

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

NOVEMBER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. NATIONAL AFFAIRS
2. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.....
3. ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.....
4. APPOINTMENTS.....
5. AWARDS AND HONORS.....
6. IMPORTANT DATES & SPORTS.....
7. REPORTS AND INDEXES.....
8. OBITUARIES.....
9. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY.....
10. LEGAL AFFAIRS.....



NATIONAL AFFAIRS

PM MODI LAUNCHES COUNTRY'S FIRST SEAPLANE SERVICE

❖ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has launched the **country's first seaplane service** between the Statue of Unity near **Kevadiya** in Gujarat's **Narmada district** and **Sabarmati Riverfront** in Ahmedabad.



❖ The 19-seater seaplane will be managed by **private airline SpiceJet**. The service will cover the **200km distance between Sabarmati and Kevadia**, in just 45 minutes by flight.

❖ There will be **four flights** a day **between Ahmedabad and Kevadia** on each side, which means four arrivals and four departures.

PM MODI INAUGURATED 'AROGYA VAN' IN GUJARAT

❖ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the 'Arogya Van' in the **Narmada district of Gujarat**.

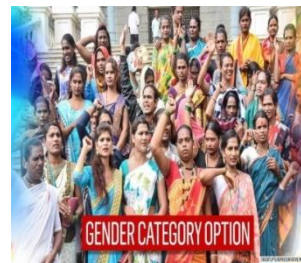
❖ PM Modi along with this also inaugurated **Arogya Kutir, Ekta Mall, and Children Nutrition Park**.



❖ **Arogya Van** is set up on 17 acres of land in **Kevadia** for **spreading awareness on Yoga, Ayurveda and Meditation**. It features around 380 species of plants and trees with rich medicinal values.

ASSAM: FIRST TO ADD 'TRANSGENDER' IN CIVIL SERVICES

❖ Assam has become the **first state in the country to add a 'transgender'** option in the gender category of the **civil service examination form**.



❖ The examination is similar to the **civil services examinations** conducted by **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** and selects candidates for state civil and other allied services for the state.

- UPSC headquartered at **New Delhi**.
- **Pradeep Kumar Joshi** is the **Chairman of UPSC**.

PANNA TIGER RESERVE INCLUDED IN LIST OF UNESCO

❖ In Madhya Pradesh, the **Panna Tiger Reserve** has been included in the '**World Network of Biosphere Reserves**' list of the UNESCO.



❖ This is the 12th biosphere reserve from India to be included in the '**World Network of Biosphere Reserves**', and third from Madhya Pradesh, after **Pachmarhi and Amarkantak**.

❖ Currently, **Panna Tiger Reserve is home to 54 tigers**.

❖ The **UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)** covers internationally designated protected areas (known as **biosphere reserves**) that demonstrate a balanced relationship between people and nature (like encourage sustainable development).

MALABAR NAVAL EXERCISE 2020

❖ The Navies of India, the US, Japan and Australia began the four-day-long phase first of the Malabar naval exercise in the Bay of Bengal.



❖ This is the first time that the member nations of the Quad or Quadrilateral Coalition are participating in the exercise together after 2007 (Quad member nations are India, the US, Japan and Australia).

❖ The Malabar exercise started in 1992 as a bilateral drill between the Indian Navy and the US Navy in the Indian Ocean. Japan became a permanent member of the exercise in 2015. Australia was recently added to the exercise in 2020.

NMCG ORGANIZED 'GANGA UTSAV' 2020

❖ Ganga Utsav-2020 has been organized by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) jointly with the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

❖ The three-day-long Ganga Utsav-2020 has been organized from 02 to 04 November 2020, virtually amidst COVID-19 precautions.



❖ The 2020 edition marks the 12th anniversary of Ganga being accorded the status of National River, on 4th November 2008.

- Minister of Jal Shakti: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

BILATERAL SUMMIT BETWEEN INDIA AND ITALY 2020

❖ The **Bilateral Summit between India and Italy** was held virtually on 6th November 2020.

❖ The Summit was attended by the **Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and Prime Minister of Italy **Prof. Giuseppe Conte**.



❖ The two leaders reviewed the broad framework of the **bilateral relationship and reaffirmed their commitment** to strengthen cooperation against **common global challenges**, including the **Covid-19 pandemic**.

- Incumbent President of Italy: **Sergio Mattarella**.
- Incumbent Prime Minister of Italy: **Giuseppe Conte**.

'SAGAR KAVACH CONDUCTED BY ODISHA & WEST BENGAL

❖ A two-day joint coastal security exercise, “**Sagar Kavach**” was launched at **Paradip Coast, Odisha**.

❖ The exercise is being carried out by a joint effort of the state of **Odisha and West Bengal governments**.



❖ The main purpose of the exercise is to carry out the exercise on the coast of **Paradip this year**, just like every year after the **26/11 Mumbai attacks**.

- Chief of the Naval Staff: **Admiral Karambir Singh**.

SHIPPING MINISTRY TO BE RENAMED: PM MODI

❖ The **Ministry of Shipping** is being expanded and renamed as the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**.

❖ This information was given by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** during a launch event of **Ro-Pax terminal at Hazira**.



❖ PM Modi was flagging off the **Ro-Pax ferry service** between **Hazira and Ghogha** in Gujarat, which will reduce the 370-km road distance between the two places to 90-km by sea route.

- Minister of State (IC) of the Ministry of Shipping: **Mansukh L. Mandaviya**.

AIM-SIRIUS INNOVATION PROGRAMME 3.0

❖ The **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, a flagship initiative by the NITI Aayog, and **Russia's Sirius** (Scientific International Research in Unique Terrestrial Station) have jointly launched '**AIM-Sirius Innovation Programme 3.0**'.



❖ **AIM-Sirius Innovation Programme 3.0** is a 14-day virtual programme for Indian and Russian schoolchildren.

❖ It is the first **Indo-Russian bilateral youth innovation initiative**, which seeks to develop technological solutions, both web-based and mobile-based, for the two countries.

❖ The areas include culture, distance education, applied cognitive science, health and well-being, sports, fitness, and games training, chemistry, artificial intelligence, and digital financial assets.

ASSAM TEZPUR LITCHI GETS GI TAG



- ❖ The Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (**APEDA**) has announced that **Assam’s Tezpur Litchi** has been given the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**.
- ❖ Though the **litchis name in the GI tag list** is there since 2015. The application for GI tagging was made on 28th August 2013 by **North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd (NERAMAC)**.
- ❖ A **Geographical Indication** is used on a product of specific geographical origin that attains its uniqueness or reputation because of its place of origin.

INDIAN NAVY LAUNCHES SUB-MARINE VAGIR

- ❖ The **Indian Navy has launched the fifth Scorpene submarine “Vagir”** at Mazagon Dock of south Mumbai.
- ❖ The submarine is **capable of taking missions such as anti-submarine warfare**, anti-surface warfare, mine laying, intelligence gathering and area surveillance.



- ❖ **“Vagir” is a part of six Kalvari class submarines** that is being built in India. These submarines were designed by the **French Navy and an energy company DCNS**. Vagir has been named after **Sand Fish**. It is a deep-sea predator in the Indian Ocean.
- ❖ The **first Vagir was commissioned in 1973**. The first Vagir submarine was from **Russia**.

FIRST INDIA & LUXEMBOURG VIRTUAL SUMMIT HELD



- ❖ The **Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi**, and the Prime Minister of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, **Xavier Bettel**, held the first-ever India-Luxembourg Virtual Summit.
- ❖ Both countries have friendly relation of over more than seven decades since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1948.
- ❖ During the Summit, **both parties agreed for enhanced cooperation** in areas of trade, finance, steel, space, ICT, innovation, manufacturing, automotive, sustainable development and the fight against climate change.
- ❖ **Prime Minister welcomed Luxembourg's** announcement to join the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, and invited it to join the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**.

S. JAISHANKAR AT 15TH EAST ASIA SUMMIT 2020

- ❖ The **External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar** has represented India at the **15th East Asia Summit (EAS)** on behalf of PM Modi.
- ❖ The Summit was chaired by the **Prime Minister of Vietnam Nguyen Xuan Phuc** because **Vietnam is ASEAN Chair** in 2020.
- ❖ **Jaishankar** underlined the key role played by the **East Asia Summit (EAS)** as a leading mechanism of the **Indo-Pacific region** and reiterated India's support to make it stronger and more responsive.
- ❖ The **East Asia Summit (EAS)** is a regional forum whose Membership expanded to **18 countries including Russia and the United States** at the Sixth EAS in 2011.



PM UNVEILED 'STATUE OF PEACE' IN RAJASTHAN



- ❖ PM unveils ‘**Statue of Peace**’ to mark **151st Birth Anniversary** celebrations of **Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj**.
- ❖ Mentioning the educational institutions established by the **Jainacharya**, the Prime Minister praised his efforts to make the country **AatmaNirbhar in the field of education**.
- ❖ **Shri Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj**. He was a Jain monk born on October 26, 1870. He was a disciple of **Vijayanand Suri**. He was the founder of **Shri Parshwanath Jain Vidyalaya** in Pali district of Rajasthan.

ASIA'S FIRST SOLAR POWERED TEXTILE MILL

- ❖ The **first solar power-enabled Textile Mill** in Asia is set to be set up in **Parbhani district, Maharashtra**.
- ❖ Spread across 30 acres of land, the **Jai Bhawani women’s cooperative textile mill** will be first in Asia that will operate entirely on solar power.
- ❖ Once functional, the mill will process cotton to cloth and would provide jobs to many women in the district.
- ❖ **Parbhani** is the **leading cotton-producing district** in Maharashtra and with the operationalization of the mill; it will give momentum to the industrial sector in the district.



GOI AND NDB BANK SIGNED MOU OF USD 500 MILLION

- ❖ The **Government of India and the New Development Bank (NDB)** has signed a loan agreement for lending **USD 500 million**



for the ‘**Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System Project**’.

- ❖ This **Regional Rapid Transit System** provides fast, reliable, safe and comfortable public transport system in the **National Capital Region (NCR)**.
- ❖ The NCR is among the **world’s largest urban agglomerations** and a major economic centre of India. Due to the lack of efficient public transport options, the number of private vehicles in NCR has increased.
 - New Development Bank Headquarters location: **Shanghai, China**.
 - President of the New Development Bank: **Marcos Troyjo**.

INDIA'S FIRST GREEN ENERGY CONVERGENCE PROJECT

- ❖ **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)**, a joint venture between PSU under the Ministry of Power and the **DNRE** of Goa City, has signed a MOU to implement **India’s first convergence project in India**.



- ❖ **EESL will implement solar projects**, including:
 - Establish a **100 MW decentralized ground-mounted solar power project** on government land for agricultural water pumping.
 - **Replace approximately 6,300 agricultural pumps** with BEE-star energy-saving pumps.
 - Distribute approximately **160,000 LED bulbs** to rural families.

VIJAYANAGAR BECOMES DISTRICT OF KARNATAKA

- ❖ The **world heritage site of Hampi**, the erstwhile capital of the **Vijayanagar Empire**, will soon be part of a new district.



- ❖ The **Karnataka Government** has approved to carve out **Vijayanagara** as a new district of the state. **Vijayanagara** will be the 31st district of the State.
- ❖ The new district would be carved out of **Ballari** and named after the **Vijayanagara empire** that ruled from this region.
 - Chief Minister of Karnataka: **B.S. Yediyurappa**
 - Governor of Karnataka: **Vajubhai Vala**.

27TH EDITION OF INDIA-SINGAPORE MARITIME EXERCISE

- ❖ The **27th edition of India – Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise SIMBEX-20** has been organised from 23 to 25 November 2020 in the **Andaman Sea**.
- ❖ **Indian Navy (IN)** is the host for the **2020 edition of SIMBEX**. The SIMBEX series of exercises are being held between the **Indian Navy and Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN)**, annually since 1994.
- ❖ The exercise aims at **enhancing mutual inter-operability** and imbibing best practices from each other.
- ❖ From the Indian side, **destroyer Rana with integral Chetak helicopter and indigenously built corvettes Kamorta and Karmuk**, IN submarine Sindhuraj and P8I maritime reconnaissance aircraft will participate in the exercise.



PM MODI CHAIRED 33RD MEETING OF PRAGATI



- ❖ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has chaired the **33rd PRAGATI meeting** to review multiple projects, grievances and programmes.
- ❖ **PRAGATI** stands for “**Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation**”. The projects worth around Rs 1.41 lakh crore, related to ten states and union territories, were reviewed.
- ❖ They included Odisha, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Dadra and Nagar Haveli.
- ❖ These projects were related to the **Ministry of Railways, MORTH, DPIIT and Power Ministry.**

INDIAN NAVY 9TH P-8I ANTI-SUBMARINE AIRCRAFT

- ❖ **Indian Navy** has got its **ninth Boeing P-8I long-range maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare aircraft**, part of the nearly **\$1 billion deal** with the US for four additional planes signed in 2016.



- ❖ India, which had first signed a contract for **eight such aircraft in 2009**, is also negotiating a deal for **six more P-8Is with the US** under the government-to-government route.
- ❖ The **P-8I is equipped for long-range anti-submarine warfare**, anti-surface warfare, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance in support of the broad area, maritime and littoral operations.

PILIBHIT TIGER RESERVE (PTR) GET INTERNATIONAL AWARD



- ❖ The **Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR)** and the Uttar Pradesh Forest department have bagged the **first-ever international award, “TX2”** for doubling the number of tigers in four years against a target of 10 years.
- ❖ TX2 stands for **‘Tigers times two’**, signaling the **goal to double wild tigers**. In 2014, PTR had 25 tigers which went up to 65 in 2018.
- ❖ It achieved the **goal of doubling the tiger’s population in just four years**, against the target of 10 years.
- ❖ PTR is the **first to receive the award among all the 13 tiger range countries**. (India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam).

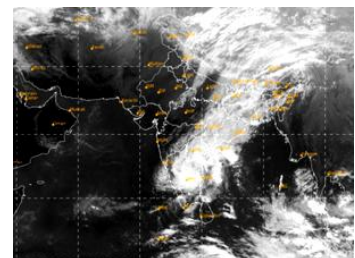
SIMBEX-20 EXERCISE TO BE HOSTED BY INDIAN NAVY

- ❖ The **Indian Navy will host the SIMBEX-20 exercise** in the Andaman Sea. **SIMBEX** represents the annual **Singapore-India maritime bilateral exercise**.
- ❖ SIMBEX was established between the **Indian and Singaporean navies** in 1993.
- ❖ The **27th edition of India's SIMBEX-Singapore bilateral maritime exercise** is scheduled to be held in the **Andaman Sea** from November 23 to 25, 2020.



'NIVAR' INTENSIFIED INTO CYCLONIC STORM

- ❖ The **Deep Depression over the South West Bay of Bengal** has intensified into the **Cyclonic Storm “Nivar”**.



- ❖ The cyclone is currently located 410 km east-southeast of Puducherry and 450 km southeast of Chennai.
- ❖ The storm shall cross **Tamil Nadu and Puducherry** coasts between **Karaikal and Mamallapuram around Puducherry**.
- ❖ The **impact of the Cyclone** shall be faced by the governments of Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka.

P. JAVADEKAR LAUNCHES INDIA CLIMATE CHANGE PORTAL

- ❖ **Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar** has launched the “**India Climate Change Knowledge Portal**”.
- ❖ According to **Prakash Javadekar**, India has practically achieved its **pre-2020 climate action targets**.
- ❖ The portal will have **all the major steps the Government** is taking at **both national and international levels** to address the **climate change issues**.





INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

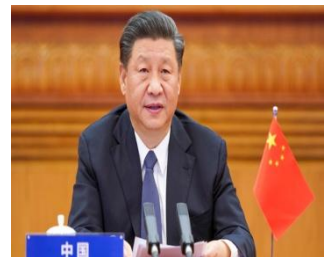
VIETNAM HIT BY STORM 'TYPHOON MOLAVE'

- ❖ Recently, **Vietnam** has been hit by one of its **biggest storms in two decades - Typhoon Molave**.
- ❖ **Typhoon** is a **regionally specific name** for a strong "**tropical cyclone**". Tropical cyclones are known as '**typhoons**' in the northwest pacific ocean, **hurricanes** in the North Atlantic Ocean,
- ❖ **Willy-willies** in north-western Australia and **Tropical Cyclones** in the Indian Ocean Region.
- ❖ A **tropical cyclone** is a generic term used by meteorologists to describe a **rotating, organized system of clouds and thunderstorms** that originates over tropical or subtropical waters and has closed low-level circulation.



CHINA'S LONG TERM PROGRAM FOR ECONOMY & DEFENCE

- ❖ **China's ruling party- CPC (Communist Party of China)** – sets long-term targets for boosting the **economy and military power**.
- ❖ It announced **3 goals to be achieved by 2025, 2027 and 2035**. They are: Boosting domestic consumption and innovation.
- ❖ A '**Vision 2035**' **longer-term economic blueprint** that calls for "**big leaps**" in economic strength and technological prowess. China's national security plans and goals are to establish the PLA as a modern force by 2027.



DUARTE PACHECO ELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF IPU

❖ **Portugal MP, Duarte Pacheco** has won the elections for the post of the **President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)**. The term of the **Duarte Pacheco** will be from 2020-2023.



❖ He will be the **30th President of the IPU** and will succeed **Mexican MP Gabriela Cuevas Barron**.

❖ The other three participants were **Pakistan's Muhammad Sanjrani**, **Uzbekistan's Akmal Saidov** and **Canada's Pakistani origin Salma Ataullahjan**.

- Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is based in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU): **founded in 1889**.
- It consists of representatives from the National Parliaments of **179 countries**.

INDIAN ORIGIN WOMAN BECOMES A MINISTER IN NEW-ZEALAND

❖ **Indian-origin New Zealand politician, Priyanca Radhakrishnan** has created history by becoming the **first Indian-Kiwi woman** to become a **minister in New Zealand**.



❖ She was appointed as Minister for the **Community and Voluntary Sector**, Minister for **Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities** in Prime Minister **Jacinda Ardern's** cabinet.

- Prime minister of New Zealand: **Jacinda Ardern**.
- Capital of New Zealand: **Wellington**.

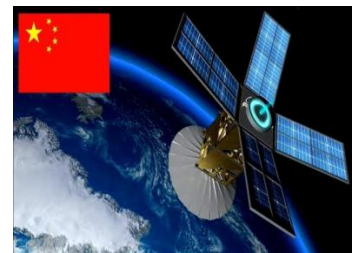
JOE BIDEN WINS US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

- ❖ **Joseph Robinette Biden Jr.** has defeated **Donald Trump** to become the **46th U.S. president**.
- ❖ Biden will become the **oldest president-elect in U.S. history** and the first to oust a sitting commander-in-chief after one term since **Bill Clinton defeated George H.W. Bush in 1992**.
- ❖ **President Joseph Robinette Biden Jr:** Biden Jr. was born in November, 1942 in **Scranton, Pennsylvania**. A member of the **Democratic Party**, Biden previously served as the **47th vice president** from 2009 to 2017 and **United States Senator for Delaware** from 1973 to 2009.
- ❖ **Vice President Kamala Harris:** Harris was born on October 20, 1964, in Oakland, California. She has served as the **junior United States senator from California** since 2017.
- ❖ Her mother, **Shyamala Gopalan**, a biologist from **Tamil Nadu in India**. Her father, **Donald J. Harris**, is a **Stanford University professor** emeritus of economics, who arrived in the U.S. from **British Jamaica**.



CHINA SENDS WORLD'S FIRST 6G EXPERIMENT SATELLITE

- ❖ **China** has sent into space the **world's first 6G experiment satellite**. The **6G satellite** was among three Chinese satellites successfully launched into orbit, along with 10 commercial remote sensing satellites developed by **Argentinean Company Satellogic**.



- ❖ The satellite also carries technology which will be used for crop disaster monitoring and forest fire prevention. This was the **351st rocket of China's Long March series**.
- ❖ **China National Space Administration (CNSA)** is the national **space agency of China**. It is responsible for the national space program and for planning and development of space activities.

SECOND WORLD HEALTH EXPO IN WUHAN CHINA

- ❖ The **second World Health Expo** was inaugurated on November 11, in **Wuhan, the capital city of Central China's Hubei Province**.
- ❖ This year's Expo will focus on displaying the **most cutting-edge science and technology** in the global health industry, and help Wuhan build "**city of global health industry**".
- ❖ During the Expo, more than a **hundred high-end forums** including a summit forum, academician forum and the roundtable dialogue on epidemic prevention and normalized control, and the Global University Leaders Forum, will be organized.
- ❖ **Wuhan in China** was the place where the **novel coronavirus emerged** in December 2019 and has spread throughout the world, causing a pandemic.
 - China Capital: **Beijing**.
 - Chinese President: **Xi Jinping**.



SPACEX LAUNCHES FOUR ASTRONAUTS INTO SPACE

- ❖ **SpaceX** has launched **Four Astronauts (3 Americans, 1 Japanese)** to the **International Space Station** on the first full-fledged taxi flight for **NASA** by a private company.
- ❖ They were launched by **Falcon Rocket** from the **Kennedy Space Center**.



- ❖ The capsule has been named as “**Resilience**”. The crew was led by Commander **Mike Hopkins, Shannon Walker, Victor Glover** and **Japan’s Soichi Noguchi**.
- ❖ **Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (SpaceX)** is an American aerospace manufacturer and space transportation services company headquartered in **Hawthorne, California**. It was founded in **2002** by **Elon Musk**

JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA DEFENCE DEAL TO TACKLE CHINA

- ❖ **Japan and Australia** have signed a ‘**landmark**’ defence pact in a bid to counter **China’s growing influence in the South China Sea** and over the Pacific island nations.
- ❖ The deal called **Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA)** was signed between Japanese Prime Minister **Yoshihide Suga** and his Australian counterpart **Scott Morrison**.
- ❖ RAA will allow **Japanese and Australian troops** to visit each other’s countries and conduct training and joint operations. The treaty will strengthen its security ties and **facilitate cooperation between defence forces**.
 - Japan Prime minister: **Yoshihide Suga**.
 - Prime Minister of Australia: **Scott Morrison**.



NASA-ESA LAUNCHES SENTINEL-6 MICHAEL FREILICH

- ❖ The US space agency **NASA** and the **European Space Agency (ESA)** successfully launched ‘**Copernicus Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich satellite**’, to monitor the rising global sea level.
- ❖ The joint **US-European satellite** lifted off on a **SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket** from Space Launch Complex 4E at **Vandenberg Air Force Base in California**.
- ❖ The **Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich satellite** will help to enhance weather forecasts and provide detailed information on large-scale ocean currents to support ship navigation near coastlines.
- ❖ This **Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich satellite** will be followed in 2025 by its twin, **Sentinel-6B**.
 - The administrator of the NASA: **Jim Bridenstine**.
 - Headquarters of NASA: **Washington D.C., United States**.



JAPAN SIGNED PACT WITH MALDIVES

- ❖ **Japan is India’s strategic partner in the Indo-Pacific region** and has recently signed an **agreement to strengthen the Maldives’ security infrastructure**, which will contribute to the stability of the South Indian Ocean.
- ❖ The **Maldives and Japan** recently signed an agreement under the **Japanese government’s economic and social development plan**.
- ❖ According to the plan, **800 million yen in grant assistance** will be provided to the **Maldives Coast Guard** and the **Maritime Rescue and Coordination Center**.



- ❖ The grant assistance will be used to further strengthen the capabilities of the **Maldives Coast Guard**, Maritime Rescue and Coordination Center, sub-regional centers and ships.

RUSSIA SUCCESSFULLY TEST-FIRED TSIRKON CRUISE MISSILE

- ❖ **Russia successfully test-fired a Tsirkon hypersonic cruise missile** in the Arctic.

- ❖ The **frigate Admiral Gorshkov** in the White Sea fired a **Tsirkon hypersonic cruise missile**, hitting a naval target 450 km away in the Barents Sea at a speed of over Mach 8.



- ❖ In early January, the same **frigate test-fired a Tsirkon missile** for the first time, striking a ground target over **500 km** away.



ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

RBI IMPOSED MONETARY PENALTY ON DCB & JIO PAYMENT

❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed **monetary penalty on DCB Bank and Jio Payments Bank** for various rule violations.

❖ The central bank has imposed a penalty of **Rs 22 lakh on DCB Bank for non-compliance with certain provisions of Section 47A (1) (c)** read with **Section 46(4)(i)** of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.

❖ In the case of **Jio Payments Bank**, the RBI imposed a **penalty of Rs 1 crore for non-compliance with RBI directions under Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (the Act)**.

- Governor of RBI: **Shaktikanta Das**.
- Headquarters: **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.



WHATSAPP PARTNERSHIP WITH 5 BANKS FOR UPI OPTIONS

❖ **WhatsApp** has partnered with five Indian banks to process its payment services.

❖ These are **State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank and Jio Payments Bank**.

❖ The **payment system** will be rolled out in ten Indian regional languages in the latest version of **WhatsApp app** to its 20 million users.



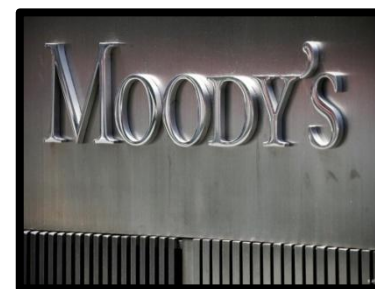
'RBI KEHTA HAI' CAMPAIGN TO BE EVALUATED BY RBI

- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India** will evaluate the impact of multi-media public awareness campaign '**RBI Kehta Hai**'.
- ❖ The campaign was launched in 14 languages to educate the public about safe banking and financial practices.
- ❖ '**RBI Kehta Hai**' was the **first even 360-degree campaign** initiated by the central bank using all mass media, including media such as television, radio, newspapers, hoardings, web banners, gifs, social media and SMS.
- ❖ In order to evaluate the impact of the public awareness campaign, the RBI has invited **Expression of Interest (EoI)** from eligible companies and other entities which have successfully completed at least five similar projects.



MOODY'S PROJECTED INDIA'S GDP FOR THE YR 2020

- ❖ **Rating Agency Moody's** has projected the **GDP of India at - 8.9%** for the calendar year **2020**. Earlier this was projected at - **9.6%**.
- ❖ Apart from this, India's GDP growth for Calendar year **2021 is projected at 8.6% by Moody's** from **8.1% earlier**.



- ❖ **Moody's Corporation**, often referred to as **moody's**, is an American business and financial services company.
- ❖ Moody's was founded by John Moody in 1909 to produce manuals of statistics related to stocks and bonds and bond ratings. Moody's was acquired by Dun & Bradstreet in 1962.
 - Headquarters of Moody's: **New York, United States**.

- President & CEO of Moody's: **Raymond W. McDaniel, Jr.**

HDFC AND INDUSIND BANK PUT IN 'RED FLAG LIST'

❖ **HDFC Bank & IndusInd Bank** have been put in the 'red flag' list, a system used for monitoring foreign portfolio investor (FPI) limits.



❖ A listed company enters the list when the available legroom for overseas investment is less than **3% of the permissible limit**. FPIs can invest up to **74% in both HDFC Bank and IndusInd Bank**.

❖ The current FPI shareholding in case of **HDFC Bank is 71.3 per cent**, while that of **IndusInd Bank is 73.1 per cent**.

PM ADDRESSED BLOOMBERG NEW ECONOMIC FORUM

❖ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has addressed the **3rd Annual Bloomberg New Economy Forum** through video-conferencing.



❖ The forum witnessed discussions on **refuelling the economy** and charting a course for the future, as the world economy is grappling with the **COVID-19 pandemic**.

❖ The **Bloomberg New Economy Forum** was established in 2018 by **Michael Bloomberg**, to build a community of leaders to engage in real conversations about the critical challenges facing a world economy in the throes of a historic transition.

GOLDMAN SACHS PROJECTS INDIA'S GDP FORECAST

❖ The **Investment bank, Goldman Sachs** has revised upwards the growth forecast for India in **FY21 to -10.3%** from its earlier **projection of -14.8%** in September 2020.



❖ For the financial year 2021-22 (FY22), the **Goldman Sachs has projected India's GDP at 13%**. The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., is an American multinational investment bank and financial services company headquartered in New York City.

❖ The bank is one of the largest investment banking enterprises in the world. The group also owns **Goldman Sachs Bank USA**, a direct bank.

❖ **Goldman Sachs was founded in 1869** and is headquartered at 200 West Street in **Lower Manhattan**.

MASTERCARD AND USAID TO LAUNCH 'PROJECT KIRANA'

❖ **Mastercard and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** has collaborated under Women's Global Development.



❖ And also in **Prosperity Initiative (W-GDP)** to launch 'Project Kirana' in India, to help women entrepreneurs grow and thrive.

❖ **Project Kirana** is a two-year programme, and initially, it will be rolled out in select cities of **Uttar Pradesh, including Lucknow, Kanpur and Varanasi**.

MERGER OF LAKSHMI VILAS BANK WITH DBS BANK

❖ **Union Cabinet** has **approved the merger of capital-starved Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) with DBS Bank India.**

❖ The **Reserve Bank of India** on 17 November proposed the merger of the lender with the **Indian arm of Singapore's DBS Bank.**



❖ **Lakshmi Vilas** is the **second bank to need a rescue this year**, and the third collapse of a major deposit-taking institution in 15 months and the first since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic.

❖ DBS was the **first foreign bank to receive a banking licence** after the central bank allowed foreign banks to set up a wholly-owned subsidiary in 2014.



APPOINTMENTS

TUMMALA SRINIVASA AS THE NEW DIRECTOR OF INCOIS

- ❖ **Tummala Srinivasa Kumar** took charge as the new **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information System (INCOIS) Director**.
- ❖ INCOIS is an autonomous organization of the Government of India, under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**.
- ❖ India has a tsunami early warning system which provides a **tsunami warning in 10 – 20 minutes** established at **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information System (INCOIS)**.



BIMAL JULKA AS THE CHAIRMAN OF FIFS

- ❖ **Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports (FIFS)** has announced the appointment of **Bimal Julka as its Chairman**.
- ❖ **Bimal Julka is an (IAS) officer** belonging to the **Madhya Pradesh Cadre**. Julka is taking over from **John Loffhagen**, who served as the Chairman of FIFS for over three years.
- ❖ **Loffhagen** will assume the role of a **Strategic Advisor** and support FIFS on collaborating with relevant international bodies in the industry.



PVG MENON APPOINTED AS CEO OF ESSCI

- ❖ The **Electronics Sector Skill Council of India (ESSCI)** announced the appointment of **PVG Menon** as its **CEO**.
- ❖ ESSCI works with industry, the **National Skill Development Corporation**, and the **Ministry of Electronics and IT** to provide both skilling and re-skilling services to the industry.



- Electronics Sector Skill Council of India **Headquarters: New Delhi.**

AK GUPTA: MD & CEO OF ONGC VIDESH LIMITED

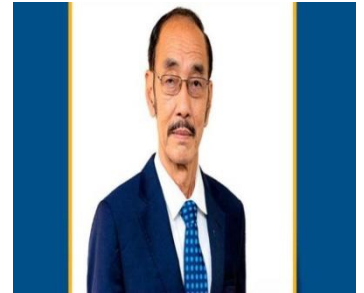
- ❖ **AK Gupta**, the new **Managing Director and CEO of ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL)** took charge. Before this, he was Director (Operations) of the company.
- ❖ **OVL is the international petroleum company of India** and the overseas arm of national oil and gas major Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Limited.
- ❖ **AK Gupta** brings with him over **three decades of experience** in various capacities in domestic and overseas oil and gas exploration and production operations.



- ONGC Videsh Limited Founded: **1965.**
- ONGC Videsh Limited Headquarters: **New Delhi.**

FIRST PRESIDENT OF HOCKEY INDIA FROM NORTH EAST

- ❖ Manipur's **Gyanendro Ningombam** was elected unopposed as the **President of Hockey India**,
- ❖ While former President **Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad** is back in the Hockey India Executive Board after being Elected Unopposed for the **Senior Vice President post**.
- ❖ Earlier, **Gyanendro Ningombam** has been serving as the **Officiating President of Hockey India**.
- ❖ He was **Senior Vice President of Hockey India**, **Senior Vice President of Manipur Hockey**, and also **Chief Executive Officer of Manipur Hockey**. He also served as the editor of Meeyam, an evening daily in Manipur.
 - Hockey India Founded: **20 May 2009**.
 - Hockey India Headquarters: **New Delhi**.



MICHAEL HOLDING APPOINTED AS MCC FOUNDATION PATRON

- ❖ Former **West Indies fast bowler**, **Michael Holding** has been appointed as a new patron of **Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) Foundation**.
- ❖ The **MCC Foundation** is the charitable arm of the **Marylebone Cricket Club**, custodian of the game's laws, and was created with the aim of enhancing lives through cricket.



- ❖ Last month, actor, mental health advocate and cricket-lover **Stephen Fry** had joined the Foundation as a patron. The pair joins the list which includes **Claire Taylor, Mike Brearley, Mike Atherton, and Mike Gatting.**

- Director of the MCC Foundation: **Sarah Fane.**
- MCC Foundation **Founded in 1993.**

FORMER CHIEF SECY. OF DELHI AS CHAIRMAN OF CAQM

- ❖ **Former Chief Secretary of Delhi, M.M. Kutty** was appointed as the chairperson of **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)** in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas.



- ❖ The **CAQM was formed on October 28** after dissolving several pollution-monitoring bodies, including most prominently the 22-year-old, **Environment Pollution Prevention & Control Authority (EPCA)** that has so far addressed air pollution in the Delhi NCR.
- ❖ This body will perform the **job of coordinating activities between the States.** The ordinance empowers the agency to make rules, set emission standards, and slap fines of up to Rs 1 crore or imprison violators for up to five years.

ED DIRECTOR'S TENURE EXTENDED FOR ONE YEAR


- ❖ The Union government has extended the tenure of **Enforcement Directorate (ED) Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra** by a year.



- ❖ The **ED is a central investigative agency** that enforces two central laws, the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)** and the **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).**

❖ These laws were enacted to curb **money laundering, terror financing, black money and hawala or illegal financial transactions** that have cross-border ramifications.

- Enforcement Directorate Founded: **1 May 1956.**
- Enforcement Directorate Headquarters: **New Delhi, India.**



AWARDS
&
HONOR

PAUL ZACHARIA: EZHUTHACHAN PURASKARAM

❖ Noted Malayalam writer, **Paul Zacharia** has been selected for this year's **Ezhuthachan Puraskaram**, the Kerala government's highest literary honour.



❖ **Paul Zacharia** was chosen for his contribution to **Malayalam literature during the past five decades.**

❖ **Zacharia** also won the **Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award** in 1979 and the **Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award** in 2004.

❖ The **Ezhuthachan Puraskaram** is the highest literary honour that is given by the **Kerala Sahitya Akademi, Government of Kerala.**

HARIHARAN WINS JC DANIELS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

❖ Noted filmmaker **Hariharan** has been selected for the **JC Daniel Award**, the state government's highest honour for **lifetime contributions to Malayalam cinema.**

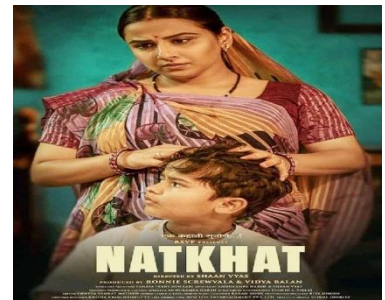


❖ **Hariharan** was chosen for the prestigious award by a jury chaired by **MT Vasudevan Nair.**

❖ In 1972 he directed the film '**Girls Hostel**'. Later he got here up with a few of the evergreen films in Malayalam.

VIDYA BALAN'S SHORT FILM FOR OSCAR NOMINATIONS

- ❖ The **Indian film 'Natkhat'**, starring and co-produced by **Vidya Balan**, has won the top prize at the third edition of **Best of India Short Film Festival 2020**.
- ❖ By winning the festival, the film has become eligible for 2021 Oscar qualification.
- ❖ The film has been directed by **Shaan Vyas** and co-produced by **Ronnie Screwvala and Vidya Balan**. The **Best of India Festival** has been established by **ShortsTV** since 2018 to honour and recognize the exceptional work of the **Indian filmmaker**.



RUSKIN BOND CONFERRED WITH TATA LIFETIME AWARD

- ❖ **Ruskin Bond**, one of India's most cherished authors was conferred **Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award** for 2020.
- ❖ He has a substantial body of work, **close to 100 books** – across genres for children and adults.
- ❖ His famous works: **Room on the roof, Blue Umbrella, etc.** He was conferred the **Padma Shri & Padma Bhushan**.



SCOTTISH WRITER WINS 2020 BOOKER PRIZE FOR FICTION

- ❖ **Scottish writer Douglas Stuart** has won the **2020 Booker Prize for Fiction**. He has been awarded for his debut novel,

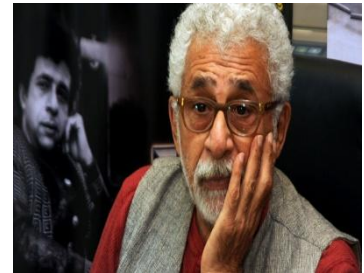


“**Shuggie Bain**”. The **44-year-old Stuart** is only the second to have won the prestigious literary prize.

- ❖ The Booker Prize for Fiction, (formerly known as the **Booker–McConnell Prize** (1969–2001) and the **Man Booker Prize** (2002–2019)), is a literary prize awarded each year.
- ❖ It is awarded for the best original novel written in the English language and published in the United Kingdom. It carries **£50,000 prize (\$66,000)**.

NASEERUDDIN SHAH HONOURED WITH ADITYA BIRLA AWARD

- ❖ **Veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah** has been honoured with the 2020 **Aditya Vikram Birla Kalashikhar Puraskar** at annual **Sangit Kala Kendra Awards**.



- ❖ Alongside, two emerging stars, in the firmament of theatrics – **Neel Choudhary and Irawati Karnik** were awarded the **Aditya Vikram Birla Kalakiran Puraskars**. “**Theatre**” is the central theme, for this year’s awards.
- ❖ The **Aditya Vikram Birla Kalashikhar and Kalakiran Puraskar awards** were instituted in 1996 by the Sangeet Kala Kendra (SKK). It was founded in **1973 by Aditya Vikram Birla** (former Chairman of **Aditya Birla Group**)

K SIVAN: DOCTOR OF SCIENCE HONORARY DOCTORATE

- ❖ **Karnataka Governor Vajubhai Vala** presented **Doctor of Science honorary doctorate** upon ISRO Chairman **K Sivan**. The **Visvesvaraya Technological University** has conferred the doctorate to him.



- ❖ The Governor highly praised the **role of ISRO in defining our Space programme** and the social role that it has played in the country.
- ❖ **Kailasavadivoo Sivan** (born 14 April 1957) is an **Indian space scientist** who is the current Secretary (Space) and ex-officio chairman of **Indian Space Research Organisation and Space Commission**.
- ❖ He has previously served as the **Director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Center** and the **Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre**.

MALAYALAM FILM 'JALLIKATTU': INDIA'S ENTRY FOR OSCARS

- ❖ Malayalam film “**Jallikattu**”, directed by **Lijo Jose Pellissery**, has been selected as India’s official entry for the **Best International Feature Film** category for the **93rd Academy Awards**.



- ❖ **Jallikattu** is the **third Malayalam film** after **Guru** (1997) and **Adaminte Makan Abu** (2011) to be chosen as the **country’s official entry for the Oscars**.
- ❖ In 2019, **Zoya Akhtar’s Gully Boy**, starring **Ranveer Singh** and **Alia Bhatt**, was **India’s entry to the Oscars**.



SPORTS

LEWIS HAMILTON WINS EMILIA ROMAGNA GRAND PRIX

- ❖ **Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain)** has won the **Emilia Romagna Grand Prix 2020** at Autodromo Internazionale Enzo e Dino Ferrari race track, **Italy**.
- ❖ This was his **9th win** of the season and 93rd F1 win of his career. **Valtteri Bottas finished second while Daniel Ricciardo finished third.**
- ❖ He also won the 2020 **Portuguese Grand Prix**, held at Algarve International Circuit, Portugal. With this win, he has surpassed the record of 91 wins set by German great Michael Schumacher.



MARLON SAMUELS RETIRES FROM ALL FORMAT OF CRICKET

- ❖ **West Indies batsman, Marlon Samuels** has announced his retirement from professional cricket.
- ❖ Having last he played for his country in December 2018 **against Bangladesh.**
- ❖ He has played **71 Tests, 207 ODIs, and 67 T20s** at the **international level**, has scored 11,134 international runs including **17 centuries** across all formats. He also has **152 international wickets to his name.**
- ❖ He also represented several T20 franchises around the world later in his career, including **Delhi Daredevils, Pune Warriors, Melbourne Renegades, and Peshawar Zalmi.**



MUMBAI INDIANS WINS IPL TROPHY FOR THE FIFTH TIME

- ❖ **Mumbai Indians** defeated **Delhi Capitals** in the final of **Dream11 Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020** to lift their fifth IPL trophy.
- ❖ Chasing 157 runs for victory, Mumbai were helped by **their captain Rohit Sharma**, who hit 68 runs off 51 balls.
- ❖ They have now become the only side after Chennai Super Kings to defend the title. Kings XI Punjab skipper **KL Rahul bagged the Orange Cap** for being the leading run-scorer of the IPL 2020.
- ❖ Delhi Capitals' **Kagiso Rabada won the Purple Cap** with a total of 30 wickets at the end of IPL 2020.



LEWIS HAMILTON WINS TURKISH GRAND PRIX 2020

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



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FIFA U-17 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP 2021 CANCELLED

❖ The **2021 U-17 Women's World Cup**, which was scheduled to be held in India, has been cancelled due to the **Corona virus pandemic**.

❖ It has also been decided that **India will host the 2022 edition of the World Cup**.

❖ The **2020 U20 Women's World Cup** has also been cancelled along with the U17 edition. While **Costa Rica** will get the chance to **host the 2022 U20 Women's World Cup**.

- Headquarters of FIFA: **Zürich, Switzerland**.
- President of FIFA: **Gianni Infantino**.



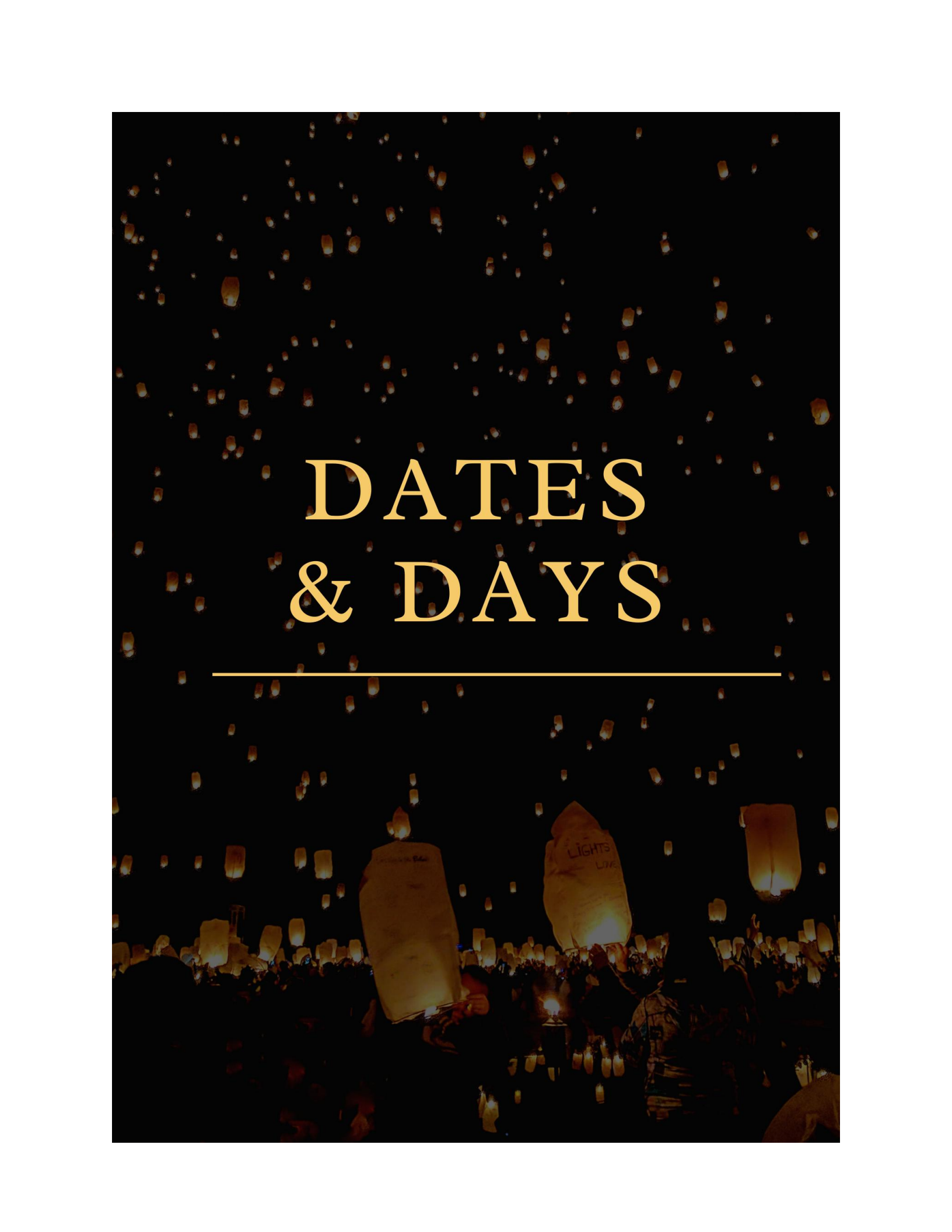
INDIAN SKIP. VIRAT KOHLI BROKE SACHIN TENDULKAR'S RECORD

❖ **Indian cricket team skipper Virat Kohli** scripted **another record** in the game. He **broke Sachin Tendulkar's record** and became the **quickest batsman to complete 22,000 runs**.



❖ He reached the milestone in his **462nd innings**. Tendulkar batted **493 times to reach that mark**. They are followed by Brian Lara (**511 innings**) and **Ricky Ponting (514 innings) on the list**.

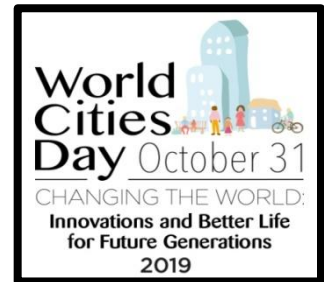
❖ The **only batsman** with an **average of over 50 across all formats**, Kohli has 7240 runs in Tests, 12834 runs in ODIs and 2794 runs in T20Is. Kohli achieved this feat during the second ODI between Australia and India at the SCG.



DATES & DAYS

WORLD CITIES DAY: 31ST OCTOBER

- ❖ **The United Nations General Assembly** has designated the **31st of October** as **World Cities Day**. Theme for the year 2020 is **Valuing Our Communities and Cities**.
- ❖ The Day is celebrated to promote the **international community's interest in global urbanization**.
- ❖ **Urban October** was launched by **UN-Habitat in 2014** to emphasize the world's urban challenges and engage the international community towards the New Urban Agenda.
- ❖ **World Cities Day 2020** is the seventh global celebration since the day was launched on **31 October 2014** in **Shanghai, China**.



WORLD TSUNAMI AWARENESS DAY 2020

- ❖ **World Tsunami Awareness Day** was observed across the world on **5 November**.
- ❖ The day is celebrated to spread awareness among people across the world in matters related to the **dangers of tsunami**.
- ❖ This year's observance promotes **“Sendai Seven Campaign,” target**. **World Tsunami Awareness Day** was the **brainchild of Japan**.
- ❖ In December 2015, the **UN General Assembly** designated **5 November** as **World Tsunami Awareness Day**, calling on countries, international bodies and civil society to raise tsunami awareness and share innovative approaches to risk reduction.



NATIONAL CANCER AWARENESS DAY: 7TH NOVEMBER

- ❖ The **National Cancer Awareness Day** is observed annually in India on **November 7**, to spread awareness on cancer, its symptoms and treatment.
- ❖ According to the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, cancer is the second leading cause of death globally.
- ❖ The day was **first observed in 2014** as and when announced by the union health minister **Dr Harsh Vardhan**. The day coincides with the **birth anniversary of scientist Marie Curie** winner of the **1903 Nobel Prize in Physics**.
- ❖ **World Cancer Day** which was celebrated on **4th of February**.



'NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES DAY': 9TH NOVEMBER

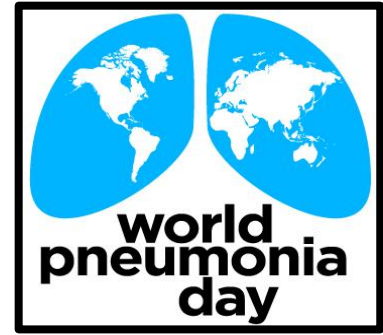
- ❖ In India, **09 November** is celebrated as “**National Legal Services Day**” every year by all Legal Services Authorities, to commemorate the enactment of the **Legal Services Authorities Act 1987**.
- ❖ The Day is celebrated to **make people aware of the various provisions under the Legal Services Authorities Act** and the right of the litigants.
- ❖ On 11 October 1987, the **Legal Services Authorities Act 1987** was enacted, while the act took effect on 9 November 1995. The day was started by the **Supreme Court of India** in 1995 to provide help and support to poor and weaker sections of the society.



WORLD PNEUMONIA DAY 2020: 12TH NOVEMBER

❖ **World Pneumonia Day** is observed globally on **12th November** every year.

❖ The day is **celebrated to raise awareness, promote prevention and treatment** and produce action to combat the disease. The day was first celebrated in the year 2009.



❖ To end the **preventable burden of childhood pneumonia** and deaths there is a need to **Strengthen, accelerate and sustain** interventions to prevent and treat pneumonia. Design specific strategies to reach the “**harder-to-reach**” populations to improve their accessibility to available interventions.

❖ The day was celebrated on November 12 in 2009 by the **Global Coalition against Child Pneumonia**.

NATIONAL AYURVEDA DAY 2020

❖ **National Ayurveda Day** is being observed every year from 2016, on the **day of Dhanwantri Jayanti**.

❖ This year the **5th Ayurveda Day** falls on November 13, 2020. **PM Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the two future-ready **Ayurveda institutions in Gujarat and Rajasthan**.



❖ The Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (**ITRA**) at **Jamnagar** in Gujarat and the National Institute of Ayurveda (**NIA**) at **Jaipur** in Rajasthan on November 13.

WORLD DIABETES DAY: 14TH NOVEMBER

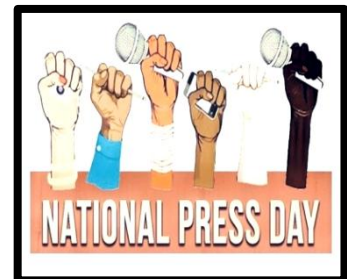
- ❖ **World Diabetes Day** is observed on **14th November** every year. The campaign aims to raise awareness around the crucial role that nurses play in supporting people living with diabetes.



- ❖ The theme for World Diabetes Day 2020 is “**The Nurse and Diabetes.**” In 2007 General Assembly adopted resolution 61/225 designating **14 November as World Diabetes Day.**
- ❖ Diabetes is a major cause of **blindness, kidney failure, heart attack, stroke and lower limb amputation.** A healthy diet, physical activity and avoiding tobacco use can prevent or delay type 2 diabetes.

NATIONAL PRESS DAY: 16TH NOVEMBER

- ❖ **National Press Day** is observed on **16th November** every year to celebrate free and responsible press in India.
- ❖ It commemorates the day when the **Press Council of India started functioning.**



- ❖ In 1956, the **First Press Commission** was planned to form a Press Council to protect freedom of the press in India. On 4 July 1966, the **Press Council was established in India.**
- ❖ It came into effect from 16 November 1966 under the **Press Council Act of 1978.** Therefore, **16 November is celebrated as National Press Day every year.**

WORLD TOILET DAY 2020: 19TH NOVEMBER

❖ **World Toilet Day (WTD)** is observed globally on 19 November to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis.

❖ **World Toilet Day** celebrates toilets and raises awareness of the 4.2 billion people living without access to safely managed sanitation.



❖ It is about taking action to tackle the global sanitation crisis and achieve **Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030.**

❖ The day was established by the **World Toilet Organization in 2001** and officially declared by the UN General Assembly in 2013. This year the theme remarks on the importance of “**Sustainable sanitation and climate change**”.

- World Toilet Organization Headquarters: **Singapore.**
- World Toilet Organization **Founder and Director: Jack Sim.**
- World Toilet Organization Founded: **19 November 2001.**

WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY 2020: 20TH NOVEMBER

❖ **World Children's Day** is observed globally on **20 November** every year.

❖ The day is celebrated to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and **improving children's welfare.**



❖ **November 20th** is an important date as it is the date in **1959** when the **UN General Assembly** adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

- ❖ **World Children’s Day** was first established in 1954 as **Universal Children’s Day** and is celebrated on 20 November each year. It is also the date in 1989 when the **UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child**.

NATIONAL NEWBORN WEEK 2020: 15 TO 21 NOVEMBER

- ❖ In India, the **National Newborn Week 2020** is observed every year from 15 to 21 November.



- ❖ **Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan** has chaired an event to mark the National Newborn Week 2020.

- ❖ The main purpose of the week is to reinforce the **importance of newborn health** as a key priority area of the health sector and reduce the infant mortality rate by improving healthcare conditions for babies in the neonatal period.
- ❖ The theme of National Newborn Week 2020 is **‘Quality, Equity, Dignity for every newborn at every health facility and everywhere’**.

WORLD FISHERIES DAY: 21ST NOVEMBER

- ❖ **World Fisheries Day** is celebrated on **21 November** every year throughout the world by the **fisherfolk communities**.



- ❖ It highlights the importance of healthy oceans ecosystems and to ensure sustainable stocks of fisheries in the world. 2020 is the **fourth World Fisheries Day**.

- ❖ The **World Fisheries Day** helps in highlighting the critical importance to human lives, of water and the lives it sustains, both in and out of water. Water forms a continuum, whether contained in **rivers, lakes, and ocean**.

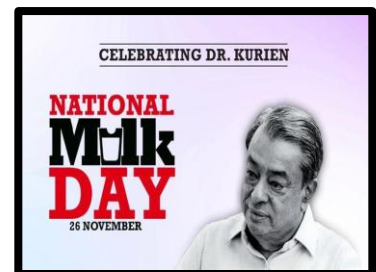
ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- ❖ The United Nations designated **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women** is celebrated worldwide on **November 25**.
- ❖ The day is celebrated to **raise awareness of the fact that women around the world are subject to various forms of violence** and the true nature of the issue is often hidden.
- ❖ This year's theme for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is **“Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, and Collect!”**



NATIONAL MILK DAY: 26TH NOVEMBER

- ❖ In India, **November 26 is celebrated as National Milk Day**, since 2014, to commemorate the birthday of the **father of India's White Revolution, Dr Verghese Kurien** (also nicknamed as **Milkman of India**).
- ❖ The day was fixed by all the dairy majors of the country including the **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)**, the **Indian Dairy Association (IDA)**, along with **22 state-level milk federations**.
- ❖ The **Indian Dairy Association (IDA)**, in 2014, took the initiative to celebrate this day for the first time. The **first National Milk Day was celebrated on 26 November 2014**.





REPORT
&
INDEXES

KERALA BEST GOVERNED STATE IN INDIA: PAI INDEX

- ❖ **Kerala** has adjudged **the best - governed state** in the country while **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** pushed to the **bottom** in the large states category, according to the PAI - **Public Affairs Index 2020** released by the Public Affairs Centre.
- ❖ Four southern states, **Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, & Karnataka** stood in the 1st four ranks in the large state category in terms of governance.
- ❖ **Uttar Pradesh, Odisha & Bihar** were **at the bottom** of the ranking. In the small state category, Goa ranked 1st, followed by Meghalaya and Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ **Chandigarh** emerged **the best - governed union territory** in the category of UTs PAI points, followed by **Puducherry & Lakshadweep**.
- ❖ By the PAC, the governance performance is analyzed in the context of sustainable development defined by **3 pillars of equity, growth and sustainability**.

AZIM PREMJI (WIPRO) TOPS THE PHILANTHROPY LIST 2020

- ❖ The **founder-chairman of Wipro Ltd, Azim Premji** (Rs 7,904 Crore) has topped the **EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2020**.
- ❖ It ranks individuals from India **who donated Rs 5 crore and above** between April 1, 2019, and March 31, 2020, towards philanthropic contributions.
- ❖ **Shiv Nadar, founder and chairman of HCL Technologies**, ranked second (Rs 795 crore) on the list. He topped the list in 2019. **India's richest man and the chairman of Reliance Industries, Mukesh Ambani** stood at the third spot (Rs 458 crore).



- ❖ 7 women found a place in the list with **Rohini Nilekani** (donating Rs 47 crore) being India's most generous woman; followed by **Anu Aga & family of Thermax** (Rs 36 crore), and **Biocon's Kiran Mazumdar Shaw** (Rs 34 crore).

INDIA'S PARAM SIDDHI RANKED 63RD IN LIST OF 500

- ❖ According to the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Indian supercomputer, **Param Siddhi** has achieved **63rd rank in the list of 500** most powerful supercomputers in the world.



- ❖ **Param Siddhi** is the high-performance computing-artificial intelligence (HPC-AI) supercomputer established under **National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)** at C-DAC.
- ❖ The supercomputer will also help in acceleration of research and development in the fight **against COVID19 through faster simulations**, medical imaging, genome sequencing and forecasting and is a boon for Indian masses and for start-ups and MSMEs in particular.

INDIA RANKED 77TH IN 'TRACE BRIBERY RISK MATRIX 2020'

- ❖ **India is placed at 77th position** in the **TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix 2020**. India has achieved a score of 45 in a global list that measures business bribery risks of 2020.



- ❖ **India's rank stood 78 positions** in 2019. It was a better performance than neighbouring nations such as **Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and China**. But, **Bhutan** scored better than India and got 48th place in the list.
- ❖ North Korea, Turkmenistan, South Sudan, Venezuela and Eritrea had the highest commercial bribery risk. **Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden and New Zealand**

showed the lowest bribery risk. The **TRACE Matrix list** is released by **TRACE International**.

WORLDWIDE COST OF LIVING (WCOL) INDEX 2020

- ❖ The **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)** has released its biannual ‘**Worldwide Cost of Living (WCOL)**’ report of the **World’s Most Expensive Cities in 2020**, based on their cost of living.
- ❖ **Hong Kong (China), Paris (France) and Zurich (Switzerland)** share the top spot as the most expensive cities in the list, which **comprises of 133 cities**.
- ❖ **Damascus (Syria), Tashkent (Uzbekistan), Lusaka (Zambia)** ranked the last three spots as the cheapest cities in the list, which comprises of 133 cities.
- ❖ The report took into account the price of **138 items**, used in every day for survival, and the **falling or rising value of that country’s currency** due to Covid to rank the cities accordingly.
 - Economist Intelligence Unit Headquarters: London, **United Kingdom**.
 - Economist Intelligence Unit Founded: **1946**.





SCIENCE & TECH.

DRDO TEST-FIRED PINAKA ROCKET SYSTEM

- ❖ The **enhanced version of PINAKA rocket system** was successfully flight tested by **DRDO** from Integrated Test Range, **Chandipur off the coast of Odisha**.
- ❖ This **enhanced version of the Pinaka rocket** would replace the existing **Pinaka Mk-I rockets**.
- ❖ The **design and development of Pinaka** were done by **DRDO laboratories** based in Pune, namely **Armament Research and Development Establishment, ARDE** and **High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, HEMRL**.



INDIA RECEIVED SECOND BATCH OF THREE RAFALE AIRCRAFT

- ❖ India receives the second batch of **three Rafale Aircraft**, bringing total **Rafale Jets** with IAF to eight.
- ❖ The second batch of **three Rafale jets** landed in **Jamnagar, Gujarat**.
- ❖ With the **arrival of the second batch**, the IAF now has a **total of eight Rafale fighter aircraft**. As per the information by **Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria**, the induction of all **36 jets will be completed by 2023**.



A-SAT MISSILE MODEL UNVEILED BY DEFENCE MINISTER

- ❖ A model of **Anti Satellite (A-SAT) Missile installed inside DRDO Bhawan** was unveiled by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.



- ❖ The installation of the **A-SAT model** will inspire the **DRDO fraternity** to take up many more such challenging missions in future.

- ❖ ‘**Mission Shakti**’ was the country’s **first-ever Anti-Satellite (A-SAT) Missile Test** successfully conducted on 27th March 2019 from **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha**.

INDIAN ASTRONOMERS COLLABORATE WITH NOBEL LAUREATE

- ❖ **Indian astronomers** have collaborated with the **2020 Physics Nobel Laureate Prof. Andrea Ghez** for the design of back-end instruments and possible science prospects of the **Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) project**.



- ❖ The **Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT)** is a proposed **Extremely large telescope (ELT)** which is planned to be installed at Maunakea on the **island of Hawaii**.
- ❖ Some of the Indian astronomers like **Dr Annapurni Subramaniam**, and **Dr Shashi Bhushan Pandey**, a scientist at **Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)** along with many others collaborated with **Prof. Ghez** in the ongoing research and developmental activities of the TMT project.

INDIA SUCCESSFULLY TEST-FIRED QRSAM SYSTEM

- ❖ **India successfully test-fired the Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) system off the coast of Balasore in Odisha.**



- ❖ **The QRSAM system has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) in association with Bharat Electronics Limited and Bharat Dynamics Limited for the Indian Army.**
- ❖ **The system is capable of detecting and tracking targets on the move and engaging target with short halts. The system is designed to give air defence coverage against strike columns of the Indian Army.**

DRDO FLAGS OFF FIRST 'VARUNAstra' HEAVY TORPEDO

- ❖ **The Defence Research and Development (DRDO) Chairman G Satheesh Reddy has flagged off the first Production unit of Heavy Weight Torpedo (HWT), Varunastra.**



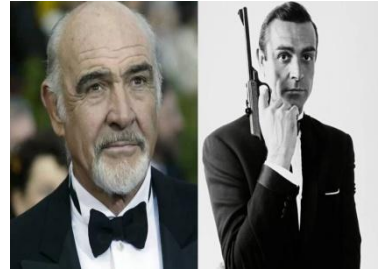
- ❖ **The Varunastra has been designed and developed by NSTL of DRDO while Bharat Dynamics Limited BDL, Vishakhapatnam has manufactured the torpedo for the Indian Navy.**
- ❖ **Varunastra is a ship-launched, heavyweight, electrically propelled anti-submarine torpedo.**
- ❖ **It can be launched from ships that can fire heavyweight torpedoes to engage quiet submarines in deep and shallow waters.**



OBITUARIES

JAMES BOND ACTOR SEAN CONNERY PASSES AWAY

- ❖ The **Scottish actor**, best known for his **portrayal of James Bond**, **Sean Connery** passed away. Connery will be remembered first as British agent 007.



- ❖ **Scottish movie legend Connery**, who shot **British agent James Bond** and went on to grace the silver screen for four decades.
- ❖ He was admired by generations of film fans in films such as **The Man Who Would Be King**, **the Name of the Rose** and **the Untouchables**.

'SCOOBY DOO' CO-CREATOR KEN SPEARS PASSED AWAY

- ❖ American television editor, **writer and producer Ken Spears**, who co-created the beloved animated series “**Scooby-Doo**”, passed away.



- ❖ He was also the co-founder of television animation production company, **Ruby-Spears Productions**, along with the late **Joe Ruby**.
- ❖ Together, **Spears and Ruby** created **Scooby-Doo**, **Dynomutt**, **Dog Wonder**, and **Jabberjaw**, among other programs. **Joe Ruby** has recently passed away on August 26, 2020.

BAHRAIN LONGEST SERVING PM PASSES AWAY

❖ **Bahrain's Prime Minister Khalifa bin Salman al-Khalifa** has passed away. He was 84.

❖ He was not only the **longest-serving PM of Bahrain**, but he was the **world's longest-serving prime minister**.



❖ He had held the post since independence in 1971. He played a **key role in Bahrain's political and economic affairs** for more than three decades.

- King of Bahrain: **Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa**.
- Capital of Bahrain: **Manama**.

JAPANESE NOBEL PRIZE WINNER PASSED AWAY

❖ **Physicist Masatoshi Koshiha**, who shared 2002 Nobel Prize for the detection of cosmic neutrinos, passed away.

❖ **Koshiha's most famous work** involved detecting neutrinos from a distant supernova explosion using a vast detector based in a mine in central Japan. **Koshiha, a distinguished professor at the University of Tokyo**.



❖ His student, **Takaaki Kajita**, won the Nobel Prize in physics in 2015 for research at the Super- Kamiokande facility that found neutrinos have mass.

ARGENTINA SOCCER LEGEND MARADONA PASSED AWAY

- ❖ **Argentina soccer legend Diego Maradona** passed away on 25th November. He died at the **age of 60**. He died because of heart failure.



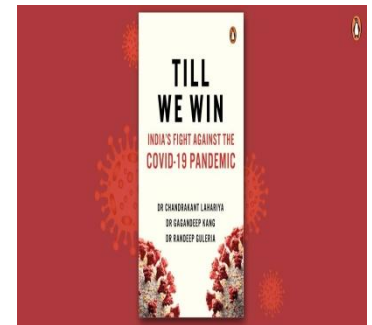
- ❖ **Diego Maradona** was the **captain when Argentina won the 1986 World Cup**, in which he produced a series of Sublime individual performances.
- ❖ He was signed for **2 world record fees** in his career when **joining Barcelona and then later Napoli**. He was one of the highest-paid players in the world.



MISCELLANEOUS

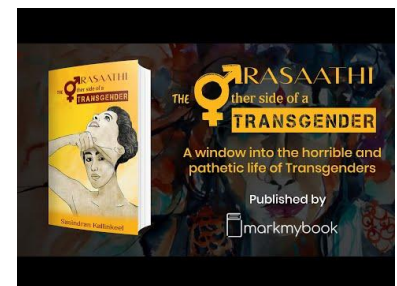
'TILL WE WIN': BOOK BY AIIMS DIRECTOR GULERIA

- ❖ A new book titled “**Till We Win**” written by **AIIMS Director Randeep Guleria** and two other doctors
- ❖ It will give a definitive account of **India’s fight against Covid-19** and how to deal with the pandemic in the days to come.
- ❖ The book deals with the “**realization of inner strength and unity**” amongst people of all walks of life in a country known for its cultural and linguistic diversity.
- ❖ It will hit the stands this month and published by **Penguin Random House India**.



“RASAATHI” TITLED NOVEL BY EX-SPG OFFICER

- ❖ **Ex-SPG officer, Sasindran Kallinkeel’s** has penned a novel named “**Rasaathi: The Other Side of a Transgender**”. The main character in the novel, published by **BookMitra**, is a transgender named **Rasaathi** born in a family in South India.
- ❖ **Rasaathi, meaning princess**, is in the late 40s who wants people to **treat transgenders like human beings** by showering love, affection, sympathy and recognise their pathetic and horrible life.
- ❖ **Sasindran Kallinkeel** was with the **Central Reserve Police Force** for 23 years and had a seven-year stint with the Special Protection Group (PM's Security) as a senior security officer when **Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh** were in office.



BOOK PENNED BY ACTOR ANUPAM KHER

❖ Actor **Anupam Kher**'s latest book is titled "**Your Best Day Is Today!**" He had announced the book, in which he experiences during the corona virus-induced countrywide lockdown.



❖ Through this book, **Kher will recount his experiences during the lockdown**, several ups and downs, including the time when his **mother Dulari and brother Raju Kher** had contracted the virus.

❖ His previous books are his biography **Lessons Life Taught Me unknowingly & the Best Thing about You is you**. He is also a recipient of **two National Film Awards**.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF SONU SOOD ' I AM NO MESSIAH'

❖ An actor, producer and humanitarian, **Sonu Sood** is set to pen his **autobiography** titled "**I Am No Messiah**". The book will be co-authored by **Meena Iyer**.



❖ The book will account the **experience of Sonu Sood during the COVID-19 pandemic**. The book is set to be published by Penguin Random House India and released in December 2020.

❖ Sonu Sood narrates his emotional experiences and the challenges he faced along with the people he rescued **during the COVID-19 pandemic**.

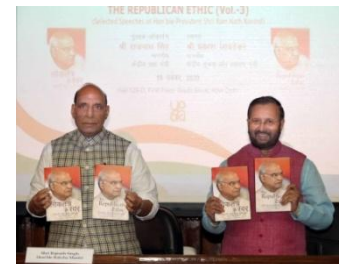
LONAR LAKE IN MAHARASHTRA CHOSEN AS RAMSAR SITE



- ❖ The **Lonar Lake in Buldhana district of Maharashtra** has been chosen as a **wetland site of international importance** under the **Ramsar conservation treaty**.
- ❖ **Lonar Lake** was formed by the **impact of a meteorite on basalt bedrock** several thousand years ago.
- ❖ A **Ramsar Site is a wetland site** designated to be of **international importance** under the **Ramsar Convention**. The name Ramsar comes from the **Ramsar City of Iran**, where this treaty was signed.
- ❖ The Convention on Wetlands is also known as the **Ramsar Convention**.

DEFENCE MINISTER RAJNATH SINGH UNVEILED TWO BOOKS

- ❖ **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** has unveiled two books.
- ❖ **‘The Republican Ethic Volume III’** and **‘Loktantra Ke Swar’** which is a collection of selected speeches of **President Ram Nath Kovind** during the third year of his presidency.
- ❖ **Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar** unveiled the e-book versions of the two books.
- ❖ **Mr Rajnath Singh** stated that the President’s speeches depict his concern towards issues such as girls education, empowerment of women, and welfare of the weaker sections.





LEGAL AFFAIRS

'UNION TERRITORY OF J&K' LAND REORGANISATION 2020

- ❖ Recently, the Centre notified '**Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of Central Laws) Third Order, 2020**', which states that any Indian citizen can now buy land in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) without being a domicile.



❖ Features of Latest Order:

- **No domicile or permanent resident certificate is required** to purchase non-agricultural land in the Union Territory.
- **Amended the Jammu & Kashmir Land Revenue Act, 1996**, under which only agriculturists of J&K can purchase agricultural land.
- The Centre also notified the **Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016**, which paves the way for the acquisition of land in J&K by all Indian citizens.

LAWS AND PROVISIONS FOR PLATFORM WORKERS

- ❖ The **Code on Social Security, 2020**, for the first time in Indian law, attempted to define '**platform work**' outside of the traditional employment category. **Labour falls** under the **Concurrent List of the Constitution**.



Significance of Platform Work:

- Platform work promises workers flexibility and ownership over delivery of work.
- Important for delivery of essential services as seen during pandemic.
- Employment Intensive Sector.
- Potential Sector for growth due to fast pace of **Urbanization**.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO ASSESS TRP SYSTEM

❖ The **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** has constituted a **four-member committee**, to assess the existing **Television Rating Points (TRP)** of TV channels.



❖ The committee will be chaired by **Prasar Bharati CEO, Shashi S Vempati**.

❖ The need to form such a committee was felt after the **alleged TRP scam** in which it was alleged that certain TV channels manipulated TRPs in return for payment.

❖ TRP is calculated in India by the **Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC)** using a device called **Bar-O-Meter**, which is installed in over 45,000 households across the country.

- Chairman of BARC India: **Punit Goenka**.
- BARC Headquarters: **Mumbai**.

DIGITAL & ONLINE MEDIAS UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL

❖ **Digital/Online media** has been brought under the purview of the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**.

❖ Currently, there is no law or autonomous body governing digital content.



- ❖ The **2nd Schedule** of the **Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules 1961** has been amended to include following entries viz. Films and Audio-Visual programmes, News and current affairs content.
- ❖ This means that digital content providers such as **Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, and Hotstar** will now be regulated by the **Union ministry headed by Prakash Javadekar**.
- ❖ The **I&B ministry** will also regulate **online audio-visual programmes** and current affairs content, according to the amendment order signed by **President Ram Nath Kovind**.
- ❖ The decision has been taken in exercise of the powers **conferred by clause (3) of Article 77 of the Constitution**, by amending the **Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961** and it will come into effect immediately.

CCI INITIATED PROBE AGAINST GOOGLE

- ❖ The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has initiated a probe into alleged abuse of dominant position by the company to promote its **payments app, Google Pay**.
- ❖ CCI highlighted two main **anti market practices by google** to unfairly push Google Pay it's payment app:



- **Mandatory Use:** Google's policy of mandatory use of Google Play's payment system for purchasing the apps and IAPs (in-app purchases) in the Play Store.
- **Exclusionary Practices:** It excluded other mobile wallets/UPI (Unified Payments Interface) apps as one of the effective payment options in Google Play's payment system.

- ❖ The probe against Google Pay comes days after the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** allowed rival **Facebook-owned WhatsApp** to go live on the UPI in the multi-bank model.

ED'S PRELIMINARY INQUIRY OF KIIF BOARD

- ❖ Recently, the **Enforcement Directorate (ED)** has opened a **preliminary inquiry to examine** if borrowings by the **Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB)** from overseas markets violated the provisions of the **FEMA 1999**.



- ❖ **KIIFB** was established to manage the **Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund (KIIF)**, as per the KIIF Act 1999. In 2016, the government changed the role of **KIIFB** from handler of investment bonds to an entity to **mobilise the resources**.
- ❖ **KIIFB** had also overstepped its legal bounds by **issuing masala bonds** to raise money from foreign markets in **violation of Article 293 (1) of the Constitution**.
- ❖ **Article 293 (1)**: The executive power of a State extends to borrowing within the territory of India upon the security of the Consolidated Fund of the State within such limits.
- ❖ The **ED** has also asked the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** about the details of 'no **objection certificate**' it had supposedly extended to the **KIIFB**, enabling the agency to take sizable loans from the foreign financial market.

