII – Pune, Maharashtra | CEO – Adar C. Poonawalla

8. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has declared “Invest India” as winner of the United Nations Investment Promotion Award 2020. The award ceremony took place on Monday at the UNCTAD headquarters in Geneva. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNCTAD declared “Invest India” as winner of the “United Nations Investment Promotion Award 2020”
- HQs of UNCTAD – Geneva, Switzerland | UNCTAD Secretary-General – Mukhisa Kituyi



9. The historical fort cities of Gwalior and Orchha in Madhya Pradesh have been included in the list of UNESCOs World Heritage Cities under its 'Urban Landscape City' programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gwalior & Orchha (Madhya Pradesh) = included in the list of UNESCOs World Heritage Cities
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

10. Paul Sein Twa has been named the 'Asia winner' of the "Goldman Environmental Prize - 2020", also known as the "Green Nobel Prize" for grassroots activism. He has established a 1.35 million acre (546,300 hectares) peace park namely "Salween Peace Park" two years ago. This prize recognizes 6 grassroots environmental activists annually from each of the world's 6 continents. The remaining winners are mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Goldman Environmental Prize - 2020" or "Green Nobel Prize"
- Paul Sein Twa (Myanmar) – Asia winner
- Lucie Pinson (France) – Europe winner
- Chibeze Ezekiel (Ghana) – Africa winner
- Nemonte Nenquimo (Ecuador) – South & Central America winner
- Leydy Pech (Mexico) – Islands & Island Nations winner

11. Writer and chief editor of The Indian Express, Raj Kamal Jha has won the "Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2020" for his book, 'The City and the Sea'. Choreographer Sandip Soparrkar from India has received the Tagore Prize for Social Achievement. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Raj Kamal Jha – won the "Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2020" for his 'The City and the Sea' book
- Sandip Soparrkar + Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said = won the "Tagore Social Achievement Prize 2020"

12. India's agri-research body Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has won the prestigious "International King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award" from the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for raising awareness about importance of soil health among all stakeholders. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand will give the award to ICAR in an official ceremony to be held in Bangkok in January 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:



- ICAR – won the prestigious “International King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award” from the UNFAO
- HQs of ICAR – New Delhi | DG – Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra | President – Narendra Singh Tomar
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu | Formation – 16th October, 1945

13. Atanu Ghosh directed ‘Robibaar’ has bagged 2 prestigious awards at the “Madrid International Film Festival 2020”. The relationship drama has won the best Lead Actress for Jaya Ahsan and Best Original Screenplay in the Foreign Language Film category. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Robibaar’ (Bengali Film) – won 2 prestigious awards at the “Madrid International Film Festival 2020”
- The film is directed by – Atanu Ghosh

14. Wrestler Bajrang Punia and shooter Elavenil Valarivan have bagged the top honours “Sportsperson of the Year” in their respective categories at the “FICCI India Sports Awards 2020” held virtually this year owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bajrang Punia (Wrestler) & Elavenil Valarivan (Shooter) = top honours at “FICCI India Sports Awards 2020”
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Uday Shankar

15. On December 10, US President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris have been chosen as Time magazine’s “Person of the Year - 2020” Time’s magazine cover has a picture of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris with the subtitle “Changing America’s story”. Besides, Basketball superstar LeBron James, Eric Yuan & K-Pop sensation BTS were also named by TIME as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Joe Biden & Kamala Harris = chosen as TIME magazine’s “Person of the Year - 2020”
- LeBron James – “Athlete of the Year-2020” by TIME
- BTS – “Entertainer of the Year” by TIME
- Eric Yuan – “Businessperson of the Year” by TIME

16. IIT Roorkee has been adjudged as the “The Most Innovative Institute of the Year” for its innovation quotient in the CII Industrial Innovation Awards 2020. The award ceremony was held during the 26th DST-CII Technology Summit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Roorkee – recognised as the “The Most Innovative Institute of the Year”

17. The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) has presented Awards under different categories in its award ceremony at the TiE Global Summit 2020. The awards are given as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Winners under different categories:

Best Government Agency Supporting Startup Ecosystem	Singapore
Best Incubator/Accelerator in the World	Y Combinator (California)
Best Corporate Supporting Entrepreneurship Development Program	Google / Alphabet
Most Active Angel Network / Group in the World Award	Tech Coast Angels
Best Global University/Institution for Promoting Entrepreneurship	Stanford University
Bootstrapped to Billions Award	Ben Chestnut (MailChimp)
Best Performing Global VC (Venture Capital) Fund	Sequoia Capital
Rapid Listing Award	George Scangos
Lightning Unicorn Award	Ron Hovsepian
Lifetime Achievement Family Business (Transformer) Award	Bill Marriot
Most Innovative Startup Award	Jeremy Achin
Lifetime Achievement Service to the Indian IT Industry (Posthumous)	Heng Swee Keat (F. C. Kohli)
Lifetime Achievement First Generation (Creator) Award	Bill Gates

18. The “Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians 2020” has been awarded to Carolina Araujo, Mathematician from the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics (IMPA), Brazil, in a virtual ceremony on December 9, 2020. He is the 1st Non-Indian to win this prize. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Carolina Araujo (Brazil) – received the “Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians 2020”
- [Brazil – Brasilia – Brazilian real | President – Jair Bolsonaro](#)

19. On December 11, Seeni Viswanathan has received the “Bharathi Award 2020” on the International Bharathi Festival 2020 addressed by PM Shri Narendra Modi. The festival is being organised by Vanavil Cultural Centre to celebrate the 138th birth anniversary of Mahakavi Subramanya Bharathi (a Tamil writer, Poet & Journalist). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Seeni Viswanathan – received the “Bharathi Award 2020” – on the “International Bharathi Festival 2020”
- To celebrate the 138th birth anniversary of Mahakavi Subramanya Bharathi (a Tamil writer, Poet & Journalist)

20. The UNESCO has decided to launch an International Prize in the field of ‘Creative Economy’ in the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Starting November 2021, the \$50,000 award will be given away once in two years for global economic initiatives of the youth. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNESCO – decided to launch an International Prize in the field of ‘Creative Economy’
- The prize to be launched in the name of – Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay

21. Ashraf Patel representing Pravah and ComMutiny, has won the “Social Entrepreneur of the Year-2020” (SEYO) award instituted by the Schwab Foundation and Jubilant Bhartia Foundation. Established in 1993, Pravah has been facilitating the development of a generation of empathetic, sensitive youth change-makers in India. ComMutiny which was formed in 2008, works on the idea of making collectives out of organizations like Pravah. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ashraf Patel – won “Social Entrepreneur of the Year-2020” – by Schwab Foundation & Jubilant Bhartia Foundation
- Pravah and ComMutiny – represented by Ashraf Patel

22. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has announced 6 laureates of the “2020 Champions of the Earth Award”. The 2020 Champions of the Earth are given as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 6 laureates of the “2020 Champions of the Earth Award” – announced by the UNEP
- Professor Robert D. Bullard (USA) – Earth Lifetime Achievement Award



- Dr. Fabian Leendertz (Germany) – Science and Innovation category
- Mindy Lubber (USA) – Entrepreneurial Vision category
- Frank Bainimarama (PM of Fiji) – Policy Leadership category
- Yacouba Sawadogo (Burkina Faso) – Inspiration & Action category
- Nemonte Nenquimo (Ecuador) – Inspiration & Action category
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen

23. Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI) has presented the “Dr. R. S. Tolia Memorial Award-2020” to Dr Ajay Rawat, an eminent scholar and environmental activist whose legal actions prevented environmental destruction of lakes and forests in the Indian Himalayan region (IHR). Instituted in the name of Dr Raghunandan Singh Tolia, the award carries a citation, a shawl and a cash award of Rs 1 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajay Rawat – received “Dr. R. S. Tolia Memorial Award-2020” – by IMI (a cash award of Rs 1 lakh)

24. Department of Posts has conducted “Meghdoot Award Function 2020” on December 15, 2020. The Function was graced by Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad as the Chief Guest and Shri Sanjay Dhotre as Guest of Honour. The meghdoot award 2019-20 was given in 8 categories. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Department of Posts – conducted “Meghdoot Award Function 2020” on December 15
- Chief Guest – Ravi Shankar Prasad | Guest of Honour – Sanjay Dhotre

25. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has named 7 young scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs and activists from across the globe as its “Young Champions of the Earth-2020”. The names are as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 7 winners of the “Young Champions of the Earth-2020” – announced by the UNEP
- Asia and the Pacific: Xiaoyuan Ren (China)
- Asia and The Pacific: Vidyut Mohan (India)
- Europe: Lfteris Arapakis (Greece)



- Latin America and the Caribbean: Max Hidalgo Quinto (Peru)
- North America: Niria Alicia Garcia (USA)
- West Asia: Fatemah Alzelzela (Kuwait)

26. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has been awarded with the prestigious “Golden Peacock Environment Management Award” for the year 2020 by the Institute of Directors. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SAIL – awarded with the “Golden Peacock Environment Management Award-2020”
- HQs of SAIL – New Delhi | CEO – Anil Kumar Chaudhary (till the end of 2020)

27. Robert Lewandowski is named the FIFA Best Men’s Player for 2020 in its annual award ceremony. Lucy Bronze was voted the best women’s player. While, Jurgen Klopp & Sarina Wiegman have been named Best FIFA Coach in men & women category respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Robert Lewandowski – “FIFA Best Men’s Player for 2020”
- Lucy Bronze – “FIFA Best Women’s Player for 2020”
- Jurgen Klopp – “Best FIFA Men’s Coach for 2020”
- Sarina Wiegman – “Best FIFA Women’s Coach for 2020”
- HQs of FIFA – Zurich, Switzerland | President – Gianni Infantino

28. The Srinagar-based Amar Singh College is recognised with the ‘Award of Merit’ in the 2020 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. It is built nearly 80 years ago. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amar Singh College (J&K) – ‘Award of Merit’ in 2020 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha



29. PM Narendra Modi has addressed the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India's (Assocham) foundation week via video conferencing. He has presented "ASSOCHAM Enterprise of the Century Award" to Ratan Tata. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi – presented "ASSOCHAM Enterprise of the Century Award" to Ratan Tata
- HQ of Tata Group – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – N. Chandrasekaran

30. Musician Shankar Mahadevan and fashion designer Raghavendra Rathore have been named among 15 winners of the annual 21st Century Icon Awards, unveiled virtually from London, UK. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shankar Mahadevan + Raghavendra Rathore = received the annual 21st Century "Icon Awards" – in London, UK
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

31. Veteran industrialist Ratan Tata was honoured with "Global Visionary of Sustainable Business and Peace" award during the launch of the Federation of Indo-Israel Chamber of Commerce's international chapter in Dubai on December 21. The virtual ceremony was attended by senior officials from Israel, India and UAE. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ratan Tata – honoured with "Global Visionary of Sustainable Business and Peace" award
- The virtual ceremony was attended by senior officials from = Israel, India & UAE

32. Shri. Ravi Shankar Prasad has presented the "Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Telecom Skill Excellence Awards" for year 2018 including cash award of Rs 50,000 and Rs 30,000 respectively to both awardees. Sreenivas Karanam, Bangalore was selected for the 1st prize and Prof. Subrat Kar, New Delhi was selected for the 2nd prize. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ravi Shankar Prasad – presented the "Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Telecom Skill Excellence Awards-2018"
- 1st prize (Rs 50,000) – Sreenivas Karanam (Bangalore) | 2nd prize (Rs 30,000) – Subrat Kar

33. Lewis Hamilton has been named “BBC Sports Personality of the Year”, rounding off a remarkable year in which he became Formula One world champion for a record-equaling seventh time. Premier League champion Liverpool Football Club was named “Team of the Year” and its manager Jurgen Klopp won “Coach of the Year”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lewis Hamilton – named “BBC Sports Personality of the Year”
- Lewis Hamilton (UK) – drives ‘Mercedes’
- Liverpool FC – “Team of the Year” | Jurgen Klopp – “Coach of the Year”

34. The “SASTRA Ramanujan Prize-2020” will be awarded to Shai Evra of Princeton University, USA and Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. The prize is awarded annually at an international conference during December 21-22, at SASTRA University in Kumbakonam. Since the conference will not take place this year, Mr. Evra will receive the prize in 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shai Evra – to receive “SASTRA Ramanujan Prize-2020” – in 2021 at SASTRA University in Kumbakonam, TN
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

35. PM Narendra Modi was awarded the “Legion of Merit” medal by U.S. President Donald Trump for his role in advancing the India-U.S. relationship. The award was also presented to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison. India, the U.S., Japan and Australia constitute the ‘Quad’ group of countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – awarded with the “Legion of Merit” medal by Donald Trump
- Shinzo Abe + Scott Morrison = also awarded with the “Legion of Merit” by Donald Trump
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden

36. Recogsquare, a start-up incubated and funded by the IIT Roorkee has won the “Most Innovative Digital Rollout Award” at the Global Fintech Innovation Awards, by IBS Intelligence for the start-up association with Equitas Small Finance Bank. Recogsquare is an AI SaaS-backed eKYC and Video KYC platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Recogsquare – won the “Most Innovative Digital Rollout Award”
- Recogsquare – a start-up incubated and funded by the IIT Roorkee



37. The first ever Filmfare Awards for OTT platforms were given on December 19, 2020. The awards were given category wise as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Filmfare OTT awards 2020”
- Best Series – Paatal Lok
- Best Director (Series) – Avinash Arun and Prosit Roy (Paatal Lok)
- Best Actor in a Drama Series (Male) – Jaideep Ahlawat (Paatal Lok)
- Best Actor in a Drama Series (Female) – Sushmita Sen (Aarya)

38. Rafael Nadal has received the “Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award” for the third year straight. Roger Federer was the singles fans’ favourite for a record-extending 18th straight year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rafael Nadal (Spain – Tennis) – received the “Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award” (for the 3rd year)
- Spain – Madrid – Euro | PM – Pedro Sanchez

39. On December 22, Kaspersky has been recognised as the “Best Cybersecurity Brand” for 2020 and received an honor for their Product Innovation in the category at a recently held industry award ceremony. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kaspersky – recognised as the “Best Cybersecurity Brand” for 2020
- HQs of Kaspersky – Moscow, Russia | CEO – Eugene Kaspersky

40. National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd (NTPC) has won the ‘Excellence’ award in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Domain at CII-ITC Sustainability Awards 2020. NTPC has also received an award in the Corporate Excellence and Commendation for Significant Achievement category. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NTPC – won the ‘Excellence’ award in Corporate Social Responsibility – at CII-ITC Sustainability Awards 2020
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh



41. The innovation of plant-based mock egg by Prof Kavya Dashora, Centre for Rural Development and Technology, IIT Delhi has secured first prize at “Innovate4SDG” contest by “UNDP Accelerator Lab India”. The award includes a sum of \$5000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Innovation of plant-based mock egg – secured 1st prize at “Innovate4SDG” contest by ‘UNDP Accelerator Lab India’
- The innovation of plant-based mock egg – by Prof Kavya Dashora (IIT Delhi)

42. Senior scientist Hemant Kumar Pandey has been honoured with DRDO's “Scientist of the Year Award-2018” for his contribution in developing several herbal medicines, including the popular drug Lukoskin meant for treatment of leucoderma. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hemant Kumar Pandey – has been honoured with “Scientist of the Year Award-2018” – by the DRDO
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy

43. India captain Virat Kohli has won the “Sir Garfield Sobers Award” for ICC Male Cricketer of the Decade. He also won the “ICC Men’s ODI Cricketer of the Decade Award”. Former Indian skipper MS Dhoni was also nominated in the “ICC ODI Men’s Cricketer of the decade”. Other awards were also given which are mentioned as below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICC Awards:

Virat Kohli	Sir Garfield Sobers Award for ICC Male Cricketer of the Decade
	ICC Men’s ODI Cricketer of the Decade Award
MS Dhoni	ICC ODI Men’s Cricketer of the Decade
Steve Smith (Australia)	ICC Men’s Test Cricketer of the Decade
Rashid Khan (Afghanistan)	ICC Men’s T20I Cricketer of the Decade
Ellyse Perry (Australia)	ICC Women’s T20I Cricketer of the Decade
	ICC Women’s ODI Cricketer of the Decade
	Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Award for ICC Female Cricketer of the Decade

44. On December 27, Harmony Foundation has hosted the 16th edition of “Mother Teresa Memorial Awards” for Social Justice. The theme for this year's awards was “Celebrating Compassion in Times of Covid”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Harmony Foundation ([Mumbai](#)) – hosted the 16th edition of “Mother Teresa Memorial Awards” for Social Justice
- Theme – “Celebrating Compassion in Times of Covid”

45. “Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay New India Foundation Book Prize 2020” were given jointly to Amit Ahuja for his “Mobilizing the Marginalized: Ethnic Parties without Ethnic Movements” (Oxford University Press) and to former Union minister Jairam Ramesh for his “A Chequered Brilliance: The Many Lives of VK Krishna Menon”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay New India Foundation Book Prize 2020” – given to Amit Ahuja & Jairam Ramesh
- “Mobilizing the Marginalized: Ethnic Parties without Ethnic Movements” – by Amit Ahuja
- “A Chequered Brilliance: The Many Lives of VK Krishna Menon” – by Jairam Ramesh

46. Juventus’ Cristiano Ronaldo has won the “Player of the Century” award at the “Globe Soccer Awards-2020”. Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski has won the “Player of the Year” award. Besides, some other awards were also given which are as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Globe Soccer Awards - 2020:

Cristiano Ronaldo (Juventus FC)	Player of the Century
Robert Lewandowski (Bayern Munich FC)	Player of the Year
Hansi Flick (Bayern Munich FC)	Coach of the Year
Bayern Munich FC	Club of the Year
Real Madrid FC	Club of the Century
Pep Guardiola (Manchester City FC)	Coach of the Century



47. On December 30, V. K. Yadav has been conferred with the prestigious “Eminent Engineer Award - 2020” by the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) for his outstanding contribution towards modernization and reforms over Indian Railways. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- V. K. Yadav – conferred with the prestigious “Eminent Engineer Award - 2020” – by the IET
- HQs of IET – London, UK | CEO – Nigel Fine
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Suneet Sharma

48. On December 30, the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations has recognised 4 Tea producing sites spanning across 3 countries as the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS). All the 4 sites are in the Asian continent and include 2 sites from China and one each from Korea and Japan. The names of the sites are mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FAO recognised – 4 Tea producing sites as “Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems” (GIAHS)
1. Pu’er Traditional Tea Agrosystem ([China](#)) | 2. Fuzhou Jasmine ([China](#))
 3. Traditional Tree Grass system ([Japan](#)) | 4. Traditional Hadong Tea Agrosystem ([South Korea](#))
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu

49. On December 30, President Ram Nath Kovind has virtually conferred the 6th “Digital India Awards 2020”. The Digital India Awards 2020 have been announced under 7 categories including ‘Innovation in Pandemic’. Some of the important awards are mentioned as below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ram Nath Kovind – conferred the 6th “Digital India Awards 2020” – under 7 categories
- Under ‘Innovation in Pandemic’ – eSanjeevani portal (Platinum Icon)
- Under ‘Excellence in ‘Digital Governance Ministry/Department’ – Department of Posts (Gold Icon)
- Under ‘Excellence in Digital Governance State/UT’ – Haryana (Platinum Icon) & Tamil Nadu (Gold Icon)
- Under ‘Excellence in Digital Governance District’ – Khargone, MP (Platinum Icon)
- Under ‘Open Data Champion’ – Department of Health and Family Welfare (Platinum Icon)
- Under ‘Exemplary Product’ – ServicePlus (Gold Icon)
- Under ‘Jury Choice Award’ – Aarogya Setu, eOffice (Platinum Icon)

50. Tansen Music Festival has begun in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. In the inaugural ceremony renowned santoor player Pandit Satish Vyas was conferred upon the prestigious “Tansen Samman-2020” on the occasion of 96th Tansen Sangeet Samaroh. Bhopal-based institution Abhinav Kala Parishad was honoured with “Raja Mansingh Tomar” award. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pt Satish Vyas – conferred the prestigious “Tansen Samman-2020”
- Abhinav Kala Parishad – honoured with “Raja Mansingh Tomar” award

51. Indian stand-in skipper Ajinkya Rahane has been bestowed with the “Mullagh Medal” after winning ‘Man of the Match’ for his at the Boxing Day Test. He is the first recipient of the iconic medal which is named after former Australian skipper and cricket Johnny Mullagh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajinkya Rahane (Cricketer) – first recipient of the “Mullagh Medal” | Johnny Mullagh (Australia) – a Cricketer
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

52. Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton has been awarded a “Knighthood” in the UK's New Year's Honours List. This year, Hamilton won his seventh F1 driver's championship title. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lewis Hamilton – awarded a “Knighthood” in the UK's New Year's Honours List
- Lewis Hamilton (UK) – drives ‘Mercedes’



Appointments & Resignations

1. First Dronacharya Awardee from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Kuldeep Handoo has been appointed as the Ambassador of Fit India movement of PM Narendra Modi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kuldeep Handoo (Wushu Coach)– appointed as the Ambassador of Fit India movement

2. Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhary has taken charge as the 27th Director General of Border Roads Organisation (BRO). Lt Gen Chaudhary succeeds Lt Gen Harpal Singh who has been appointed as the new Engineer-in-Chief of the Indian Army. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajeev Chaudhary – took charge as the 27th Director General of Border Roads Organisation (BRO)
- HQs of BRO – New Delhi | Director General – Major Gen Rajeev Chaudhary

3. Hindustan Unilever Limited has appointed bollywood actor Akshay Kumar as the Brand Ambassador of its adult nutrition brand, “Horlicks Protein Plus”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Akshay Kumar – appointed as Brand Ambassador of – Hindustan Unilever Limited
- HQs of HUL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Sanjiv Mehta

4. The Defence Ministry has approved the creation of a new post of Deputy Chief for Military Operations and Strategic Planning. The ministry has also completed formalities for creation of another new post of Director General of Information Warfare. Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) Lt Gen Paramjit Singh is set to become the first Deputy Chief for Military Operations & Strategic Planning. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Defence Ministry – approved the creation of Deputy Chief for Military Operations and Strategic Planning (new Post)
- Defence Ministry – also approved the creation of Director General of Information Warfare (another new Post)
- Lt Gen Paramjit Singh – set to become the first Deputy Chief for Military Operations & Strategic Planning
- Ministry of Defence – Rajnath Singh (Constituency – Lucknow, UP)



5. Uday Shankar has been named as the President of FICCI for the year 2020-21. He has succeeded Sangita Reddy during FICCI's 93rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on December 11, 12 and 14, 2020. Currently, Shankar is the President of The Walt Disney Company for Asia Pacific and the Chairman of Star and Disney India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uday Shankar – appointed as the President of FICCI (by succeeding - Sangita Reddy)
- FICCI's 93rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on December 11, 12 and 14 | Theme – “Inspired India”
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Uday Shankar

6. Indian-origin global health expert Anil Soni has been appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer of the newly launched The WHO Foundation. It which works alongside the World Health Organization to address most pressing health challenges across the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anil Soni – appointed as the first CEO of the WHO Foundation
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194

7. On December 7, Romania's president Klaus Iohannis has appointed defence minister Nicolae Ionel Ciuca as Interim Prime Minister to replace Ludovic Orban who resigned December 8. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nicolae Ionel Ciuca – appointed as Interim Prime Minister of – Romania
- Ludovic Orban – resigned from the post of Prime Minister of – Romania
- Romania – Bucharest – Leu | President – Klaus Iohannis | Interim PM – Nicolae Ionel Ciuca

8. On December 8, Justice Rajesh Bindal was appointed as the acting Chief Justice of the common High Court for the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajesh Bindal – appointed as the Chief Justice of common High Court for the union territories of J&K and Ladakh
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur



9. Coffee Day Enterprises appointed Malavika Hegde as the chief executive officer (CEO) of the company. She is the wife of late V.G. Siddhartha, the founder of Coffee Day Global and Amalgamated Bean Coffee Trading Co. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Malavika Hegde – appointed as CEO of – Coffee Day Enterprises

10. Zena Wooldridge has been elected as the 10th President of World Squash Federation following the WSF's 2020 Annual General Meeting. Wooldridge has previously served for 6 years as President of the European Squash Federation during 2013-2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Zena Wooldridge – elected as the 10th President of World Squash Federation
- HQs of WSF – Hastings, UK | President – Zena Wooldridge | Founded in – 1967

11. Vivek Murthy, the Indian-origin doctor is appointed as Surgeon General by Joe Biden administration. The 43-year-old has also served as Surgeon General of the United States during the Obama administration. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vivek Murthy – appointed as Surgeon General by Joe Biden administration
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden

12. Kuwait Emir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah has re-appointed Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah as Prime Minister. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah – re-appointed as Prime Minister of – Kuwait
- Kuwait – Kuwait City – Dinar | PM – Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah | Emir – Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

13. Sabrina Filzmoser and Flavio Canto have been appointed as the International Judo Federation (IJF) Climate Ambassadors. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sabrina Filzmoser and Flavio Canto – appointed as the Climate Ambassadors of – IJF
- HQs of IJF – Budapest, Hungary | President – Marius Vizer



14. Russia's Umar Kremlev was elected as the President of the International Boxing Association (AIBA) at a virtual congress. Kremlev was the head of the Russian Boxing Federation since 2017 and chairman of AIBA's market commission. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Umar Kremlev (Russia) – elected president of the International Boxing Association (AIBA)
- HQs of AIBA – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Umar Kremlev (from Russia)
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

15. Dabur Chyawanprash has roped in Akshay Kumar as its Brand Ambassador. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Akshay Kumar – appointed as Brand Ambassador of – Dabur Chyawanprash
- HQs of Dabur – Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh | Chairman – Amit Burman | CEO – Mohit Malhotra

16. Diplomat Gaurav Ahluwalia, presently Deputy High Commissioner in the Indian High Commission in Islamabad, has been appointed as the next India Ambassador to Algeria. Diplomat Suresh Kumar has been appointed as the new Charge d’Affaires at the Pakistan High Commission of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gaurav Ahluwalia – appointed as the next India Ambassador to Algeria
- Suresh Kumar – appointed as the new Charge d’Affaires at the Pakistan High Commission of India
- Algeria – Algiers – Dinar | Prime minister – Abdelaziz Djerad | President – Abdelmadjid Tebboune

17. The Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-appointment of Uday Kotak as MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank for a further period of 3 years with effect from January 1, 2021. The regulator has also cleared re-appointments of Prakash Apte as part-time chairman, and Dipak Gupta as joint managing director. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uday Kotak – re-appointed as MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank – for further 3 years
- Other re-appointments: Prakash Apte – Part-time Chairman | Dipak Gupta – Joint Managing Director
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak



18. Ghana's President Nana Akufo-Addo has been re-elected after obtaining 51.6% of the vote. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nana Akufo-Addo – appointed as the President – of Ghana
- [Ghana – Accra – Cedi | President – Nana Akufo-Addo](#)

19. Spice Money has joined hands with actor Sonu Sood to digitally and financially empower 1 Crore rural entrepreneurs. He will also be the company's first Brand Ambassador. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sonu Sood – appointed as Brand Ambassador – of Spice Money

20. Edtech startup Classplus has announced former Indian cricket captain, Sourav Ganguly as its Brand Ambassador and nationwide celebrity endorser. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sourav Ganguly – appointed Brand Ambassador of – 'Classplus' an Edtech startup

21. Prasar Bharati CEO Shashi Shekhar Vempati was elected as the Vice President of Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), one of the largest broadcasting associations in the world for a 3-year term starting from 1st January, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shashi Shekhar Vempati – elected as the Vice President of Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union
- [HQs of Prasar Bharati – New Delhi | CEO – Shashi Shekhar Vempati](#)
- [HQs of ABU – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | President – Ibrahim Eren](#)

22. The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has approved the appointment of Manoj Singh Rawat as the Additional Director General (ADG) of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manoj Singh Rawat – appointed as the Additional Director General (ADG) of the ITBP
- [HQs of ITBP – New Delhi | DG – Surjeet Singh Deswal | ADG – Manoj Singh Rawat](#)



23. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu has been given 6 months extension (i.e. up to July 21, 2021) as the chairman of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Sandhu is a 1988-batch IAS officer of Uttarakhand cadre. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sukhbir Singh Sandhu – given 6 months extension as the Chairman of NHAI (up to July 21, 2021)
- HQs of NHAI – New Delhi | Chairman – Sukhbir Singh Sandhu

24. Annika Sorenstam was elected as President of the International Golf Federation on December 17, replacing the outgoing Peter Dawson. Sorenstam, a 72-time winner on the LPGA Tour and former No. 1 from Sweden, will take up the position on Jan. 1. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Annika Sorenstam – elected as President of the International Golf Federation (by replacing - Peter Dawson)
- HQs of – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Annika Sorenstam

25. Andhra Pradesh has recommended the transfer of the state's Chief Justice J. K. Maheshwari to the Sikkim High Court. The apex court collegium, which is headed by CJI Bobde, has also recommended elevation of Punjab and Haryana High Court's Justice S. Muralidhar as the Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court, and of Delhi High Court's Justice Hima Kohli as the Chief Justice of Telangana High Court. Similarly, other transfers are as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Transfer of High Court Chief Justice of different States:

Chief Justice	Previous High Court	Present High Court
J. K. Maheshwari	Andhra Pradesh HC	Sikkim HC
S. Muralidhar	Punjab and Haryana HC	Orissa HC
Hima Kohli	Delhi HC	Telangana HC
Raghvendra Singh Chauhan	Telangana HC	Uttarakhand HC
Sanjib Banerjee	Calcutta HC	Madras HC
Pankaj Mithal	Allahabad HC	J & K HC
Sudhanshu Dhulia	Uttarakhand HC	Gauhati HC
Mohammad Rafiq	Orissa HC	Madhya Pradesh HC
Arup Kumar Goswami	Sikkim HC	Andhra Pradesh HC

26. Chief Executive Officer Arvind Krishna would take over as the Chairman of International Business Machines (IBM) from January 1, replacing Ginni Rometty, who stepped down as its long-time CEO earlier this year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arvind Krishna – would take over as the Chairman of IBM – from January 1, 2021
- HQs of IBM – Armonk, New York, USA | CEO – Arvind Krishna
- HQs of IBM India – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD – Sandip Patel

27. Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS) has approved the appointment of Nand Kishore as the group's Executive Director with effect from December 21, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nand Kishore – appointed as the Executive Director of IL&FS
- HQs of IL&FS – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Uday Kotak | Executive Director – Nand Kishore

28. Secretary of Water Resources department, senior IAS officer, Aditya Nath Das has been appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh. He will take over from incumbent Nilam Sawhney, who will retire from service on December 31. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aditya Nath – appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh (by replacing - Nilam Sawhney)
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

29. The Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Sandeep Batra as Executive Director of ICICI Bank for a period of 3 years with effect from December 23, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sandeep Batra – appointed as Executive Director of – ICICI Bank for a period of 3 years
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD&CEO – [Sandeep Bakhshi](#) | ED – Sandeep Batra | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”



30. Managing Director of Transport Corporation of India Ltd Vineet Agarwal is appointed as the new President of The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham). He has replaced Niranjn Hiranandani. Sumant Sinha (chairman & MD of ReNew Power) is the new Senior Vice-President of Assocham. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vineet Agarwal – appointed as the President of – Assocham (by replacing - Niranjn Hiranandani)
- Sumant Sinha – appointed as the Senior Vice-President of – Assocham
- HQs of Assocham – New Delhi | President – Vineet Agarwal | Vice-President – Sumant Sinha

31. On December 24, Chetan Sharma, Abey Kuruvilla and Debashish Mohanty are appointed as the new members of BCCI's Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC). Chetan Sharma is the Chairman of the senior men's selection committee. The 3 new members will join Sunil Joshi and Harvinder Singh in the selection committee. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chetan Sharma, Abey Kuruvilla and Debashish Mohanty – new members of BCCI's Cricket Advisory Committee
- Chairman of the CAC – Chetan Sharma
- HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sourav Ganguly | Founded in – 1928

32. Former investment banker and finance minister Florin Citu has become the new Prime Minister of Romania. Citu had stints as an economist for the New Zealand central bank and the European Investment Bank before entering politics in 2016. He studied in the U.S. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Florin Citu – became the new Prime Minister of – Romania
- Romania – Bucharest – leu | PM – Florin Citu

33. Prasanth Prabhakaran is elevated as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of YES Securities with immediate effect. Prabhakaran was previously the Joint MD & CEO, YES Securities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prasanth Prabhakaran – elevated as the MD & CEO of – YES Securities
- HQs of YES Securities Ltd – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Prasanth Prabhakaran | Chairman – Prashant Kumar



34. The Odisha government has appointed senior IAS officer Suresh Chandra Mohapatra as the new chief secretary. He has succeeded Asit Kumar Tripathy. Mohapatra will also hold the post of Chief Development Commissioner. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Suresh Chandra Mohapatra – appointed as new Chief Secretary of – Odisha
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

35. Former Indian Premier League (IPL) chairman Rajeev Shukla is set to become the Vice-President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) while former India cricketer Brijesh Patel is likely to continue as IPL chairman for a second term. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajeev Shukla – to become the Vice-President of BCCI
- Brijesh Patel – re-appointed as IPL Chairman for a second term
- HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sourav Ganguly | Founded in – 1928

36. 21-year old Arya Rajendran is set to become the youngest Mayor of Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The earliest memory of political activity for Arya Rajendran is of joining the Balasangham, a children's organisation, as a 10-year old. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arya Rajendran – to become the youngest Mayor of Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

37. Sourav Ganguly has been appointed as the new Brand Ambassador of Classplus. Classplus is a one of its kind mobile Operating System which enables training institutes to go online with their brick-and-mortar setup. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sourav Ganguly – appointed as the new Brand Ambassador of Classplus

38. The Softball Federation of India has elected a woman for the first time, as its President named Neetal Narang. Narang will succeed Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Neetal Narang – appointed as President of Softball Federation of India (by succeeding Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi)
- HQs of SFI – Indore, Madhya Pradesh | CEO – Pravin Anaokar

39. On December 29, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan has been nominated by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) as a member on the GAVI Board until 31st December 2023. Dr. Harsh Vardhan will be representing the South East Area Regional Office (SEARO)/ Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) constituency on the GAVI Board. The seat is currently held by Mr. Myint Htwe of Myanmar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – nominated by the GAVI as a member on the GAVI Board until 31st December 2023
- HQs of Gavi – Geneva, Switzerland | CEO – Dr Seth Berkley

40. On December 31, the 1984 batch IAS officer P. Ravi Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, has been appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Karnataka. He will succeed T.M. Vijay Bhaskar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- P. Ravi Kumar – appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Karnataka (by succeeding - T.M. Vijay Bhaskar)
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – B S Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

41. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension of tenure of K. Sivan as Secretary of Department of Space and Chairman of Space Commission for a period of one-year beyond January 14, 2021, that is up to January 14, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- K. Sivan – extended tenure for 1 year as Secretary of Department of Space and Chairman of Space Commission
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan

42. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Suneet Sharma as the new Chairman and CEO of the Railway Board. The extended one-year tenure of Sharma's predecessor, Vinod Kumar Yadav ended on December 31. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Sunee Sharma – appointed as new Chairman and CEO of the Railway Board (by replacing – Vinod Kumar Yadav)
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Sunee Sharma



Amount & Agreements

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$430 million Multi-tranche Financing Facility (MFF) to improve the quality and reliability of electricity supply in Uttar Pradesh in India. ADB will provide loan of USD 562.8 million (about Rs 4,143 Cr) for power projects in Uttar Pradesh and Meghalaya. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB approved a \$430 million to improve the quality and reliability of electricity supply in Uttar Pradesh
- ADB will provide loan of \$562.8 million for power projects in Uttar Pradesh (\$430) & Meghalaya (\$132.8)
- ADB: HQs – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik

2. Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$190 million (over Rs 1,400 Cr) loan to modernize and upgrade the power distribution system in Karnataka for the Bengaluru Smart Energy Efficient Power Distribution Project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB – approved a \$190 million (over Rs 1,400 Cr) loan for upgradation of Bengaluru power distribution system
- ADB: HQs – [Mandaluyong, Philippines](#) | President – [Masatsugu Asakawa](#) | Member countries – 68
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

3. On December 7, Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$2.5 million (about Rs 18 Cr) technical assistance to support advanced biofuel development in India. The grant is funded from the Asia Clean Energy Fund, financed by the Government of Japan under the Clean Energy Financing Partnership Facility, and the Republic of Korea's e-Asia and Knowledge Partnership Fund. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB – approved a \$2.5 million (about Rs 18 Cr) for advanced Biofuel Development in India
- ADB: HQ – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | VP – Ashok Lavasa | MC – 68



4. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved USD 300 million (about Rs 2,200 Cr) loan to strengthen and improve access to comprehensive primary health care in urban areas in India. The program will benefit an estimated 256 million urban residents. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB – approved USD 300 million (about Rs 2,200 Cr) loan to improve primary Health Care in urban areas
- ADB: HQs – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68

5. India has contributed another \$2 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), fulfilling its commitment of \$5 million in aid annually to support its programmes and services. The \$2 million cheque was presented to UNRWA by Representative of India in Palestine, Sunil Kumar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – contributed another \$2 million to UNRWA to support 'Palestinian' refugees
- Representative of India in Palestine – Sunil Kumar
- Palestine – Ramallah & East Jerusalem – Israeli new shekel & Jordanian dinar
- HQs of UNRWA – Amman, Jordan | Commissioner-General – Philippe Lazzarini

6. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has launched a \$9 billion vaccine initiative - the Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX) offering support to its developing member economies to procure and deliver COVID-19 vaccines. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB – launched \$9 billion Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX) initiative
- ADB: HQs – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68

7. Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has extended a \$448-million line of credit (LOC) for various infrastructure projects in Uzbekistan. Exim Bank has now in place 266 LOCs, covering 62 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Commonwealth of Independent States and the Oceania, with credit commitments of around \$26.59 billion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Exim Bank – extended a \$448-million LOC for various infrastructure projects in Uzbekistan
- Uzbekistan – Tashkent – So'm | President – Shavkat Mirziyoyev
- HQs of EXIM Bank – Mumbai | Chairman & MD – TC Venkat Subramanian



8. India has pledged a commitment of \$2 billion at the World Health Organisation's "Lives in the Balance" summit to provide essential services to women, newborns, young children and adolescents across the world. The summit organised by WHO's The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – pledged a commitment of \$2 billion at the WHO's "Lives in the Balance" summit
- Essential services to – Women, Newborns, Young Children & Adolescents
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194

9. Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (Norway) has signed an agreement with 'cGanga' for development of sludge management framework in India. The agreement was signed during the 5th India Water Impact 2020 summit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Norway + cGanga = an agreement for development of sludge management framework in India
- Norway – Oslo – Krone | PM – Erna Solberg

10. Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has announced to provide Rs. 25 Cr in the first phase for the development of Dajipur Sanctuary, which is part of the Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary in Kolhapur district. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – to provide Rs. 25 Cr in the first phase for the development of 'Dajipur Sanctuary'
- 'Dajipur Sanctuary' - a part of the Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary – located in Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshiyari

11. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved assistance of about Rs. 3,500 Cr for sugarcane farmers (Ganna Kisan). Currently, there are close to 5 crore sugarcane farmers (Ganna Kisan) and their dependents in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs – approved assistance of about Rs. 3,500 Cr for 'Sugarcane farmers'



12. On December 16, the Indian government has signed a loan agreement worth \$1 billion with the New Development Bank (NDB) to support the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and India's rural infrastructure. The loan comes with a 30-year tenor and includes a five-year grace period. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NDB – to provide \$1 billion to support MGNREG Scheme and India's rural infrastructure (Tenor – 30 years)
- HQs of NDB – Shanghai, China | President – Marcos Troyjo

13. India has signed a pact worth \$400 million with the World Bank in a bid to aid the poor and vulnerable reeling under the coronavirus crisis. The Dollar 400 million credit has been extended by World Bank's concessionary lending arm International Development Association (IDA). The first operation of Dollar 750 million was approved in May 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + World Bank = signed a pact worth \$400 million to protect poor from Covid19 impact
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 190
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

14. India has pledged \$1 million to the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) scientific research budget. It is the highest among contributions made by other world governments. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – pledged \$1 million to the WADA's scientific research budget
- HQs of WADA – Montreal, Canada | President – Sir Craig Reddie

15. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and India have signed a \$4.21-million Project Readiness Financing (PRF) facility for the preparation of infrastructure development projects to improve urban amenities and develop tourism infrastructure in Tripura. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + ADB = signed a \$4.21-million PRF facility for the infrastructure development projects in Tripura
- ADB: HQs – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Ramesh Bais



16. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India have signed a \$300 million loan agreement to upgrade rural power distribution networks to provide reliable electricity supply to consumers in the state of Uttar Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB + India = signed \$300 million loan agreement to upgrade power distribution network in Uttar Pradesh
- ADB: HQs – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

17. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has sanctioned a \$231m loan for the construction of the “Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Power Plant” in Central Assam, India. The plant will produce a total capacity of 120MW of electricity to harness water from the Kopili River. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB – sanctioned a \$231m loan for the construction of “Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Power Plant” – in Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi
- ADB: HQs – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68

18. On December 22, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has provided a Rs 295 Cr (\$40 million) loan to Northern Arc Capital for onlending to the microfinance and the MSME sectors in India. Northern Arc Capital will use it to extend loans proceeds and provide guarantees to financial institutions and individual borrowers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB provided a Rs 295 Cr (\$40 million) loan to ‘Northern Arc Capital’ to lend loans to MSME’s
- ADB: HQs – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68

19. The Indian government and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), an arm of the World Bank, have signed a \$500 million project to build National Highway corridors in the states of Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. This loan agreement has a maturity of 18.5 years including a five-year grace period. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + World Bank = signed a \$500 million project to build NH corridors – in Rajasthan, HP, UP, AP
- World Bank HQs – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 190
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant



20. On December 22, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has decided to provide a Rs 2,100 Cr loan to the Tripura government for the development of urban areas and tourism in the northeastern state that borders Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB – to provide Rs 2,100 Cr loan to the “Tripura” for the development of urban areas and tourism
- ADB: HQs – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Ramesh Bais

21. US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) has announced to invest \$54 million in India to support the development of critical infrastructure projects in the country in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US DFC – announced to invest \$54 million in India to support critical infrastructure projects
- HQs of US DFC – Washington, D.C., USA | Agency executive – Adam S. Boehler



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Ranks, Reports & Surveys

1. Reliance Industries Ltd. has topped the “Fortune 500 list of Indian companies-2020” with revenue of Rs 6,15,854 Cr. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC), the nation’s biggest oil firm, bagged the second spot, followed by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) at the third. The list was published by Fortune India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Fortune 500 list of Indian companies-2020” – released by Fortune India
- 1st – RIL | 2nd – Indian Oil Corp | 3rd – ONGC | 4th – SBI | 5th – Bharat Petroleum Corp

2. India is losing more than \$10.3 billion (around Rs 75,000 Cr) in taxes every year due to international corporate tax abuse and private tax evasion, according to a report titled “The State of Tax Justice 2020” published by the Tax Justice Network. The USA is the Biggest Tax Loser according to the report. And the Asian region lost over \$73.3 billion or \$73,372,803,475. The report further added that the aggregate global tax loss count amounts to over \$427 billion every year owing to global tax abuse by MNCs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The State of Tax Justice 2020” report – published by the Tax Justice Network
- India is losing more than \$10.3 billion (around Rs 75,000 Cr) in taxes every year | USA – the Biggest Tax Loser
- The aggregate global tax loss count amounts to over \$427 billion every year

3. The study, jointly carried out by IIT Delhi and CPCB on the basis of Satellite Data, is the first of its kind to look at air pollution spatially. It found that the rate of increase of PM2.5 over eastern and Southern India is more than 1.6% per year during this period, and less than 1.2% annually in the Gangetic plain. Some of the states to have shown the highest rate of increase in PM 2.5 in this period are Kerala, Goa & Andhra Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The study of Air Pollution on the basis of Satellite Data carried out by IIT Delhi & CPCB
- State-wise highest rate of increase in PM 2.5 during 2000-2019 period:
 - Kerala (Urban level – 24.2% & Rural level – 21.9%)
 - Goa (Urban level – 36.4% & Rural level – 37.3%)
 - Andhra Pradesh (Urban level – 20.15% & Rural level – 18.9%)
- HQs of CPCB – New Delhi | Chairman – Shri Shiv Das Meena



4. India has recorded the largest reductions in malaria cases in South-East Asia from 20 million in 2000 to about 5.6 million last year, according to the “World Malaria Report 2020” released by the World Health Organisation. India is the only high endemic country to report a decline of 17.6 % in 2019 compared to 2018. Malaria deaths in India declined from about 29,500 in 2000 to about 7,700 last year. Meghalaya has topped the list in reducing malaria cases in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “World Malaria Report 2020” – released by the WHO
- India – recorded the largest decline in malaria cases in South-East Asia (17.6 %)
- Malaria Cases: In 2000 – 20 million | In 2019 – 5.6 million
- Malaria Deaths: In 2000 – 29,500 | In 2019 – 7,700
- Meghalaya – topped the list in reducing malaria cases in India

5. The Indian Men’s football team has slipped 4 spots to 104th position in the latest FIFA Rankings updated in November, 2020. The Indian Football Team is coached by Igor Stimac (Croatia) and the Captain is Sunil Chhetri (Telangana). Belgium managed to hold on to the top position, while France reached the second spot. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Latest FIFA Rankings” – updated in November, 2020
- India (men’s) – 104th | 1st – Belgium | 2nd – France | 3rd – Brazil
- HQs of FIFA – Zurich, Switzerland | President – Gianni Infantino

6. Dairy giant Amul has ranked 8th among the top 20 global dairy processors as assessed by the international dairy research body IFCN Dairy Research Network in its “Dairy Processors Report 2020”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amul – ranked 8th among the top 20 global dairy processors – as assessed by the IFCN Dairy Research Network
- HQs of AMUL – Anand, Gujarat | MD – Rupinder Singh Sodhi
- HQs of IFCN – Kiel, Germany

7. For the second year in a row, South Asia was the most impacted region by terrorism in 2019, according to “Global Terrorism Index 2020” report by the Institute for Economic & Peace. India has ranked 8th with a score of 7.353. While Afghanistan (9.592) was reported to be the most impacted of the 163 countries. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “Global Terrorism Index 2020” report – released by the Institute for Economic & Peace
- India – 8th (7.353) | Topped by – Afghanistan (9.592) | The most impacted region by terrorism – South Asia
- Afghanistan – Kabul – Afghani | President – Ashraf Ghani

8. “Nongpok Sekmai” police station in Manipur’s Thoubal district has been selected as the Best Police Station in the country for 2020, announced by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). It was followed by AWPS-Suramangalam Police Station in Tamil Nadu’s Salem city and Kharsang in Arunachal Pradesh’s Changlang district. The government of India selects best performing police stations out of 16,671 in the country every year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Nongpok Sekmai” police station (Manipur) – selected as the Best Police Station in India for 2020 – by MHA
- Ministry of Home Affairs – Shri Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – Najma Heptulla

9. Roshni Nadar Malhotra of HCL Technologies has topped the list of wealthiest women in India with a wealth of Rs. 54,850 Cr, according to the second edition of “Kotak Wealth Hurun-Leading Wealthy Women” report, compiled by Kotak Wealth Management. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 2nd edition of “Kotak Wealth Hurun-Leading Wealthy Women” report – by Kotak Wealth Management
- 1st – Roshni Nadar Malhotra (HCL Technologies) – Rs. 54,850 Cr
- 2nd – Kiran Majumdar-Shaw (Biocon) – Rs 36,600 Cr
- 3rd – Leena Gandhi Tewari (USV) – Rs 21,340 Cr

10. “The Production Gap” report is produced by the UNEP and published on December 2, 2020. The report has warned to follow a 1.5°C-consistent pathway. The governments would need to decrease fossil fuel production by roughly 6% a year between 2020 and 2030. They are, instead, projecting an average annual increase of 2%. This would result in more than double the production consistent with the 1.5°C limit by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Production Gap” report is produced by – UNEP
- Average warming Target – 1.5°C limit by 2030



- The governments need to decrease fossil fuel production – by 6%
- [HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen](#)

11. According to the World Meteorological Organization’s annual “State of the Global Climate 2020” report, year 2020 is on track to being one of the three warmest years on record. Global temperatures from January to October were around 1.2 degrees Celsius. The most notable warming in 2020 happened in the Siberian Arctic, according to the report. Greenland lost 152 billion tons of ice this year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “State of the Global Climate 2020” report – by WMO
- 2020 is on track to being one of the three warmest years
- [HQs of WMO – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary-General – Petteri Taalas](#)

12. The number of people living in extreme poverty (earning less than Rs 150 or \$1.90 per day), will increase by over 32 million in 2020 because of COVID-19, according to “The Least Developed Countries Report 2020” by UNCTAD. This was expected to lead to a 2.6% reduction in per capita income in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in 2020, with 43 out of 47 LDCs experiencing a fall in their average income levels. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Least Developed Countries Report 2020” – by UNCTAD
- The number of people living in Extreme Poverty will increase by over 32 million in 2020
- Extreme Poverty = Earning less than Rs 150 or \$1.90 per day
- [HQs of UNCTAD – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary-General – Mukhisa Kituyi](#)

13. Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen and Mastercard CEO Ajay Banga have been named by Fortune among the Businessperson of the Year 2020 at 8th & 9th position respectively. The list is topped by Tesla CEO Elon Musk. The Fortune 2020 Businessperson of the Year is Elon Musk for a second time. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Fortune 2020 Businessperson of the Year” – topped by CEO of Tesla & SpaceX - Elon Musk (2nd time)
- Shantanu Narayen – 8th (Adobe CEO) | Ajay Banga – 9th (Mastercard CEO)

14. According to a report titled “The Global Wage Report 2020-21” published by the International Labour Organization (ILO) on December 2, 2020, Low-paid workers, disproportionately women, were the most affected by loss of working hours. The average wages in two-third countries fell or grew more slowly in the first six months of 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “The Global Wage Report 2020-21” report – published by ILO
- HQs of ILO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Guy Ryder

15. India's iconic Western Ghats (inscribed as a natural world heritage site by UNESCO in 2012) is threatened by population pressure, urbanisation and climate change, according to a new report “IUCN World Heritage Outlook 3” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The conservation outlook of the mountain chain of the Western Ghats is of significant concern. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Western Ghats” is under ‘Significant Concern’ – according to “IUCN World Heritage Outlook 3” report
- Western Ghats – declared as UNESCO world heritage site – in 2012
- HQs of IUCN – Gland, Switzerland | President – Xincheng Zhang
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay
- Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre – Mechtild Rossler

16. On December 8, India remains in the top 10 for the second year in a row ranking at the 10th spot in the latest global “Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)” released by Germanwatch and NewClimate Institute (Germany) along with the Climate Action Network (CAN International). No country has placed on the first 3 positions and Sweden has stood at the fourth. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 16th edition of “Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)” – released by Germanwatch
- India – 10th | 1 to 3 spots – No countries | 4th – Sweden

17. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has made it to the list of the “World's 100 Most Powerful Women by Forbes”, for the second year in a row. She is ranked 41st on the list this year. In 2019, she was ranked at 34. The list has been topped by German Chancellor Angela Merkel for the 10th year in a row. European Central Bank chief Christine Lagarde is ranked second for the second straight year. Vice President of USA, Kamala Harris is ranked third on the list. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman – ranked 41st in the list of “World's 100 Most Powerful Women by Forbes”
- 1st – Angela Merkel | 2nd – Christine Lagarde | 3rd – Kamala Harris



- HQs of FORBES – Jersey City, New Jersey

18. The 2nd edition of “State of the Education Report for India 2020: Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)”, was launched virtually by UNESCO New Delhi, with over 400 attendees. Madhya Pradesh leads among the State government run schools. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 2nd “State of the Education Report for India 2020: Technical & Vocational Education and Training” – by UNESCO
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay

19. Truecaller has released its 4th edition of “Global Insights Report for 2020”, which ranks India 9th on the list of top countries affected by spam calls in 2020. As per the report, Brazil is the most affected country in the world by spam calls followed by the US and Hungary. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 4th edition of “Global Insights Report for 2020” – released by Truecaller
- India – 9th | 1st – Brazil | 2nd – USA | 3rd – Hungary
- HQs of Truecaller – Stockholm, Sweden | CEO – Alan Mamedi

20. A first-of-its-kind study by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has projected that numbers of the “Malayan Giant Squirrel” (*Ratufa bicolor*) could decline by 90% in India by 2050, and if urgent steps are not taken, the species could be extinct in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to a study by ZSI – “Malayan Giant Squirrel” may become extinct
- HQs of ZSI – Kolkata, West Bengal | Director – K Venkatraman

21. India is expected to surpass 350 million 5G subscriptions by 2026, according to “The Ericsson Mobility Report 2020”. India has the highest average monthly mobile data traffic per smartphone. As per the report, 4 out of every 10 mobile subscriptions in 2026 will be 5G globally with 5G subscriptions forecast to reach 3.5 billion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:



- India – to surpass 350 million 5G subscriptions by 2026 – according to “The Ericsson Mobility Report 2020”
- HQs of Ericsson – Stockholm, Sweden | CEO – Borje Ekholm

22. Coca-Cola, PepsiCo and Nestle have been accused of “zero progress” on reducing plastic waste, after being named the world’s top plastic polluters for the third year in a row. Coca-Cola was ranked the world’s No 1 plastic polluter by “Break Free From Plastic” in its annual report. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Report of Plastic polluter Companies in the world – by “Break Free From Plastic”
- 1st – Coca-Cola | 2nd – PepsiCo | 3rd – Nestle

23. The North-Eastern states have topped the list of states in managing Covid-19 followed by Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, according to a study conducted by SBI Research. Northeast was combined into one. Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh, on the other hand, are at the bottom of the list. The SBI group chief economic advisor Soumya Kanti Ghosh was the Author of this report. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The North- Eastern states” topped the list of states in managing Covid-19 – according to ‘SBI Research’
- 2nd – Bihar | 3rd – Uttar Pradesh
- Author of the report – Soumya Kanti Ghosh

24. The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B) has released the “Urban Quality of Life (UQoL) Index 2020”. Overall, Mumbai tops the list of 14, followed closely by Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai & Hyderabad. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Bombay – released the “Urban Quality of Life (UQoL) Index 2020”
- 1st – Mumbai | 2nd – Delhi | 3rd – Kolkata | 4th – Chennai | 5th – Hyderabad

25. On December 7, According to the data released by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Google Pay and PhonePe together have more than 82% of the market by volume and more than 86% by value. In November, Google Pay had done 960.02 million transactions, accounting for Rs 1.61 trillion, followed by PhonePe, with 868.4 million transactions, worth Rs 1.75 trillion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:



- Google Pay and PhonePe – cover over 82% of the market by volume & over 86% by value
- Google Pay – 960.02 million transactions (Rs 1.61 trillion) | PhonePe – 868.4 million transactions (Rs 1.75 trillion)
- PhonePE HQs – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Sameer Nigam
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai

26. On December 9, The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has released the 11th edition of annual “Emissions Gap Report 2020”. CO₂ emissions could decrease by about 7% in 2020 compared with 2019 emission levels due to COVID-19. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 11th edition of annual “Emissions Gap Report 2020” – released by UNEP
- CO₂ emissions could decrease by about 7% in 2020 due to COVID-19
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen

27. India loves cricket and this has been proven yet again as the Indian Premier League (IPL) beat even the ‘Coronavirus’ for the top trending query overall in the year, according to Google India’s ‘Year In Search 2020’. Last year, the top trending query on Google Search was ‘ICC Cricket World Cup’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “IPL” – India's most-searched word on Google – according to Google India’s ‘Year In Search 2020’
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai

28. India has dropped to the 2nd position from first in Bloomberg New Energy Finance’s (BNEF) 2020 Climatescope survey ranking, as a result of a decline in clean energy investment. India’s clean energy investment declined from 32% in 2017 to 12% in 2018-2019 to \$8.5 billion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India stood at the 2nd – in Bloomberg New Energy Finance’s (BNEF) 2020 Climatescope survey ranking
- India’s clean energy investment declined to – 12% in 2018-2019 (\$8.5 billion)

29. Keshav Suri Foundation, Pride Circle, Stonewall UK and FICCI have virtually released the “India Workplace Equality Index-2020” touted as India’s 1st LGBT + Workplace Equality Index. 21 firms won under the Gold category, while 18 were placed under Silver and 13 got Bronze. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Keshav Suri Foundation + Pride Circle + Stonewall UK + FICCI = released the “India Workplace Equality Index”



- It's also touted as – India's 1st LGBT + Workplace Equality Index
- Categories: Gold – 21 firms | Silver – 18 firms | Bronze – 13 firms

30. Heart disease has remained the leading cause of death at the global level for last 20 years (from 2000 to 2019), according to the WHO's 2019 Global Health Estimates. Heart disease now represents 16% of total deaths from all causes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Heart disease – remained the leading cause of death at the Global Level from 2000 to 2019
- 16% of total deaths in the world are caused by – Heart Disease
- WHO HQs – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194

31. Odisha ranked first, and Maharashtra came second in terms of good governance, according to a survey namely “Urban Governance Index 2020” conducted across 28 states and 40 cities in India and published by Praja Foundation, a Mumbai-based think tank. The top 5 states are Odisha, Maharashtra, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Urban Governance Index 2020” – published by Praja Foundation (Mumbai)
- 1st – Odisha | 2nd – Maharashtra | 3rd – Kerala | 4th – Madhya Pradesh | 5th – Chhattisgarh

32. Around 1.8 billion people are at heightened risk of Covid-19 and other diseases because they use or work in healthcare facilities without basic water or WASH services, according to a joint report titled “Global progress report on WASH in health care facilities: fundamentals first” by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UNICEF. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Global progress report on WASH in health care facilities: fundamentals first” report – by WHO + UNICEF
- WASH – Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Around 1.8 billion people are at heightened risk of Covid-19 and other diseases
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, USA | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore | Established in – 1946



33. Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton is ranked as the world's number 1 driver, as per Formula One (F1) rankings in December, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lewis Hamilton – ranked as the world's number 1 driver as per F1 Rankings in December 2020
- Lewis Hamilton (UK) – drives 'Mercedes'

34. The historic shock of the COVID-19 crisis will result in a 2% decline in global electricity demand, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA)'s first-ever "Electricity Market Report 2020". It forecasts electricity demand will grow by about 3% in 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to IEA's "Electricity Market Report 2020" – Global electricity demand to decline by 2% due to Pandemic
- HQs of IEA – Paris, France | Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol

35. India has dropped 2 ranks in the UNDP's "Human Development Index-2020", standing at 131 out of 189 countries. For the first time, the UNDP has introduced a new metric to reflect the impact caused by each country's per-capita carbon emissions and its material footprint. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNDP's "Human Development Index-2020" – topped by Norway | India – 131st (from 129th last year)
- HQs of UNDP – New York, USA | Administrator – Achim Steiner

36. American media personality and reality TV star Kylie Jenner has been crowned the "Highest-Paid Celebrity of 2020" by Forbes with earnings of \$590 million. American rapper and record producer Kanye West is ranked at number 2 on the list by making \$170 million. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The list of "Highest-Paid Celebrity of 2020" by Forbes – topped by Kylie Jenner (\$590 million)
- 2nd – American rapper 'Kanye West' (\$170 million) | 3rd – Roger Federer (\$106.3 million)
- HQs of FORBES – Jersey City, New Jersey



37. The 5th edition of “2020 Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction” is released by the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC). The report has highlighted that CO₂ emissions from the operation of buildings have increased to their highest level yet at around 10 GtCO₂ or 28% of total global energy-related CO₂ emissions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 5th edition of “2020 Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction” – released by GlobalABC
- CO₂ emissions from the operation of buildings increased to 10 GtCO₂ or 28% of total Global Energy

38. India is ranked 111th out of 162 countries in the “Human Freedom Index 2020” report released by the Cato Institute, plummeting 17 spots from its position in the last index. India registered a score of 6.43, which is lower than the average human freedom rating of 6.93 for the 162 countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – ranked 111th out of 162 countries in the “Human Freedom Index 2020” report – released by Cato Institute
- HQs of Cato Institute – Washington, D.C., USA | President & CEO – Peter N. Goettler

39. On December 18, Shri Piyush Goyal has launched “India-Australia Economic Strategy Report-2020” which is prepared by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). It aims at enhancing India Australia Bilateral Economic and Trade Relationship. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal – launched “India-Australia Economic Strategy Report-2020” (prepared by - CII)
- HQs of CII – New Delhi | President – Uday Kotak | Director General – Chandrajit Banerjee

40. As per the 17th edition of “Ease of Doing Business - 2020” report released by the World Bank, India had jumped 14 places to the 63rd position on the ease of doing business ranking. India has improved its rank by 79 positions in five years (2014-19). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 17th edition of “Ease of Doing Business - 2020” report – released by the World Bank
- India – 63rd position on the ease of doing business ranking | Topped by – New Zealand



- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 190
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

41. According to the “Asian Water Development Outlook (AWDO) 2020”, 1.5 billion people living in rural areas and 600 million in urban areas (total 2.1 Billion People) still lack adequate water supply and sanitation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Asian Water Development Outlook (AWDO) 2020” – released by ADB
- 2.1 Billion People (1.5 billion from rural + 600 million from urban) lack adequate water supply & sanitation
- ADB: HQs – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68

42. The population of leopards in India has increased by 60% since 2014, according to the “Status of Leopards in India 2018” report of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of leopards (3,421) followed by Karnataka (1783) and Maharashtra (1690). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Status of Leopards in India 2018” report – released by Environment Ministry
- Population of leopards increased by – 60% since 2014 | Top state – Madhya Pradesh (3,421)
- Prakash Javadekar – Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Ministry of Info. & Broadcasting
- Constituency – Maharashtra
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

43. The Indian men's and women's hockey teams will finish 2020 in 4th and 9th positions, respectively, in the ranking released by International Hockey Federation (FIH) for 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ranking released by International Hockey Federation (FIH) for 2020:
- Indian Men Hockey Team – 4th | Indian Women Hockey Team – 9th
- HQs of FIH – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Narinder Batra | CEO – Thierry Weil



44. In India, 1.7 million deaths were attributable to air pollution in 2019, which was 18% of the total deaths in the country, according to the Lancet Study. The economic loss due to the lost output from premature deaths and morbidity from air pollution was 1.4% of the GDP or ₹260,000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 1.7 million deaths in India occur due to air pollution in 2019 – according to Lancet Study (18% of the total deaths)
- Loss due to the lost output – 1.4% of the GDP or ₹260,000 Cr

45. According to the 12th edition of “World Economic League Table 2021” published by the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR), India will again overtake the UK to become the 5th largest in 2025 and race to the 3rd spot by 2030. At present, India appears to have been pushed back to being the world's 6th biggest economy in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 12th edition of “World Economic League Table 2021” – published by CEBR
- India to become the 5th largest in 2025 & 3rd spot by 2030 | Currently India – 6th & 1st – USA
- HQs of CEBR – London, UK | Chief Executive – Nina Skero

46. Rajasthan has become the 6th State in India to successfully undertake “Ease of Doing Business” reform stipulated by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. Thus, the State has become eligible to mobilise additional financial resources of Rs 2,731 crore through Open Market Borrowings. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan – became 6th State in India to successfully undertake “Ease of Doing Business” reform
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

47. On December 29, the report titled “Foreign Direct Investment Trends And Outlook In Asia And The Pacific 2020/2021” compiled by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), has stated that India has accounted for 77% of the total inflows to the South and South-West Asia sub-region and received \$51 billion in 2019, 20% up from the previous year. And overall inward FDI flows to South and South-West Asia has slightly decreased by 2% in 2019 to \$66 billion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Foreign Direct Investment Trends And Outlook In Asia And The Pacific 2020/2021” report – by UNESCAP



- India – accounted for 77% (\$51 billion) of the total inflows to the South and South-West Asia sub-region
- HQs of UNESCAP – Bangkok, Thailand | Executive Secretary – Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana

48. As per the latest “Nature Index 2020 Artificial Intelligence”, released by Nature Research, India has been the 3rd most productive country in AI research, with over 23,000 papers. On the overall AI Index, it is at the 20th position in a list dominated by European countries. Of the top 100 research organisations Nature identified, only one Indian organisation – ‘Anna University’ in Chennai, has made the cut. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Nature Index 2020 Artificial Intelligence” – released by Nature Research
- India – 3rd most productive country in AI research | Overall, India – 20th in “Nature AI index”



Acquisitions & Mergers

1. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of Rivigo Services Private Ltd (Rivigo) by Spring Canter Investment Ltd (SCIL). The CCI has also approved amalgamation of Srikalahasti Pipes with Electrosteel Castings. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI approved the acquisition of “Rivigo Services” – by “Spring Canter Investment”
- CCI also approved amalgamation of “Srikalahasti Pipes” – with “Electrosteel Castings”
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta

2. Bank of India has entered into a Share Purchase Agreement (SPA) with AXA Investment Managers Asia Holdings Pvt Ltd (AXA IM) on December 2, 2020. Bank of India will acquire 49% stake each in BOI AXA Investment Managers Pvt Ltd (BAIM) and BOI AXA Trustee Services Pvt Ltd (BATS). Bank of India currently holds 51% equity shares each in BAIM and BATS. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bank of India + AXA IM = signed a Share Purchase Agreement (SPA)
- BOI will acquire 49% stake each in BAIM & BATS
- HQs of BOI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Shri Atanu Kumar Das

3. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has allowed Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Limited (OHPC) to acquire 49% shares of AES Corporation (USA) in Odisha Power Generation Corporation (OPGC). Odisha Power is a joint venture with the State government holding 51% shareholding and AES Corporation 49%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI approved acquisition of 49% shares of AES Corp in Odisha Power – by Odisha Hydro Power Corp
- Odisha Power = 49% shareholding of AES Corporation (USA) + 51% shareholding of State government
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

4. Britain’s AstraZeneca has agreed to buy US drugmaker Alexion Pharmaceuticals for \$39 billion in cash and shares to bolster its positions in immunology and rare diseases. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AstraZeneca – to buy ‘Alexion Pharmaceuticals’ (USA) – for \$39 billion
- HQs of AstraZeneca – Cambridge, UK | CEO – Pascal Soriot



5. On December 18, Redwood Investment Ltd, an entity owned by Warburg Pincus, has sold a 4.47% stake in AU Small Finance Bank for ₹1,247.69 Cr through open market transactions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Redwood Investment (Warburg Pincus) – sold a 4.47% stake (₹1,247.69 Cr) in AU Small Finance Bank
- HQs of AU Small Finance Bank – Jaipur, Rajasthan | MD & CEO – Sanjay Agarwal

6. The Cabinet has approved the merger of 4 government-run Film and Media units - Films Division, Directorate of Film Festivals, National Film Archives of India and Children's Film Society, with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Cabinet has approved the merger of 4 government-run Film and Media units
- Films Division + Directorate of Film Festivals + National Film Archives of India + Children's Film Society = NFDC
- HQs of NFDC – Mumbai | Head – Anupama Chopra

7. On December 24, SBI Life Insurance has acquired an 8.99% stake in non-deposit taking NBFC Paisalo Digital for ₹186.20 Cr. The open market transaction involved acquisition of 38 lakh shares at ₹489.99 each. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI Life Insurance – acquired an 8.99% stake (₹186.20 Cr) – in Paisalo Digital
- HQs of SBI Life – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Mahesh Kumar Sharma
- HQs of Paisalo Digital – Agra, UP | MD & CEO – Sunil Agarwal

8. Government has invited bids to sell its 63.75% stake (valued at about Rs 2,500 Cr) in Shipping Corporation of India. The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) has issued Preliminary Information Memorandum (PIM) inviting Expressions of Interest (Eoi) from potential buyers by February 13, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government invited bids to sell its 63.75% stake (Rs 2,500 Cr) – in Shipping Corporation of India
- MoS I/C of Ministry of Shipping – Mansukh L. Mandaviya



9. ICICI Bank has entered into an agreement to acquire 9.09% stake in online school management platform Myclassboard Educational Solutions. The acquisition will be done through a cash consideration of ₹4.5 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank – to acquire 9.09% stake (₹4.5 Cr) in Myclassboard Educational Solutions
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD& CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | ED – Sandeep Batra | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”

10. On December 30, Tata Sons has bought additional 32.67% stake in AirAsia India Limited (AAIL). Now, Tata’s stake in AirAsia India will rise to 83.67% while the Malaysian carrier’s stake will drop to 16.33%. The deal was done for \$37.6 million (₹275.9 Cr). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Sons – acquired 32.67% stake (₹ 275.9 Cr) in AirAsia India Ltd (Now, its total share in AAIL will be 83.67%)
- HQs of Tata Sons – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Natarajan Chandrasekaran
- HQs of AirAsia India Ltd – Bangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Sunil Bhaskaran

11. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of 8% stake in API Holdings Pvt Ltd by Singapore-based TPG Growth V SF Markets Pte Ltd. The CCI also approved the acquisition of 51% of equity share capital of Mukand Sumi Special Steel Ltd by Jamnalal Sons Pvt Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI approved acquisition of 8% stake in API Holdings (France) – by TPG Growth V SF Markets (Singapore)
- CCI approved acquisition of 51% stake in Mukand Sumi Special Steel (Karnataka) – by Jamnalal Sons (Mumbai)
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta

12. IDBI Bank has concluded the sale of 23% stake in IDBI Federal Life Insurance Company Ltd (IFLI) to Ageas Insurance International NV for a consideration of Rs 507 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ageas Insurance International NV (Belgium) – acquired 23% stake in IDBI Federal Life Insurance
- HQs of IDBI Federal Life Insurance – Mumbai | CEO – Vighnesh Shahane



MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

1. In a bid to create a safe and secure cyber space in India, cybersecurity firm Kaspersky has signed an MoU with India Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) at the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CERT-In + Kaspersky = an MoU to create a safe and secure cyber space in India
- HQs of CERT-In – New Delhi | Director General – Sanjay Bahl
- HQs of Kaspersky – Moscow, Russia | CEO – Eugene Kaspersky

2. HDFC Life in association with Ketto India has initiated #PromisewalaDabba, a nationwide crowd-funding campaign. As part of the campaign, a #PromisewalaDabba will be delivered that includes essential supplies such as staple food ingredients, spices and accompaniments, sanitizers and toiletries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Life + Ketto India = initiated #PromisewalaDabba
- HQs of HDFC Life Insurance – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Vibha Padalkar

3. Bengaluru-based fintech start-up Finin has launched a neobanking platform in partnership with the SBM Bank India. The start-up was founded in 2019 by Suman Gandham and Sudheer Maram. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Finin + SBM Bank India = launched a Neobanking platform (founded in 2019)
- HQs of Finin – Bengaluru, Karnataka
- HQs of SBM Bank India – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sidharth Rath

4. Razorpay and PayPal have partnered to enable seamless international payments for MSMEs and freelancers. MSMEs and freelancers will now be able to accept international payments without having to write a single line of code. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Razorpay + PayPal = partnered to enable seamless international payments for MSMEs and freelancers
- HQs of Razorpay – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Harshil Mathur
- HQs of PayPal – California, USA | CEO – Daniel Schulman



5. Nabard's Karnataka Regional Office has entered into MoU with State Bank of India (SBI) to take up joint intervention projects and provide support, concessional refinance and capacity building of the stakeholders in Karnataka. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NABARD + SBI = an MoU to take up joint livelihood intervention projects in Karnataka
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Chintala Govinda Rajulu
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Arjit Basu | Ashwani Bhatia
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

6. Paytm has announced its partnership with Suryoday Small Finance Bank to empower MSMEs with instant digital loans. Through this partnership, the company is aiming at disbursing loans to over 1 lakh small businesses in the next 12 to 18 months. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Paytm + Suryoday SFB = partnership to empower MSMEs with instant digital loans
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | Paytm CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma
- HQs of Suryoday SFB – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Baskar Babu

7. Department of Space (DoS) has entered into the first one of its kind Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) with Agnikul Cosmos Pvt. Ltd for launch vehicle development program. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Department of Space + Agnikul Cosmos = Non-Disclosure Agreement for launch vehicle development program
- HQs of DoS – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Current Executive – Kailasavadi Sivan
- HQs of Agnikul Cosmos – Chennai, TN | Co-Founders – Srinath Ravichandran

8. To bring credible developers and genuine homebuyers at one platform, CREDAI-MCHI (a Real estate agency) has partnered with banking giant State Bank of India as well as Google and BookMyShow for the first virtual edition of India's largest "Real-Estate Expo-2020" to be held between Dec 04 -13, 2020. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- CREDAI-MCHI + SBI + Google + BookMyShow = partnership for the first Virtual “Real-Estate Expo-2020”
- HQs of CREDAI-MCHI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | President – Deepak Goradia
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Arjit Basu | Ashwani Bhatia
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai
- HQs of BookMyShow – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Ashish Hemrajani

9. Sequoia Spark, Sequoia India’s programme for women entrepreneurs in India and Southeast Asia, has partnered with Niti Aayog’s Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) for 1 year to promote women entrepreneurship in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sequoia Spark + Niti Aayog’s WEP = partnership to promote women entrepreneurship in India
- Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) & Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards – belongs to NITI Aayog
- NITI Aayog HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

10. NTPC Ltd has signed an MoU with Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal, to implement the Narmada Landscape Restoration Project (NLRP) in Khargone District of Madhya Pradesh. The program is being implemented in partnership with a grant-in-aid from NTPC and USAID in equal proportions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NTPC + IIFM-Bhopal – an MoU to implement “Narmada Landscape Restoration Project”
- Funds for NLRP to be provided equally by = NTPC & USAID
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh
- HQs of USAID – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Mark Green

11. On December 7, the CSIR-National Metallurgical Laboratory (NML), Jamshedpur has signed an MoU with the Indian Air Force on research and development in material Science & Engineering. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- CSIR-NML (Jamshedpur) + IAF = an MoU on research and development in material Science & Engineering
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria

12. On December 8, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) has entered a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with SJVN Ltd for Green Energy Projects. SJVN is presently developing 100-megawatt (MW) Dholera solar power project and 100-MW Raghanseda solar project in Gujarat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IREDA + SJVN = an MoU for Green Energy Projects
- HQs of IREDA – New Delhi | Director – Girish Kumar
- HQs of SJVN Ltd – Shimla, Himachal Pradesh | CMD – Nand Lal Sharma

13. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and NABARD have signed an MoU to utilise their expertise by working together to synergize the activities in the interest of agriculture & allied sectors and to implement Agriculture Export Policy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- APEDA + NABARD = an MoU to Cooperate in Agriculture Activities & to implement Agriculture Export Policy
- HQs of APEDA – New Delhi | Chairman – Paban K. Borthakur
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Chintala Govinda Rajulu

14. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) have signed an MoU on December 2 to increase intellectual property cooperation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DPIIT (India) + USPTO (USA) = an MoU to increase intellectual property cooperation
- DPIIT works under – Ministry of Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)
- HQ of DPIIT – New Delhi | Secretary – Guruprasad Mohapatra
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden

15. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has announced a strategic MoU with Mastercard and National Institute for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (ni-msme) to launch the “Digital Saksham” initiative - an



expansive program designed to strengthen the competitiveness of MSMEs through digital know-how and acceptance. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CII + Mastercard + ni-msme = partnership to launch the “Digital Saksham” initiative in India
- HQs of CII – New Delhi | President – Uday Kotak | Director General – Chandrajit Banerjee
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, USA | CEO – Ajay Banga (From Jan 2021 - Michael Miebach)

16. ICICI Lombard General Insurance has partnered with Plum Benefits Private Limited (India’s fastest growing employee health insurance startup) to re-imagine and co-create India’s first technologically backed group health insurance products. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Lombard + Plum = to co-create India’s first technologically backed group health insurance products
- HQs of ICICI Lombard – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Bhargav Das Gupta
- HQs of Plum Benefits – Bengaluru, Karnataka

17. PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) India has announced a strategic collaboration with UNICEF and YuWaah to help bridge the digital gap. Under the initiative, 300 million young people in India will be upskilled over the next 10 years. A multi-sector partnership has aimed at helping 1.8 billion young people transition from school to work by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PwC India+ UNICEF + YuWaah = collaboration to upskill 300 million youth in India over next decade
- Aim: 1.8 billion young people transition from school to work by 2030
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, United States | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore

18. Microsoft India and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) are joining hands for the India edition of “Microsoft Imagine Cup 2021”, an annual innovation challenge for students and technology enthusiasts. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Microsoft + NSDC = partnership for the India edition of “Microsoft Imagine Cup 2021”
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | CEO – Satya Nadella
- HQs of NSDC – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Manish Kumar

19. The Andhra Pradesh government has signed an MoU with the Survey of India (SoI) for taking up the first of its kind Land Survey christened ‘YSR Jagananna Saswath Bhoo Hakku-Bhoo Raksha Pathakam’. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh + Sol = an MoU to implement first of its kind Land Survey
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan
- HQs of Sol – Dehradun, Uttarakhand | Surveyor General of India – Lt. Gen. Girish Kumar

20. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has signed an MoU with the Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology of Austria on technology cooperation in the road infrastructure sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Austria + MoRTH = an MoU on technology cooperation in the Road Infrastructure Sector
- Austria – Vienna – Euro | President – Alexander Van der Bellen
- Nitin Gadkari – Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Ministry of MSMEs (Nagpur, Maharashtra)

21. The Union Cabinet has approved an MoU between India and Suriname for cooperation in the field of health and medicine. It will also lead towards achieving Atma-nirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India) by way of sharing of expertise in public health system. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Suriname = an MoU for cooperation in the field of health and medicine
- Suriname – Paramaribo – Dollar | President – Chandrikapersad 'Chan' Santokhi

22. The Union Cabinet has approved signing a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between markets regulator SEBI and Luxembourg's Financial and Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF). The MoU will strengthen the information sharing framework and also help in establishing a technical assistance programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI + CSSF (Luxembourg) = an MoU to strengthen cross border cooperation in the area of securities regulations
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi

23. On December 9, SBI General Insurance has partnered with Mahindra Insurance Brokers Ltd (MIBL) under 'Sajhedaari programme' to raise the insurance penetration in tier-II and III cities. This association will enable the



company to provide health insurance cover to a significant number of people in tier-II and III cities and generate employment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI Gen Ins. + Mahindra Insurance Brokers = to raise the insurance penetration in tier-II and III cities
- Sajhedaari programme - belongs to Mahindra Insurance Brokers Ltd
- HQs of SBI Gen Ins. – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Prakash Chandra Kandpal
- MD of MIBL – Jaideep Devare

24. RBL Bank and ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has entered into a Bancassurance Partnership to offer an array of life insurance products to the Bank's customers. RBL Bank will distribute ICICI Prudential Life's products through its network of 398 branches spread across 28 states. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBL Bank + ICICI Prudential Life Insurance = Bancassurance Partnership
- HQs of RBL Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Vishwavir Ahuja
- HQs of ICICI Prudential Life Ins. – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – N. S. Kannan

25. The Maharashtra government has signed an MoU with the Cornell University in New York to set up a world-class incubation centre in Maharashtra to provide the necessary infrastructure and conducive environment for new entrepreneurs and innovative start-ups. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra + Cornell University = an MoU to set up a world-class incubation centre in Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

26. Under “Project Nand Ghar”, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has partnered with the Anil Agarwal Foundation to support the Union Women and Child Development Ministry in achieving the UNDP Goal-2, which aims to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition by the year 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bill & Melinda Gates + Anil Agarwal Foundation = to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition by the year 2030
- “Project Nand Ghar” an initiative of = Anil Agarwal Foundation + Ministry of Women and Child Development

27. Vodafone India Foundation has entered into a partnership with Nokia to deploy a smart agriculture solution to improve the productivity of farmers in India. A pilot project is being conducted across 100 locations in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Vodafone India Foundation + Nokia = to deploy a smart agriculture solution
- A pilot project is being conducted – in Madhya Pradesh & Maharashtra
- HQs of Nokia – Espoo, Finland | CEO – Pekka Lundmark

28. Edtech major BYJU'S has inked an agreement with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to support the skilling of teachers and trainers. Byju's will provide NSDC free access to its educational content and tools to help teachers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BYJU'S+ NSDC = an agreement to support the skilling of teachers and trainers
- HQs of BYJU'S – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Byju Raveendran
- HQs of NSDC – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Manish Kumar

29. BSNL has partnered with Skylotech India for the world's first satellite-based NB-IoT (Narrow Band-Internet of Things) network. It will enable to provide connectivity for millions of unconnected machines, sensors and industrial IoT devices across the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BSNL + Skylotech India = partnership for the world's first satellite-based NB-IoT network
- HQs of BSNL – New Delhi | CMD – Pravin Kumar Purwar

30. On December 11, the India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) have joined hands to promote innovations in energy storage in India. UNIDO launched the 4th round of innovation challenge to support and encourage new innovations in Indian energy storage and e-mobility space. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IESA + UNIDO = partnership to promote innovations in energy storage in India
- HQ of IESA – Pune, Maharashtra | President – Dr. Rahul Walawalkar
- HQs of UNIDO – Vienna, Austria | Director general – Li Yong

31. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) have signed an MoU known as the “Red Channel Agreement” to strengthen the delivery of emergency medical and health services during humanitarian crises. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- WHO + IFRC = signed an MoU known as the “Red Channel Agreement”
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194
- HQs of IFRC – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary General – Jagan Chapagain

32. India and Uzbekistan have signed 9 agreements to further broadbase cooperation in several areas and vowed to combat the threat of terrorism by destroying terrorist safe-havens, networks and funding channels. The Summit was co-chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Uzbekistan = signed 9 Agreements in their first High level Bilateral Virtual Summit
- Uzbekistan – Tashkent – So’m | President – Shavkat Mirziyoyev

33. Tamil Nadu government has signed 18 MoUs worth 19,955 Cr with 18 companies, corporate houses and industrial groups, which will create jobs for 26,509 people. Palaniswami has also laid the foundation stone for 5 industrial projects worth Rs 4,456 Cr which will create 27,324 jobs. The cumulative investment in the 24 projects is about Rs 24,458 Cr and the employment potential will be about 54,218 persons. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – signed 18 MoUs with different corporate for 24 projects worth about Rs 24,458 Cr
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

34. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Amazon India have signed an MoU to increase Export potential of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in 10 states and help them leverage e-commerce to boost domestic trade. The pact was signed at the 17th CII Global SME Business Summit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 17th CII Global SME Business Summit – held on December 9-10
- Amazon + CII = an MoU to increase Export potential of MSMEs in 10 states
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle , USA | Founder & CEO – Jeff Bezos
- HQs of CII – New Delhi | President – Uday Kotak | Director General – Chandrajit Banerjee

35. Aiming to make India a manufacturing hub for electric vehicles, Ola has signed an MoU with the Tamil Nadu government for an investment of Rs 2,400 Cr to set up its first factory in Hosur, Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:



- Ola + Tamil Nadu = to set up the World's largest scooter manufacturing factory – in Hosur, Tamil Nadu
- HQs of Ola – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Bhavish Aggarwal

36. The Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) and Automotive Skills Development Council (ASDC) has tied up with Google India to bridge the digital skills gap in the country's auto dealerships and build their capacity in this critical growth driver. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FADA + ASDC = tied up with Google India to bridge the digital skills gap in the country's auto dealerships
- HQs of FADA – New Delhi | President – Vinkesh Gulati
- HQs of ASDC – New Delhi | CEO – Arindam Lahiri
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai

37. SBI General Insurance has partnered with IntrCity RailYatri, a multi-modal intercity mobility platform, to offer domestic travel insurance worth Rs 5 lakh which will come along with the travel ticket to bus customers who travel through IntrCity SmartBus. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI General Insurance + IntrCity RailYatri = partnership to offer domestic travel insurance worth Rs 5 lakh
- HQs of SBI Gen Ins. – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Prakash Chandra Kandpal

38. SBI Card has launched “BPCL SBI Card Octane” in association with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), offering maximum savings to consumers who spend a significant amount on fuel. The card offers 7.25% value back (including 1% surcharge waiver) on fuel and lubricant spends at BPCL fuel stations and 6.25% value back on Bharat Gas spends. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI Card + Bharat Petroleum = launched “BPCL SBI Card Octane”
- HQs of SBI Card – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rajnish Kumar | MD & CEO – Ashwini Kumar Tewari
- HQs of BPCL – Mumbai, MH | CMD – K Padmakar

39. The Union Cabinet has approved Central Electricity Regulatory Commission's (CERC) proposal for entering into an MoU with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), USA in the Electricity sector. The MoU will help in improving regulatory and policy framework for developing efficient wholesale power market. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- CERC (India) + FERC (USA) = an MoU in the Electricity sector
- HQs of CERC – New Delhi | Chairman – A. K. Basu
- HQs of FERC – Washington, D.C., USA | Chairperson – James Danly

40. E-commerce major Snapdeal has partnered with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to allow shoppers to make QR-based digital payments at the time of accepting delivery of their orders. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Snapdeal + NPCI = to allow shoppers to make QR-based digital payments during products delivery
- HQs of Snapdeal – New Delhi | CEO – Kunal Bahl
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe

41. On December 17, Infrastructure Investment trust IndiGrid has announced a multi-year collaboration agreement with IBM to build an artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled asset management platform. The IBM Maximo Application Suite will allow IndiGrid to become future-ready by improving the overall health of its assets. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IndiGrid + IBM = a multi-year collaboration agreement to build an AI-enabled Asset Management Platform
- HQs of IndiGrid – New Delhi | CEO – Harsh Shah
- HQs of IBM India – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD – Sandip Patel

42. On December 17, Government of Karnataka and the British Council have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to further increase bilateral cooperation in higher education. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka + British Council = an MoU to increase bilateral cooperation in higher education
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala
- HQs of British Council – London, UK | Director – Barbara Wickham OBE

43. On December 18, a “Joint Communique” was signed between Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) and Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI). The MoFPI has also signed 5 MoUs with TRIFED, NCDC, ICAR, NAFED & NSFDC for the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PM-FME) Scheme. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- MoFPI + MoTA = “Joint Communique” for the implementation of PM-FME Scheme
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs – Arjun Munda (Constituency – Khunti, Jharkhand)
- Narendra Singh Tomar – Ministry of Food Processing Industries (Morena, MP)

44. Assam’s Industries and Commerce Department has signed an MoU with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) under which a Project Management Unit (PMU) will be deployed by SIDBI with Government of Assam to develop MSME ecosystem in the State. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SIDBI + Assam = an MoU to set-up a PMU to develop MSME ecosystem in the State
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | Chairman – Mohammad Mustafa
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

45. Indian Navy has signed an MoU with Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) for sharing ocean services data, expertise in operational oceanography. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy + INCOIS (Hyderabad) = an MoU to share Ocean Services Data
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

46. The government of Gujarat has signed an MoU with education infrastructure fund Cerestra Ventures to develop a Special Education Region at Dholera. The G-SER will be spread over 1, 000 acres consisting of residential and sports complexes for students. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gujarat + Cerestra Ventures = an MoU to develop a ‘Special Education Region’ – at Dholera, Gujarat
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

47. Startup Haryana and the department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communication (DITECH) signed an MoU with India Accelerator to build robust startup ecosystem in the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana + India Accelerator = an MoU to build robust startup ecosystem



- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya
- HQs of India Accelerator – Gurgaon, Haryana | CEO – Ashish Bhatia

48. Kerala government has partnered with UN Women to set up India's first Gender Data Centre at the Parks 24-acre Kozhikode campus. It will further the cause of women empowerment and function as a South Asia hub for gender equality. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala + UN Women = partnership to set up India's first Gender Data Centre in Kozhikode
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan
- HQs of UN Women – New York, USA | Executive Director – Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

49. "India - Vietnam Virtual Summit" was held on December 21, 2020 and was co-chaired by PM Narendra Modi. India and Vietnam have signed 7 agreements in varied areas such as defence, scientific research, renewable energy, nuclear energy, petro-chemicals, and cancer treatment. An MoU was signed between Tata Memorial Centre of India and Vietnam National Cancer Hospital for collaboration in diagnosis and treatment for cancer patients. As per the agreement, Army Software Park will be built in Vietnam using the \$5 million Grant Assistance provided by India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "India - Vietnam Virtual Summit" – held on December 21 | Co-chaired by – PM Narendra Modi
- Agreements: Defence, Scientific research, Renewable energy, Nuclear energy, Petro-chemicals & Cancer treatment
- Tata Memorial Centre of India + Vietnam National Cancer Hospital = an MoU for Cancer treatment
- Vietnam – Hanoi – Vietnamese dong | PM - Nguyen Xuan Phuc

50. Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and CSIR-NGRI (National Geophysical Research Institute) have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for use of Advanced Heliborne Geophysical Survey and other scientific studies in parts of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Haryana under the 'Aquifer Mapping Programme'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CGWB + CSIR-NGRI (Hyderabad) = MoA signed for use of Advanced Heliborne Geophysical Survey
- CGWB – functions under Ministry of Jal Shakti (HQs – Faridabad, Haryana)



51. IndiGo has partnered with car rental company Urban Drive so that passengers can book self-driven and chauffeur driver services across 60 cities in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IndiGo + Urban Drive = partnership to help passengers book self-driven and chauffeur driver services
- HQs of IndiGo – Gurugram, Haryana | CEO – Rono Dutta

52. The Maharashtra state government has signed an MoU worth ₹61,000 Cr with 25 Indian companies in more than 15 sectors under its 'Magnetic Maharashtra' initiative. The proposed investments are expected to create 2.53 lakh jobs across the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – signed an MoU worth ₹61,000 Cr with 25 Indian companies in more than 15 sectors
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

53. NMDC Ltd (National Mineral Development Corporation) has signed an MoU with Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) for joint exploration for iron ore, gold, coal, diamond and other minerals in mutually agreed projects across various States. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NMDC + MECL = signed an MoU for joint mineral exploration
- HQs of NMDC – Hyderabad, Telangana | CMD – Sumit Deb
- HQs of MECL – Nagpur, Maharashtra | CMD – Dr. Ranjit Rath

54. Telangana government and the Indian arm of German software group SAP have entered into an MoU to equip micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the State with digital skilling and technologies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Telangana + SAP India = an MoU to equip MSMEs with digital skilling and technologies
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan
- HQs of SAP India – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD – Kulmeet Bawa



- HQs of SAP SE – Walldorf, Germany | CEO – Christian Klein

55. On December 24, the Indian Navy and the CSIR-NIO (National Institute of Oceanography) have signed an MoU to collaborate and exchange expertise in the field of ocean studies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy + CSIR-NIO = an MoU to collaborate and exchange expertise in the field of ocean studies
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar
- HQs of CSIR-NIO – Panaji, Goa

56. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed virtually between IIT- Banaras Hindu University (IIT-BHU) and ISRO to set up its Regional Academic Centre for Space (RAC-S). It will pave the way for advanced research in the future technology of the Indian space programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT-BHU + ISRO = an MoU to set up its Regional Academic Centre for Space (RAC-S) – at IIT-BHU campus, UP
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969

57. On December 23, the Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing revised Air Services Agreement with Philippines and Afghanistan. The agreements have the potential to spur greater trade, investment, tourism and cultural exchanges. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Cabinet = given its approval for signing revised Air Services Agreement with Philippines & Afghanistan
- Philippines – Manila – Peso | President – Rodrigo Duterte
- Afghanistan – Kabul – Afghani | President – Ashraf Ghani

58. A memorandum of cooperation was signed in the field of steel industry between India's steel ministry and Japan's economy, trade and industry ministry. It will boost mutual cooperation by establishing an "India-Japan steel dialogue" at the joint secretary-level. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Japan = a memorandum of cooperation in the field of steel industry
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga



59. Under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), the Directorate General of Training (DGT) has joined hands with Microsoft and NASSCOM Foundation to provide digital content for ITI students and also future-ready employability skilling program for upskilling and reskilling via the Bharatskills portal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DGT + Microsoft + NASSCOM Foundation = partnership to provide digital content for ITI students
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | CEO – Satya Nadella
- MSDE Minister – Mahendra Nath Pandey (Constituency – Chandauli, UP)
- MoS for MSDE – R K Singh (Raj Kumar Singh)

60. National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (S-VYASA) have signed an MoU to set up Yoga wellness centres and naturopathy facilities throughout India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NCDC + S-VYASA = an MoU to set up Yoga wellness centres & naturopathy facilities throughout India
- HQs of NCDC – New Delhi | Managing Director – Sundeep Kumar Nayak
- Location of S-VYASA – Bengaluru, Karnataka

61. India and Israel have signed an agreement to cooperate in the fields of health and medicine, including sharing of expertise in building climate resilient infrastructure and support to “Green Healthcare”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Israel – an agreement to cooperate in the fields of health & medicine and to support “Green Healthcare”
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu

62. Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) has recently signed an MoU with UNDP India to co-create India’s first Social Impact Bond (SIB). UNDP will support PCMC in the design of the SIB by providing technical assistance through the SDG Finance Facility housed at UNDP. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pimpri Chinchwad MC (Pune) + UNDP = an MoU to co-create India’s first Social Impact Bond (SIB)
- HQs of UNDP – New York, USA | Administrator – Achim Steiner
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari



63. Chhattisgarh government has signed a contract execution (MoU) for India's first ethanol plant to be set up in the state under the public-private partnership (PPP) model. The contract was signed by Bhoramdev Cooperative Sugar Factory Kawardha (BCSFK) and NKJ Biofuel for a period of 30 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BCSFK + NKJ Biofuel = signed an MoU for India's first ethanol plant to be set up in – Chhattisgarh
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey

64. Oakridge Energy has signed an agreement with Kendriya Vidyalaya and Delhi government for solarizing schools in Delhi. Under this scheme, Delhi government schools will not be required to make any investment, with the developer making all the investment. Schools would purchase the power at Rs 3.13/kWh, which is a discount of 65 per cent on their electricity bill. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Oakridge Energy + Kendriya Vidyalaya + Delhi gov = an agreement for solarizing schools in Delhi
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

65. The Union Cabinet has approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Bhutan on peaceful uses of outer space. The MoU was signed between the two sides on November 19. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Cabinet – approved an MoU between India and Bhutan on peaceful uses of Outer Space
- Bhutan – Thimphu – Bhutanese Ngultrum | PM – Lotay Tshering

66. Indian Coast Guard has signed MoUs with 7 Asian countries for cooperation in maritime search and rescue operations. The seven countries are Japan, the Philippines, Thailand, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Vietnam. The Coast Guard also conducts the 'National Beacon Exercise'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Coast Guard – signed MoUs with 7 Asian countries for cooperation in maritime search and rescue operations
- 7 countries – Japan, Philippines, Thailand, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Indonesia & Vietnam
- HQs of ICG – New Delhi | Director General – Krishnaswamy Natarajan





Books & Authors

1. Alfredo Covelli - an Italy based author has launched his new book “Vahana Masterclass” for children and Young Audience in the Indian market. The book will be published by Scholastic India. The book illustrates the Indian Mythology and Culture. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Vahana Masterclass” book – authored by ‘Alfredo Covelli’ (Italy)
- Published by – Scholastic India

2. Internet gaming entrepreneur Alok Kejriwal talks about principles of success and shares some of his spiritual experiences and the lessons that he learnt from them in his new book – “The Cave”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Cave” book – authored by ‘Alok Kejriwal’

3. The Vice President Shri M Venkaiah Naidu has released the book, “40 Years with Abdul Kalam- Untold Stories” authored by Dr A. Sivathanu Pillai. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M Venkaiah Naidu – released the book “40 Years with Abdul Kalam- Untold Stories”
- The book is authored by – Dr A. Sivathanu Pillai

4. Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ has presented the first copy of his inspirational book “Pioneer of Humanity: Maharishi Arvind” to President Ram Nath Kovind at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The book is in Hindi with the title ‘Manavta ke Praneta Maharishi Arvind’. The book is about Sri Aurobindo Ghosh (Maharishi Arvind). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ramesh Pokhriyal – presented the first copy of his book titled “Pioneer of Humanity: Maharishi Arvind”
- The book is about – Sri Aurobindo Ghosh (an Indian Philosopher)
- Ministry of Education – Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ (Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)



5. A book titled “Romancing Targets” is authored by Nidhi Vadhera. In this book, she shares with you a systematic approach to understand the sales process which will empower you to embrace sales targets and achieve results without getting burnt in the process. The book was published by Success Gyan Publishing. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Romancing Targets” book – authored by Nidhi Vadhera

6. Best-selling author Amish Tripathi has announced a new non-fiction book “Dharma: Decoding the Epics for a Meaningful Life”. This would be his second in the genre after Immortal India, which was released in 2017. The book has been co-authored by Amish’s sister Bhavna Roy and published by Westland Publications. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Dharma: Decoding the Epics for a Meaningful Life” book – authored by Amish Tripathi + Bhavna Roy
- Published by – Westland Publications

7. Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has released the book “Vriksha Vedam” published by the Green India Challenge. The book is authored by Mamidi Harikrishna and edited by Deshapathi Srinivas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- K Chandrashekar Rao – released the book “Vriksha Vedam” (authored by - Mamidi Harikrishna)
- Edited by – Deshapathi Srinivas | Published by – Green India Challenge

8. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has released a booklet titled “Putting Farmers First”, highlighting the reforms introduced by the government in the agriculture sector through the new farm laws. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of I&B – released a booklet titled “Putting Farmers First”
- Prakash Javadekar – Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Constituency – Maharashtra)

9. The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has brought out a book namely “The Shaurya Unbound”. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Prakash Birla has released the book in his chamber on the 19th anniversary of the Parliament attack. The first book in this series is a collection of 13 most exemplary acts of valour of the force personnel. CRPF DIG Ms. Nitu is co-author of the book. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- CRPF brought out a book namely “The Shaurya Unbound” – launched by Om Prakash Birla
- Co-author of the book – Ms. Nitu (CRPF DIG)
- HQs of CRPF – New Delhi | Director – Anand Prakash Maheshwari

10. Former Union minister Jairam Ramesh’s new book will uncover and narrate the story of phenomenal poem The Light of Asia that has shaped people’s thinking of the Buddha and his teachings. The book, titled “The Light of Asia: The Poem that Defined the Buddha”, will be published under Penguin’s ‘Viking’ imprint in May, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Light of Asia: The Poem that Defined the Buddha” book – authored by Jairam Ramesh

11. Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu has released a book of English poems by Mizoram Governor P. S. Sreedharan Pillai, titled “Oh Mizoram”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Oh Mizoram” book – written by P. S. Sreedharan Pillai | released by – M. Venkaiah Naidu
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

12. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar has launched veteran journalist and media entrepreneur Prem Prakash’s book “Reporting India: My Seventy-Year Journey as a Journalist” at Kitaab online book launch event organized by Prabha Khaitan Foundation of Kolkata in association with Penguin India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Reporting India: My Seventy-Year Journey as a Journalist” book – written by Prem Prakash
- The book is released by – S. Jaishankar (Ministry of External Affairs | Constituency – Gujarat)

13. The government has issued 100-page e-booklet “Putting Farmers First” highlighting the success stories of farmers who have benefited from contract farming after enactment of these legislations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The government issued 100-page e-booklet – “Putting Farmers First”



14. The book titled “COVID-19: Sabhyata ka Sankat aur Samadhan” (COVID-19: Crisis of Civilisation and Solutions) was launched online on December 17 by former Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra and Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh. The book is authored by Kailash Satyarthi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “COVID-19: Sabhyata ka Sankat aur Samadhan” book – authored by Kailash Satyarthi

15. On December 22, former Maharashtra Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly Devendra Fadnavis has released the book titled “Ayodhya” written by BJP's State Vice President Madhav Bhandari. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Ayodhya” book - written by Madhav Bhandari | released by – Devendra Fadnavis
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

16. Justice Rajinder Sachar's autobiography “In Pursuit of Justice” is a glimpse into how close Law is to Politics. The book has been posthumously published and launched on December 22. He passed away on April 20, 2018, at age of 94 in Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “In Pursuit of Justice” an autobiography – of Justice Rajinder Sachar

17. On December 27, Shripad Naik has released a Konkani book “Sutranivednachi sutra- ek an Bav”, by Dr Roopa Chari, which is published by Sanjana Publications. Dr. Roopa Chari is a well-known personality in the field of Compering in Goa. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Sutranivednachi sutra- ek an Bav” a Konkani book – authored by Dr. Roopa Chari
- The book is published by – Shripad Yesso Naik
- MoS of AYUSH – Shripad Yesso Naik | Constituency – North Goa

18. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released a book “Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Parliament: A Commemorative Volume” to mark the 96th birth anniversary of the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on December 25. The book is published by the Lok Sabha Secretariat. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – released a book “Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Parliament: A Commemorative Volume”
- The book is published by – Lok Sabha Secretariat

19. Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan released a book titled “Element of Quantitative Genetics” by Prof. Dr. Stuti Sharma of Jawaharlal Nehru Agricultural University, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Element of Quantitative Genetics” – written by Stuti Sharma | released by – Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

20. Shantanu Naidu has authored a book titled “I Came Upon a Lighthouse: A Short Memoir of Life with Ratan Tata”. The book is published by HarperCollins India and illustrated by Sanjana Desai. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “I Came Upon a Lighthouse: A Short Memoir of Life with Ratan Tata” – authored by Shantanu Naidu
- The book is published by – HarperCollins India | illustrated by – Sanjana Desai

21. Manav Kaul has presented his first novel “Antima” to Ruskin Bond. He has previously written books such as “Tumhare Baare Mein” and “Bahut Door, Kitna Door Hota Hai”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Antima” novel – written by Manav Kaul

22. Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan has released “Sabarimala Vijnanakosham” - a book written by K S Vijayanath. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Sabarimala Vijnanakosham” book – authored by “K S Vijayanath” | released by – Arif Mohammed
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan



Obituaries

1. A Rajya Sabha member from Gujarat 'Abhay Bhardwaj' has passed away during his post coronavirus (COVID-19) treatment in a private hospital in Chennai. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Abhay Bhardwaj – a Politician (BJP) – passed away (Rajya Sabha member from Gujarat)
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

2. Mahashay Dharampal Gulati (King of Spice) has passed away recently in December at the age of 98. He was the owner of Mahashian Di Hatti (popularly known as MDH). Gulati was India's highest-paid consumer products CEO for the year 2017. He had also received Padma Bhushan in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mahashay Dharampal Gulati – a Businessman – passed away (The owner of MDH brand & Padma Bhushan in 2019)

3. Maulana Kalbe Sadiq, the Islamic scholar, educationist, philanthropist and senior vice-president of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has passed away recently. He is also known as India's "Second Sir Syed Ahmad Khan". He was 83. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maulana Kalbe Sadiq – an Islamic scholar, Educationist, Philanthropist – passed away
- He was senior vice-president of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB)
- He is also known as India's "Second Sir Syed Ahmad Khan"

4. Former President of France, Valery Giscard d'Estaing has passed away recently due to COVID-19 complications. He was 94. Giscard was elected president in 1974 at the age of 48 to become France's youngest postwar leader. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Valery Giscard d'Estaing – Former President of France – passed away
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | New PM – Jean Castex



5. Former Prime Minister of Pakistan Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali has passed away recently. He was 76. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali – Former President of Pakistan – passed away
- [Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi](#)

6. S. Ramakrishnan, veteran Tamil publisher has passed away. He was 75. He published the widely consulted Tamil-English dictionary. He also played a key role in the formation of 'MOZHI,' a public trust, 'Koothu-pattarai', an avant-garde theatre group, and the Roja Muthiah Research Library. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S. Ramakrishnan – veteran Tamil publisher – passed away

7. Indian space scientist Sundaram (S) Ramakrishnan has passed away recently in December. He was 71. He was former Director of ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC). Mr. Ramakrishnan is a recipient of the Dr Biren Roy Award. He received the Padma Shri in 2003. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S. Ramakrishnan – Indian space Scientist – passed away (Former Director of VSSC)
- Recipient of: "Dr Biren Roy Award" & "Padma Shri-2003"

8. Lakshwadweep's Administrator and former Intelligence Bureau chief Dineshwar Sharma has passed away. He was 66. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dineshwar Sharma – Lakshwadweep's Administrator – passed away (former Chief of IB)

9. American film actor Rafer Johnson, who won the Decathlon at the 1960 Rome Olympics has passed away. He acted in "License to Kill" 1989 James Bond movie. He was 86. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rafer Johnson (USA) – an Actor & Sports person – passed away (winner of Decathlon at the 1960 Rome Olympics)
- [HQs of International Gas Union – Barcelona, Spain | President – Joe M. Kang](#)



10. Veteran Marathi Actor Ravi Patwardhan has passed away recently. He was 84. He was best known for starring in the Marathi show Aggabai Sasubai and 1980s Hindi films like Tezaab and Ankush. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ravi Patwardhan – Marathi Actor – passed away
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

11. Former Uruguayan President Tabare Vazquez has passed away recently in December after suffering from lung cancer. He was 80. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tabare Vazquez – Former Uruguayan President – passed away
- Uruguay – Montevideo – Peso Uruguayo

12. Justice G. R. Udhwani of Gujarat High Court has died of COVID-19. He was 59. Justice Udhwani was elevated as High Court judge in 2012. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Justice G. R. Udhwani – Judge of Gujarat High Court – passed away
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

13. Dennis Ralston has passed away recently in December. He was a 5-time Grand Slam doubles champion and an International Tennis Hall of Fame inductee. He was 78. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dennis Ralston (USA) – a Tennis Player – passed away
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden

14. Frank Carney has passed away recently in December. He was the co-founder of 'Pizza Hut' and was 82 year old. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Frank Carney (USA) – Co-founder of 'Pizza Hut' – passed away



15. Bengali actor Monu Mukherjee has passed away recently in December due to a cardiac arrest. He was 90. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Monu Mukherjee – a Bengali Actor – passed away

16. Renowned Physicist, businessman and Sikh activist Narinder Singh Kapany has passed away recently. He was 94. He was called the 'Father of Fiber Optics' and had more than 100 patents in his name. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narinder Singh Kapany – Renowned Physicist, Businessman & Sikh Activist – passed away
- He was known as – the 'Father of Fiber Optics' (100 patents in his name)

17. Veteran Hindi writer Madhukar Gangadhar has passed away recently in New Delhi. He was 88 years old. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhukar Gangadhar – Hindi writer – passed away

18. Legendary Choreographer and Padma Shri Awardee 'Astad Deboo' has passed away recently in December. He was 73 and had created a unique Indian contemporary dance vocabulary. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Astad Deboo – a Choreographer – passed away ("Padma Shri" – for Dance)

19. Popular Contemporary Hindi poet and Literary Journalist Manglesh Dabral has passed away recently. He was undergoing treatment for Covid-19. He was 72. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manglesh Dabral – Hindi poet & Literary Journalist – passed away

20. Italy's World Cup hero Paolo Rossi has passed away recently. He won the Golden Boot as the top scorer and Golden Ball as the best player of the tournament in 1982 World Cup. He was 64. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Paolo Rossi (Italy) – a Football player – passed away (1982 World Cup)
- Italy – Rome – Euro | PM – Giuseppe Conte



21. Dharmalingam Ethiraj has passed away recently in Bengaluru. He was 87. He was former India football player and member of the 1962 Asian Games Gold medal-winning team. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dharmalingam Ethiraj – a Football Player – passed away
- He was member of – 1962 Asian Games Gold medal-winning team

22. South Korean Film Director Kim Ki-duk has passed away recently after getting infected by Corona virus. He has won the top prize “The Golden Lion Award” at the Venice Film Festival in 2012 for his 2012 film “Pieta”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kim Ki-duk (South Korea) – a Film Director – passed away
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Moon Jae-in

23. Noted Sanskrit scholar and eminent discourses Bannanje Govindacharya passed away recently on December 13. He was 84. A Padma Shri awardee in 2009 for ‘Literature’, he had edited the weekly magazine of Kannada daily “Udayavani” for some years during the 1970s. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bannanje Govindacharya – a Sanskrit scholar – passed away (Padma Shri - 2009 for ‘Literature’)

24. American Music Star Charley Pride has passed away recently in December due to complications from COVID-19. He was 86. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Charley Pride (USA) – a Singer – passed away
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden

25. Charles Elwood “Chuck” Yeager, the US test pilot of World War II, has passed away recently on December 8. He became the first person to fly faster than the speed of sound, referred to as breaking the “sound barrier” on October 14, 1947. He was 97. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chuck Yeager (USA) – a Test Pilot – passed away
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden



26. Eminent Malayalam writer UA Khader, who enriched Malayalam language and literature with his unique style, has passed away recently on December 12. She was 85. He was recipient of the Sahitya Akademi award. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UA Khader – Malayalam writer – passed away (recipient of the Sahitya Akademi award)

27. On December 8, Eminent aerospace scientist, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan Awardee, Roddam Narasimha has passed away recently. He was 87. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Roddam Narasimha – Eminent Aerospace Scientist – passed away (Padma Bhushan & Padma Vibhushan Awardee)

28. Alex Olmedo has passed away recently in December. He was 84. He had won the Wimbledon and Australian Championships singles titles in 1959 and was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1987. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Alex Olmedo (Peru) – a Tennis player – passed away (Wimbledon and Australian Championships – 1959)
- Peru – Lima – Sol | President – Martin Vizcarra

29. Veteran Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader and 5-time former MP Radhika Ranjan Pramanik has passed away recently. He was 87. He was MP from Mathurapur in West Bengal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Radhika Ranjan Pramanik – a Politician (TMC) – passed away (Constituency – Mathurapur, WB)
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

30. Eswatini Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo (M.) Dlamini, who was undergoing treatment for coronavirus has passed away. He was 52. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ambrose Dlamini – PM of Eswatini – passed away
- Eswatini – Mbabane/Lobamba – Swazi lilangeni



31. Indian Navy's Senior Most Submariner, Vice Admiral Srikant has passed away recently on December 15 due to COVID-19-related complications. He was due to retire on December 31. He was Director General of 'Project Seabird'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vice Admiral Srikant – DG of 'Project Seabird' – passed away

32. Noted wrestler Sripati Khanchanale, who had won the prestigious 'Hind Kesari' title in 1959, has passed away recently in December. He was 86. He was also a recipient of the Shiv Chhatrapati award, which is given by the Maharashtra government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sripati Khanchanale – a Wrestler – passed away
- Winner of: 'Hind Kesari' title in 1959 & 'Shiv Chhatrapati Award' by Maharashtra

33. Former Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier (Gerard Paul Francis Houllier) has passed away recently in December at the age of 73. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gerard Houllier (France) – former Football Manager of Liverpool FC – passed away
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | New PM – Jean Castex

34. Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) ideologue and its first spokesperson Madhav Govind Vaidya has passed away on December 19. He was 97. He was a former chief editor of the city-based pro-RSS Marathi daily 'Tarun Bharat'. Vaidya became a member of the RSS in 1943. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhav Govind Vaidya – passed away – former Chief Editor of 'Tarun Bharat' newspaper & RSS ideologue

35. Congress veteran Motilal Vora has passed away recently in December. He was 93. Starting out as a journalist, Mr Vora had occupied several key positions including being the CM of Madhya Pradesh twice (1985-88 and 1989), health minister in Rajiv Gandhi's cabinet and Governor of Uttar Pradesh in mid-90s. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Motilal Vora – a Politician (Congress) – passed away (2 times CM of Madhya Pradesh & Gov of UP)



36. On December 23, Renowned Malayalam Poet and Social activist Sugathakumari has passed away in Thiruvananthapuram following COVID-19-related health complications. She was 86. In 2006, she was honoured with Padma Shri for her contribution towards Literature in Malayalam. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sugathakumari – Renowned Malayalam Poet & Social activist – passed away (Padma Shri 2006 – in Literature)
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

37. England's former opening batsman 'John Hugh Edrich' has passed away at the age of 83. Diagnosed with leukaemia in 2000, the left-hander had scored 103 first-class centuries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- John Edrich (England) – a Cricketer – passed away
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

38. On December 26, Robin David Jackman, former England fast bowler, has passed away at the age of 75. Apart from being a Test cricketer for England, Jackman was also a renowned commentator. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Robin Jackman (England) – a Cricketer – passed away

39. On December 26, Eminent Urdu poet, critic and writer Shamsur Rahman Faruqi has passed away. He was 85. He was awarded the Saraswati Samman in 1996 for his work 'Sher-e Shor-Angez' and was honoured with the Padma Shri in 2009. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shamsur Rahman Faruqi – Urdu Poet, Critic & Writer – passed away
- Awards: Saraswati Samman in 1996 | Padma Shri in 2009

40. On December 26, former Union Minister and senior AIADMK leader Kadambur "M. R. Janardhanan" has passed away in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu. He was 91. He was elected to the Lok Sabha for 4 times from Tirunelveli constituency in 1984, 1989, 1991 and 1998. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. R. Janardhanan (Tamil Nadu) – a Politician – passed away (4 times Lok Sabha member | Party – AIADMK)
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit



41. On December 27, Eminent dance scholar and critic Sunil Kothari has passed away at the age of 87 because of COVID-19 related complications. A Sangeet Natak Akademi fellow, Kothari blazed a new trail in documenting Indian classical dance forms. He received “Padma Shri-2001” in Art. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sunil Kothari – Eminent dance scholar and critic – passed away (“Padma Shri-2001” in Art)

42. Veteran Congress leader and former minister Madan Lal Sharma has passed away recently in December. He was 68. Sharma was twice elected to the Lok Sabha from Jammu- Poonch seat in 2004 and 2009. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madan Lal Sharma – a Politician (Congress) – passed away

43. Former India football international Mir Sajjad Ali has passed away recently in December. He was 66. He was selected to play for India in 1977. Later on, he played for East Bengal and Mohammedan Sporting. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mir Sajjad Ali – a Football player – passed away



44. Karnataka Legislative Council Deputy Chairman S L Dharme Gowda has passed away recently in December. According to police, he is suspected to have died by suicide. He was associated with JD(S). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S L Dharme Gowda – a Politician of JD(S) party – passed away (Karnataka Legislative Council deputy Chairman)
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

45. The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has condoled the demise of former Blue Tigers’ Olympian Nikhil Nandy who passed away recently on December 29 at the age of 88. He finished 4th in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. He was also a part of the side that notched-up a semi-final finish in the 1958 Asian Games in Tokyo, Japan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nikhil Nandy – a Football player – passed away
- HQs of AIFF – Dwarka, Delhi | President – Praful Patel



46. New Zealand's finest Test batsmen - John Fulton Reid has passed away due to cancer at the age of 64. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- John Fulton Reid (New Zealand) – a Cricketer – passed away
- New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar (NZD)

47. Indira Joseph Venniyoor, Renowned broadcaster of All India Radio veteran and the first English news announcer of Travancore Radio has passed away recently in December. She was 94. It was in 1949 that Travancore Radio started its first English news service. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indira Joseph Venniyoor – Renowned broadcaster of All India Radio – passed away
- She was the first English news announcer of – Travancore Radio

48. Legendary Odia musician Shantanu Mohapatra has passed away recently in December. He was 84. The first Odia music composer to work with legends like Lata Mangeshkar, Manna Dey and Md Rafi and also the first to work in Hindi, Bengali, Assamese and Telugu film industries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shantanu Mohapatra – an Odia musician – passed away

49. Air vice-marshal (retd) Ajit Singh Lamba, a veteran aviator who flew planes until the age of 83, has passed away recently in December. He was 84. He was awarded with the Vir Chakra for gallantry in the 1965 Indo-Pak war. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajit Lamba – Air vice-marshal (retd) – passed away (Vir Chakra for gallantry in the 1965 Indo-Pak war)



Person in News

1. The Education Ministry has set up a Task Force for preparing a roadmap on imparting Technical Education, including engineering courses, in mother tongue. The Task Force will be headed by Higher Education Secretary Amit Khare. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Education Ministry – set up a Task Force for preparing a roadmap on imparting Technical Education
- The Task Force will be headed by – Amit Khare (Higher Education Secretary)

2. India has invited U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson as chief guest for the Republic Day celebrations in January 2021 and a decision on this is awaited from London. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India invited U.K. Prime Minister ‘Boris Johnson’ as Chief Guest for 2021 Republic Day
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

3. Former Punjab Chief Minister and Shiromani Akali Dal patron Parkash Singh Badal has returned his “Padma Vibhushan” award in protest against what he termed as the “betrayal of farmers”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Parkash Singh Badal (Former CM of Punjab) – returned his “Padma Vibhushan” award in protest to the Farm Bills
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

4. Margaret Keenan, a 90-year-old grandmother from Britain, has become the first person in the world to receive the “Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine” outside of a trial. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Margaret Keenan (Britain, UK) – become the first person in the world to receive the “Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine”
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson



5. Villa San Carlos striker Mara Gomez has become the first transgender woman to play football in Argentina. Gomez, 23, got the approval to play from the Argentina Football Association (AFA) and started in Villa San Carlos' 7-1 win over Lanus in the Primera A. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mara Gomez – became the first transgender woman to play Football in Argentina
- [Argentina – Buenos Aires – Peso | President – Alberto Fernandez](#)

6. Indian Embassy in Beijing (China) Vikram Misri has launched Bollywood “CinemaSCOpe” series for SCO diplomats. More than two dozen Indian movies including '3 Idiots', dubbed in Russian language, will be screened on a monthly basis till India's chairmanship of the eight-member SCO 'Council of Heads of State' meeting in 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Embassy of India in China – launched Bollywood “CinemaSCOpe” series for SCO diplomats
- Vikram Misri – Embassy of India in Beijing China
- [China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping](#)

7. UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson will be Chief Guest at India's 72nd Republic Day parade at the Red Fort on 26 January 2021. Boris Johnson would be the first British PM since John Major to be guest of honour at the Rajpath parade in 27 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Boris Johnson – will be Chief Guest at India's 72nd Republic Day parade on 26 January 2021
- [UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson](#)

8. Parliament’s Committee on Home Affairs has submitted a report on “Management of COVID-19 pandemic and related issues” to M. Venkaiah Naidu. The House panel on home affairs is led by Congress veteran Anand Sharma. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Parliament’s Committee on HA – presented a report on “Management of COVID-19 pandemic & related issues”
- Parliament’s Committee on Home Affairs is led by – Anand Sharma | Members – 31



9. The Department of Science and Technology under Frontier and Futuristic Technologies Division has constituted an Advisory Committee to use futuristic and new age technologies for Heritage Conservation. The committee is chaired by Prof. Santanu Chaudhury (Director of IIT Jodhpur). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Advisory Committee to use futuristic and new age technologies for Heritage Conservation – by Dept of S&T
- The committee is chaired by – Santanu Chaudhury



Science & Technology

1. Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) has delivered the biggest cryogenic propellant tank “C32 LH2” ever fabricated by the company to ISRO. The C32-LH2 tank is a developmental cryogenic propellant tank of aluminium alloy designed for improving the payload capability of GSLV MK-III launching vehicle. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HAL – delivered the biggest cryogenic propellant tank “C32 LH2” to ISRO
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan

2. Scientists have discovered the oldest known human-made nanomaterials in the “unique black coatings” of ancient pottery shards from an archeological site in Keeladi, Tamil Nadu. These coatings are made of Carbon Nano-Tubes (CNTs). It is dated to 600 BC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Scientists have discovered the oldest known human-made nanomaterials in Keeladi, Tamil Nadu (dated to 600 BC)
- The coatings are made of – Carbon Nano-Tubes (CNTs)
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

3. IIT Kanpur Researchers have developed “Damaru” Inspired Lattice that finds applications in Stealth submarines, high speed Trains and Helicopters. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Kanpur – developed “Damaru” Inspired Lattice

4. Instagram has rolled out the “Live Rooms” feature that allows up to 3 additional users to go live in the same session. The feature also consists of a multi-participant chat format. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Instagram – launched the “Live Rooms” feature (3 additional users to go live)
- HQs of Instagram – California, USA | CEO – Kevin Systrom



5. Space start-up Pixxel has signed an agreement with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) to launch India's first Private Remote-Sensing Satellite on an ISRO PSLV rocket in early 2021 under the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pixxel + NewSpace India = to launch India's 1st Private Remote-Sensing Satellite on an ISRO PSLV rocket in 2021
- HQs of Pixxel – Bangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Awais Ahmed
- HQs of NewSpace India – Bangalore, Karnataka | CMD – G. Narayanan | ED – Radhakrishnan Durairaj
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan

6. SpaceX has recently launched its 21st Commercial Resupply Services mission (CRS-21) to International space station (ISS) by using a Falcon 9 rocket. It was launched from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SpaceX – launched its 21st Commercial Resupply Services mission “CRS-21” (by using a Falcon 9 rocket)
- HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | CEO – Elon Musk

7. The first rock samples from beneath the surface of Asteroid ‘Ryugu’ was collected by the Japanese spacecraft Hayabusa-2. A capsule containing the first significant quantities of rock from an asteroid is in “perfect” shape. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hayabusa 2 (JAXA) – collected the first rock samples from beneath the surface of Asteroid ‘Ryugu’
- HQs of JAXA – Tokyo, Japan | Administrator – Hiroshi Yamakawa

8. The made-in-India “Howitzer” - Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) has undergone for trials in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar on December 6. It is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) with a striking range of around 50 km. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Howitzer” - Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) underwent for trials in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra
- It is developed by – DRDO (India) | Strike Range – 50 km
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy

9. On December 6, China has successfully launched a new Earth observation satellite “Gaofen-14” which can take high-resolution pictures of ground objects across the globe. The satellite was launched by a Long March-3B carrier rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – launched a new Earth observation satellite “Gaofen-14” (by a Long March-3B carrier rocket)
- [China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping](#)

10. WNS Cares Foundation (WCF) has partnered with Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL), an initiative under the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) by NITI Aayog, to empower children and youth with knowledge on relevant topics around cybersafety and digital education through its “CyberSmart” platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WCF + Atal Tinkering Labs = to empower children and youth with knowledge on relevant topics around cybersafety
- [Location of WCF – Mumbai, MH](#)
- [NITI Aayog HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant](#)
- [Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar](#)

11. China has become the second country in the world to unfurl its flag on the moon after the United States, which put its flag on the lunar surface some 50 years ago. Chang’e 5 is the third Chinese spacecraft to successfully land on the moon and the first to take off from it again. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – became the second country in the world to unfurl its flag on the moon (1st – USA)
- [By using – Chang’e 5 spacecraft](#)
- [China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping](#)

12. China has successfully launched 2 satellites for the detection of gravitational waves into planned orbit under its Gravitational Wave High-energy Electromagnetic Counterpart All-sky Monitor (GECAM) mission from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in Sichuan Province. It was launched by a Long March-11 carrier rocket. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – launched 2 satellites for the detection of gravitational waves – under its ‘GECAM’ mission
- GECAM – Gravitational Wave High-energy Electromagnetic Counterpart All-sky Monitor
- [China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping](#)



13. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully demonstrated communication between its 2 labs using Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) technology, which is a “robust” way to share encryption keys. The Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) and The Research Centre Imarat (RCI) were the two labs that participated in this demonstration. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO – demonstrated communication between its 2 labs using Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) technology
- DRDL & RCI labs = participated in this demonstration
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy

14. China successfully powered up its “artificial sun” nuclear fusion reactor for the first time. The “HL-2M Tokamak” reactor is China’s largest and most advanced nuclear fusion experimental research device and scientists hope that the device can potentially unlock a powerful clean energy source. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China successfully powered up its “HL-2M Tokamak” nuclear fusion reactor for the first time
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

15. A team of researchers at the IIT Guwahati has developed a pitcher plant-inspired inexpensive method for harvesting water from humid air. Such water harvesting techniques use the concept of hydrophobicity or water-repelling nature of some materials such as the lotus leaf. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Guwahati – developed a method for harvesting water from humid air by using the concept of hydrophobicity
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

16. A new species of ‘Indian Muraingrasses’ known for their ecological and economic importance have been spotted by the scientists of Agharkar Research Institute (ARI) in Goa in the Western Ghats. The species was named “Ischaemum Janarthanamiin” honour of Prof. M. K. Janarthanam (Professor in Goa University). A team was led by Dr. Mandar Datar and Dr. Ritesh Kumar Choudhary from ARI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Ischaemum Janarthanamiin” a new species of ‘Indian Muraingrasses’ – found in Goa – by ARI Scientists
- HQs of ARI – Pune, MH | Founder Director – Shankar Purushottam Agharkar



17. Chinese scientists have claimed to have built a Quantum Computer that is able to perform certain computations nearly 100 trillion times faster than the world's most advanced supercomputer. Chinese government is building a \$10 billion National Laboratory for Quantum Information Sciences as part of a big push in the field. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chinese scientists claim to have built the world's fastest Quantum Computer
- It is 100 trillion times faster than the world's most advanced supercomputer
- [China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping](#)

18. Dr Harsh Vardhan has virtually addressed the “World Bank Inter Ministerial Meeting on Vaccination of South Asia” against COVID-19. A total of 260 vaccine candidates are in different stages of development globally. India could develop its total 3 indigenous vaccines until now - Covishield, Covaxin & ZyCoV-D. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan – addressed the “World Bank Inter Ministerial Meeting on Vaccination of South Asia”
- India's 3 indigenously developed vaccines – Covishield, Covaxin & ZyCoV-D
- [World Bank HQs – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 190](#)
- [President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant](#)

19. India's first indigenous mRNA vaccine candidate “HGCO19” has received approval from the Drug Controller General of India to initiate Phase I/II human clinical trial. It has been developed by Gennova, a company based in Pune. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's first indigenous mRNA vaccine candidate namely – “HGCO19”
- It received approval from DCGA to initiate Phase I/II human clinical trial
- [The Drug Controller General of India \(DCGI\) – V G Somani](#)

20. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is all set to launch a communication satellite “CMS-01” on 17 December from the Second Launch Pad (SLP) of Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota. The communication satellite will be onboard the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C50). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO launched a communication satellite “CMS-01” from SLP of Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota
- Rocket used is – PSLV-C50
- [Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati \(LC\), Visakhapatnam \(EC\) & Kurnool \(JC\)](#)
- [CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan](#)



21. NASA has named the 18 astronauts, including women, who will be trained for its Artemis moon-landing programme. Raja Chari, 43, a graduate of the US Air Force Academy, MIT, is the only Indian-American in the list. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA has named the 18 astronauts for its Artemis moon-landing programme
- Raja Chari – the only Indian-American in the list
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine

22. A Buddhist Era archaeological site, about 2,600 years old is discovered on the bank of Chanan river in Amarpur area of Banka district in Bihar. The Chief Minister personally visited the archaeological site in Banka district. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A Buddhist Era archaeological site (about 2,600 years old) – discovered on the bank of Chanan river, in Bihar
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

23. Russia has successfully test launched its heavy lift “Angara A5” space rocket after a six-year hiatus in a project. It was First test-launched in 2014. It is being developed to replace the ‘Proton M’ as Russia’s heavy lift rocket. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia – successfully test launched its heavy lift “Angara A5” space rocket (First test-launched in 2014)
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

24. Tech major IBM will work with Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge (TASK) to offer “Open P-TECH”, a free digital education platform focused on emerging technologies and professional development skills, for 30,000 students in the State. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IBM + Telangana = partnership to offer “Open P-TECH” a free digital education platform
- HQs of IBM – Armonk, New York, United States | CEO – Arvind Krishna
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan



25. SpaceX's first super heavy-lift Starship Prototype "SN8 rocket" has exploded while attempting to land after a successful test launch from the company's rocket facility in Boca Chica, Texas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SpaceX's first super heavy-lift Starship Prototype "SN8 rocket" – exploded while attempting to land
- HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | CEO – Elon Musk

26. The Department of Posts and the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has unveiled a new digital payment application "DakPay" as part of its ongoing efforts to provide digital financial inclusion at the last mile across the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IPPB – launched a new digital payment application "DakPay"
- HQs of IPPB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – J Venkatramu | Established on – 1st Sep, 2018

27. The Grasshopper Specialist Group of the IUCN is initiating the Red List Assessment of grasshoppers in India for the first time. The assessment will include a new species of grasshopper namely "Tettilobus trishula" or "Shiva's Pygmy Trishula" discovered recently in the Eravikulam National Park in Kerala's Idukki district. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Tettilobus trishula" or "Shiva's Pygmy Trishula" – in IUCN's Red List Assessment of grasshoppers in India
- It was discovered in – Eravikulam National Park (Idukki, Kerala)
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan
- HQs of IUCN – Gland, Switzerland | President – Xincheng Zhang

28. China's Chang'e-5 probe successfully touched down on Earth on December 17, bringing home the first samples of the moon in over 40 years. The spacecraft landed in Siziwang Banner in north China. Zhang Kejian, head of the CNSA, declared the Chang'e-5 mission a success. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China's Chang'e-5 spacecraft – brought back to the Earth the first samples of the moon in over 40 years
- China's space agency – CNSA (China National Space Administration)
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping



29. On December 14, ISRO has set up 'NETRA' (NEtwork for space object TRacking and Analysis) - a dedicated control centre for Space Situational Awareness (SSA) activities in the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO – set up 'NETRA' - a dedicated control centre for Space Situational Awareness (SSA) activities
- NETRA – NEtwork for space object TRacking and Analysis
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan

30. On December 16, India has successfully testfired two "Prithvi-2" Surface-to-Surface Short-Range Ballistic Missile (SRBM) off the eastern coast of Odisha in Balasore. It is developed by DRDO with fire Range of 350 Kilometres. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – successfully testfired two "Prithvi-2" ballistic missiles – in Balasore, Odisha
- It is a Surface-to-Surface Short-Range Ballistic Missile (SRBM) | Developed by – DRDO | Range – 350 Km
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy

31. The Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) PSLV-C50 has successfully launched India's 42nd communication satellite "CMS-01" from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. This satellite will provide Telecom services in the Extended-C band of the Frequency spectrum. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO's PSLV-C50 – launched India's 42nd communication satellite "CMS-01" from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

32. India will be producing about 300 million doses of "Sputnik V" COVID-19 vaccine in 2021. The developers of Russia's Sputnik V vaccine have stated that it had shown the efficacy of 91.4 per cent based on the final analysis. Russia has kept a price of \$10 per dose of Sputnik V vaccine for international markets. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – to produce about 300 million doses of "Sputnik V" COVID-19 vaccine in 2021
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin



33. The Geminids meteor shower, believed to be the strongest of the year, was active from December 4-20. The Geminids meteor showers are unique because their origin does not lie in a comet, but what is believed to be an asteroid or an extinct comet. The Geminids emerge from 3200 Phaethon. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Geminids meteor shower – was active from December 4-20
- The Geminids emerge from 3200 Phaethon

34. The Roscosmos space agency of Russia has launched 36 UK telecommunications and internet satellites into space. A Soyuz rocket blasted off from the Vostochny cosmodrome in Russia's Far East. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia – launched 36 UK telecommunications and internet satellites into space | Launched through – Soyuz rocket
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

35. On December 17, Google has launched a machine learning tool namely “Multilingual Representations for Indian Languages” (MuRIL) for Indian languages to help researchers, students, and startups. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google – launched a machine learning tool “Multilingual Representations for Indian Languages” (MuRIL)
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai

36. Facebook has publicly launched its music-making app “Collab”, to take on short-video sharing apps like TikTok. Collab is a video editor app that enables people to record video in parallel, or simultaneously. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Facebook – launched “Collab” a music-making app
- HQs of Facebook – California, United States | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg

37. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated India’s first advanced Hypersonic Wind Tunnel (HWT) test facility at the DRDO’s Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex in Hyderabad. India is the 3rd country after the United States and Russia to have such a large facility. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- India's 1st advanced Hypersonic Wind Tunnel test facility inaugurated – at the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex
- DRDO's Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex – located in Hyderabad, Telangana
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

38. British epidemiologists have discovered a new mutated COVID-19 variant in the UK. The new variant can help the virus in infecting the people more efficiently as two of the mutations affect the spike protein of the virus that makes it easy to stick to the human cell wall and enter the body. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- British epidemiologists discovered a new mutated COVID-19 variant – in the UK
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

39. The Trump administration celebrated the first birthday of the U.S. Space Force by announcing that its members will be known as 'Guardians'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Members of U.S. Space Force – will be known as 'Guardians'
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden

40. China's new medium-lift carrier rocket Long March-8 made its maiden flight on December 22, sending 5 satellites successfully into planned orbit. The rocket was launched from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in Hainan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China's rocket "Long March-8" – made its maiden flight with 5 satellites into orbit
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

41. The world's largest vaccine maker, Serum Institute of India (SII) will become the world's first company to produce a 'Green Vaccine'. It is also aspiring to be the first 'Net Zero' pharma company in the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SII – to become the world's first company to produce a 'Green Vaccine'
- HQs of SII – Pune, Maharashtra | CEO – Adar C. Poonawalla



42. After nearly 400 years, Saturn and Jupiter - the 2 largest planets in our solar system, will be brought closest in the night sky by an astronomical event called the “Great Astronomical Conjunction” and popularly referred to as the “Christmas Star”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Saturn and Jupiter – will be brought closest in the night sky due to “Great Astronomical Conjunction”

43. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has signed an MoU with Rajasthan government to help the state to implement data-driven systems approach to road safety. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan + IIT Madras = an MoU to help the state to implement data-driven systems approach to road safety
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

44. Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan has launched the first indigenous vaccine namely “Pneumosil” against Pneumonia which is developed by the Serum Institute of India (SII). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched “Pneumosil” - 1st indigenous vaccine against – Pneumonia (developed by – SII)
- PCV – Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine
- HQs of SII – Pune, Maharashtra | CEO – Adar C. Poonawalla

45. On December 26, Botanists have discovered a new species of wild Sun Rose from the Eastern Ghats in India. The new species, named “Portulaca Laljii” was discovered from Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh. The details of the discovery have been published in the “Journal of Asia Pacific Biodiversity”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Portulaca Laljii” a new species of wild Sun Rose – discovered from the Eastern Ghats (in Andhra Pradesh)
- Discovery published in – “Journal of Asia Pacific Biodiversity”
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan



46. The ISRO has released the first set of data from the India's second mission to the Moon namely "Chandrayaan-2" through the PRADAN portal hosted by ISSDC. The Indian Space Science Data Centre (ISSDC) is the nodal centre of planetary data archive for the planetary missions of ISRO. Chandrayaan-2 was launched on July 22, 2019 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO – released the first set of data from "Chandrayaan-2" - India's second mission to the Moon
- The data were released through the "PRADAN" portal hosted by – ISSDC
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan

47. China has successfully launched "Yaogan-33" a new remote sensing satellite into space through a Long March-4C rocket. It was the 357th flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – launched "Yaogan-33" a new remote sensing satellite (through a Long March-4C rocket)
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

48. ISRO's PSLV will launch Brazilian satellite "Amazonia-1" in February 2021. It was earlier scheduled for July which was pushed for later due to the global pandemic of COVID -19. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Brazilian satellite "Amazonia-1" – to be launched by ISRO – in Feb 2021
- Brazil – Brasilia – Brazilian real | President – Jair Bolsonaro
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan

49. USA has planned to set up the first nuclear reactor on the moon by the end of 2026. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- USA – to set up the first nuclear reactor on the moon – by 2026
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden

50. Skyroot Aerospace, a Hyderabad based start-up in the space sector, has successfully test-fired a solid propulsion rocket engine named "Kalam-5". This is Skyroot's first of five Kalam series of solid rocket motors. It



is the country's first private sector company to successfully test-fire a solid propulsion rocket stage engine. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Skyroot Aerospace – successfully test-fired a solid propulsion rocket engine named “Kalam-5”
- HQs of Skyroot Aerospace – Hyderabad, Telangana | CEO – Pawan Kumar Chandana

51. Two new species of plants namely “Hedychium mechukanum” & “Amomum Arunachalense” have been discovered in Arunachal Pradesh. The discovery was published in Gardens Bulletin, Singapore. Hedychium mechukanum is a close relative of Hedychium coronarium also known as white ginger lily which is a mythological plant described by Vyasa. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Hedychium mechukanum” & “Amomum Arunachalense” - species of plants – discovered in Arunachal Pradesh
- Discovery was published in – Gardens Bulletin (Singapore)
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra

52. Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has developed “Ruthenium plaque therapy” that has been successfully used for the first time for the treatment of patients with ocular tumours (Eye cancer) in AIIMS-Delhi. The results of using it for treatment of a patient with choroidal hemangioma (benign tumour in blood vessels) have been found to be satisfactory. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BARC – developed “Ruthenium plaque therapy” – used for the 1st time to treat Eye Cancer patients
- HQs of BARC – Mumbai, MH | Director – Ajit Kumar Mohanty

53. On December 29, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has achieved another milestone in quantum technology by successfully developing a Quantum Random Number Generator (QRNG). It is developed by the DRDO Young Scientist Laboratory for Quantum Technologies (DYSL-QT), a DRDO facility based in Mumbai. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DYSL-QT (Mumbai) – successfully developed Quantum Random Number Generator (QRNG)
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy



54. IIT Delhi has partnered with the Common Services Center (CSC) Academy under the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to set up a Design and Innovation Lab aimed at helping rural entrepreneurs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Delhi + CSC Academy = partnership to set up a Design and Innovation Lab for rural entrepreneurs

55. Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) have identified a gene “BBX11” that facilitates in the greening of plants by playing a crucial role in regulating the levels of protochlorophyllide. The study was published in the prestigious British journal New Phytologist. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IISER (Pune) – identified a gene “BBX11” that facilitates in the greening of plants
- The study was published in – “New Phytologist” journal

56. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman K. Sivan has stated that the ISRO was developing “Green Propulsion” technology, believed to be less harmful to the environment, for its human spaceflight missions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO – was developing “Green Propulsion” technology
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan

57. Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal virtually laid the foundation stone for “TiHAN” - the country’s first test bed for Autonomous Navigation Systems (Terrestrial and Aerial) at the IIT-Hyderabad campus. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “TiHAN” - India’s first test bed for Autonomous Navigation Systems (Terrestrial and Aerial) – at IIT Hyderabad
- Ministry of Education – Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ (Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)



Ordinance, Bills and Acts

1. The “Maharashtra Shakti Criminal Law (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2020” has been drafted along the lines of the Andhra Pradesh Disha Act Criminal Law (AP Amendment) Act, 2019. Once passed by the state legislature, it will be called the “Shakti Act”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra state legislature – to pass “Maharashtra Shakti Criminal Law Bill, 2020” or “Shakti Act”
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

2. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has circulated draft of “Indian Ports Bill 2020” for public consultation which will repeal and replace the “Indian Ports Act, 1908”. It aims at bringing more investment in the maritime sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways – circulated draft for public consultation
- “Indian Ports Bill 2020” – will repeal and replace the “Indian Ports Act, 1908”
- MoS I/C in Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways – Mansukh L. Mandaviya

3. Ministry of Commerce and Industry has exempted Handicraft and Geographical Indications toys from Quality Control Order. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) mentioned this exemption in Toys (Quality Control) Second Amendment Order, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of C & I – exempted ‘Handicraft & GI Toys’ from Quality Control Order
- DPIIT comes under – Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)
- DPIIT HQ – New Delhi | DPIIT Secretary – Guruprasad Mohapatra

4. “The State Land Grabbing (Prohibition) Act” has been passed in the last session of the Gujarat state Assembly. It has been framed to ensure time-bound and speedy disposal of complaints and protect the interests of farmers and common man. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gujarat state Assembly passed – “The State Land Grabbing (Prohibition) Act” against illegal land grabbing
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat



5. Power Minister R K Singh has issued the new “Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules-2020” to ensure the rights of electricity users, stating that the consumer is not powerless now. The new electricity rules also mandate discoms to provide new connections within seven days in metros, 15 days in small towns, and 30 days in rural areas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- R K Singh (Ministry of Power) – issued the new “Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules-2020”
- [Ministry of Power and New & Renewable Energy – R. K. Singh \(Raj Kumar Singh\)](#)

6. The Union Cabinet has approved an ordinance for extending National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act for further 3 years (till December 2023). Delhi's unauthorised colonies, JJ (Jhuggi Jhopri) clusters and structures in rural areas built on agriculture land would get protection from the ordinance. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved an ordinance to extend National Cap. Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act – for 3 years
- [Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev](#)

7. The Assam cabinet has approved the “Assam Official Language Amendment Bill” for making Bodo (in Devanagari script) an associate official language of the state. According to the Census 2011, there are around 14.16 lakh Bodo speakers in Assam (4.53% of the total population of the state). Total 22 official languages are listed in the 8th Schedule of Indian Constitution. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam cabinet approved a bill for making Bodo (in Devanagari script) an associate official language
- Total official languages listed in the 8th Schedule of Indian Constitution – 22 languages
- [Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi](#)

8. Madhya Pradesh cabinet has approved the “Dharma Swatantrya (Religious Freedom) Bill 2020”. The controversial ordinance outlaws marriages with an aim of religious conversions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh – approved the “Dharma Swatantrya (Religious Freedom) Bill 2020”
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)



9. The Assam government has tabled “The Assam Repealing Bill, 2020” to abolish all state-run madrassas and convert those into general schools with effect from April 1, 2021. The bill proposes to abolish two existing acts - “The Assam Madrassa Education (Provincialisation) Act, 1995” and “The Assam Madrassa Education Act, 2018”. There are 610 state-run madrassas across Assam. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam – tabled a Bill to abolish all state-run madrassas & convert them into general schools – from April 1, 2021
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi





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