

Current Affairs Of November 2020

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National

Kerala, Goa, Chandigarh emerge as Best Governed States and Union Territory : PAI 2020

Kerala emerged as the Best Governed State in the Large States

Category, Goa emerged as the Best Governed

State in Small States Category, Chandigarh emerged as the Best Governed Union Territory based on Governance in the 5th edition of **Public Affairs Index 2020 (PAI 2020)** released by Public Affairs Centre (PAC) on October 30, 2020.



Overall PAI 2020 Index – Scores and Rankings

i. Large States:

Rank	Large States	PAI 2020 Index
1	Kerala	1.388
2	Tamil Nadu	0.912
3	Andhra Pradesh	0.531

ii. Small States:

Rank	Small States	PAI 2020 Index
1	Goa	1.745
2	Meghalaya	0.797

iii. Union Territory:

Rank	Union Territory	PAI 2020 Index
1	Chandigarh	1.057
2	Puducherry	0.520

Union Territory of Ladakh celebrating its first raising day; J&K marks first anniversary of becoming UT

Union Territory of Ladakh celebrated its First Raising Day on October 31, 2020. It was on 31st October 1919 that Ladakh became a Union Territory. Ladakh is celebrating the Union Territory Foundation Day with a theme of One year of Development, Prosperity and Empowerment. A series of foundation ceremonies or dedications were planned in Leh and Kargil districts to commemorate the day. October 31, also marks one year since Jammu and Kashmir acquired the Union Territory status.

CJI SA Bobde Inaugurates India's First-ever e-resource center 'Nyay Kaushal' & Virtual Court in Nagpur

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sharad Arvind Bobde inaugurated 'Nyay Kaushal' – India's first ever E-resource centre and a virtual court for the Maharashtra Transport and Traffic Department at Judicial Officers Training Institute in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

i. Nyay Kaushal will facilitate electronic-filing of cases in Supreme Court, High Court and district courts across the country.

ii. The virtual court will deal with all traffic challan cases from every corner of Maharashtra online.

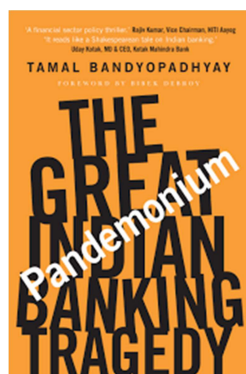
Rare Metallic Asteroid '16 Psyche' may be worth \$ 10, 000 Quadrillion

According to a recent study published in **The Planetary Science Journal**, Asteroid '16 Psyche' which orbits between Mars and Jupiter is believed to be made up almost entirely of iron, nickel and other rare materials like gold, platinum, cobalt, iridium and rhenium. It is worth an estimated \$10, 000 Quadrillion which is

more than the entire economy of Earth. It was discovered on March 17, 1853 by Italian astronomer Annibale de Gasparis and named after Greek goddess of Soul, Psyche. Researchers at the Southwest Research Institute (Texas, United States) observed the asteroid through the Hubble Space Telescope.

Book Titled “Pandemonium: The Great Indian Banking Tragedy” Authored by Tamal Bandyopadhyay

“Pandemonium: The Great Indian Banking Tragedy” authored by Tamal Bandyopadhyay provides an insider perspective on the forces that are restructuring the banking system in India, Asia’s 3rd largest economy. This book, published by Roli Books, provides an understanding about the challenges and economic potential of India.



It is set to release in November 2020.

About the Book:

i. The book “Pandemonium” accounts how many promoters had swapped equity with debt while the managements of the banks were finding a way to protect their balance sheets until the intervention of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) against their bad loans.

ii. The Same issue trouble also affected the developing non-banking financial companies of India who were quick to identify the post demonetisation easy liquidity and the reluctance of banks to lend which promoted them to borrow short to lend long.

Awards:

i. He received Ramnath Goenka Award for Excellence in Journalism (commentary and interpretative writing) 2016 for “Banker’s trust” a weekly column that analyses the banking and finance decisions in India.

ii. He was named as one of the “Most Influential voices in India” in 2019 by LinkedIn.

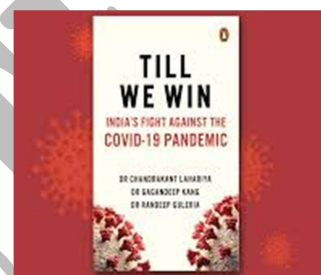
Books:

i. He had contributed to the Oxford Handbook of the Indian Economy and Making of New India: Transformation Under Modi Government.

ii. His other books include, HDFC Bank 2.0, Bandhan: The Making of a Bank, From Lehman to Demonetization, etc.

‘Till We Win’ – Book on COVID-19 by AIIMS Director to release in November, 2020

‘Till We Win’ – India’s Fight Against COVID-19 Pandemic – a New book written by AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences) New Delhi, Director, Randeep



Guleria and co-written by Chandrakant Lahariya, who is a leading public policy and health systems expert and Gagandeep Kang, a renowned vaccine researcher and virologist is set to be released in November, 2020.

The book will provide a definitive account of India’s fight against COVID-19 and how to deal with the pandemic in the coming days.

Key Points:

i. The book will be published by Penguin Random House, India.

ii. The book will deal with “realization of inner strength and unity” amongst people of all walks of life in a country.

iii. It will answer essential questions, like “How long will we have to go on wearing masks?”, “Will we need to wear a mask even after we get a vaccine?” or “What if there is no effective treatment against Covid-19?”.

iv. The book has the potential to transform the public health sector in India, it offers a clear roadmap for the future.

India’s First Solar-Powered Miniature Train Launched at Veli Tourist Village, Kerala by CM Pinarayi Vijayan

i. India’s first solar energy-driven miniature train was virtually inaugurated at the Veli Tourist Village in Kerala by state’s Chief Minister (CM) Pinarayi Vijayan. Developed with an outlay of Rs 10 crore, this train is a part of Rs 60 crore projects undertaken to make facilities of the Veli tourist village to international standards.



ii. Modelled after the vintage steam locomotive, it covers a distance of 2.5 km with three-bogie train and can carry 45 passengers.

iii. Apart from this, he also dedicated **Rs 5 crore Urban Park** and **Rs 2.5 crore swimming pool** at the Veli tourist village which is located on the outskirts of the capital Thiruvananthapuram where the Veli lake meets the Arabian sea.

HDFC Bank Voted as “Most Outstanding Company-Financial Sector” in India for 2nd Consecutive Year: Asiamoney

HDFC Bank Limited has been voted as the “Most Outstanding Company – Financial Sector” in India in the poll conducted by Asiamoney, a well-established financial publication. HDFC has been given the honour for the 2nd consecutive year.

Bharti Airtel won the overall winner by Market in India. Click Here To know the overall winners by Market and winners by sector in each market

2nd Batch of Three Rafale Fighter Jets land at Jamnagar Air Base in Gujarat

2nd Batch of Three Rafale Fighter Jets landed at the Jamnagar Air Base in Gujarat. The



fighter jets took off from Istres air base, France and flew continuously over eight hours covering 3,700 nautical miles (6,852 Kilometres) before landing in India.

- i. With the arrival of the Three fighter jets, the Indian Air Force (IAF) now has **8 Rafale Fighter jets**.
- ii. The Second batch will be **stationed at Hasimara Air Force Station, West Bengal**.

Political Scientist Vinay Sitapati’s 2nd Book Titled “Jugalbandi: The BJP Before Modi”

Vinay Sitapati, a political scientist, lawyer and a journalist authored his 2nd book titled “Jugalbandi: The BJP Before Modi”.

The book documents about the partnership between Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Lal Krishna Advani, The founding leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The book will be published by Penguin’s Viking (Viking Books is an imprint of Penguin General) and it is set to be released in November 2020.

About the book:

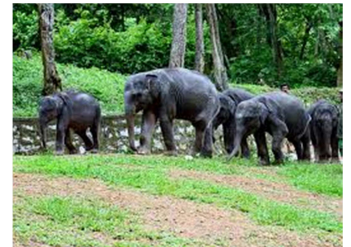
- i. The book is based on private papers, party documents, newspapers and more than 200 interviews which claims to be the “most authoritative account” of the BJP.
- ii. The book explains about Modi and the dominance of BJP in Indian Politics.
- iii. This portrays the creation of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Jana Sang and BJP and the partnership between Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Lal Krishna Advani, the founding leaders of BJP.

About Vinay Sitapati:

- i. Vinay Sitapati is currently working as the Head of the Department of Political Science and Assistant Professor of Political Science and Legal Studies at the Ashoka University, Sonapat Haryana.
- ii. His debut book “**Half-Lion: How P V Narasimha Rao Transformed India**”, the biography of PV Narasimha Rao, the former Prime Minister of India was recognised as “Book of the Year 2016” by The Economist magazine.

Kottoor Elephant Rehabilitation Centre in Kerala is Set to Become World’s Largest Care & Cure Centre

- i. Kottoor Elephant Rehabilitation Centre in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala is being upgraded to international standard and is set to become the world’s largest care and cure center for elephants. The upgradation of the center is a part of the special program of the government of Kerala for the protection and conservation of elephants.
- ii. The project is implemented at a cost of Rs.108 crore funded from the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board(KIIFB).



iii. Around Rs.71.9 crores was spent on the first phase of the center which will be commissioned in February 2021.

UP's Chandauli Tops NITI Aayog's Aspirational Districts of September 2020

The Chandauli district of Uttar Pradesh (UP) tops the NITI Aayog's ranking of **Aspiration districts of September 2020**. Bokaro and Purbi Singhbhum of Jharkhand secured 2nd and 3rd position followed by Sonbhadra of UP at 4th position. The ranking accounted for the progress made by **112 districts** across **6 development areas** during September 2020. The Aspirational Districts Programme was launched in January 2018 with an aim to transform the underdeveloped districts.

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Inaugurated India's first solar-based Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project in Arunachal Pradesh

i. **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, Union Minister of Jal Shakti inaugurated **India's first solar-based Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project (IMVWSP)** in Lower Dibang Valley district in northeastern **Arunachal Pradesh**.
 ii. This project will provide drinking water needs for 39 villages (approximately 17,480 people) in the district.
 iii. The solar-based lift water supply project was commissioned at a cost of Rs 28.50 crore.

Padma Awardee & Actor Anupam Kher Unveiled the Cover of his new book "Your Best Day Is Today!"

Veteran Bollywood Actor and Padma awardee, Anupam Kher unveiled the cover of his new book titled "Your Best Day Is Today!".

About Your Best Day is Today!:

i. Your Best Day is Today is the 3rd book of Anupam Kher.
 ii. The book presents the encounters and experiences of Anupam Kher during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 iii. The book covers the period during which his mother Dulari and brother Raju Kher were tested for coronavirus pandemic.

About Anupam Kher:

i. Anupam Kher is a Bollywood actor and producer, well known for Hotel Mumbai (2018), M.S. Dhoni: The Untold Story (2016),

Silver Linings Playbook (2012) and A Wednesday (2008).
 ii. He received the Padma Shri in 2004 for Arts and Padma Bhushan in 2016 for arts.

PM Inaugurated Hazir-Ghogha Ferry service in Gujarat; Renamed Ministry of Shipping as Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

i. The Government of India renamed the Ministry of Shipping to become the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways. It was announced by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi during the virtual inauguration of Ro-Pax Ferry service between Hazira in Surat district in south Gujarat and Ghogha in Bhavnagar district of Gujarat.
 ii. The vessel **Voyage Symphony** will be used for this service.
 iii. It will reduce nearly 370 km road distance between the two places to 90 km by sea route and travel time from 10-12 hours to 3-4 hours.



Uttarakhand CM Inaugurates India's Longest Motorable Suspension Bridge 'Dobra-Chanthi' in Tehri-Garhwal & 1st state to provide free Wifi to Govt Institutes

Uttarakhand Chief Minister, Trivendra Singh Rawat inaugurated the 725-metre-long **Dobra-Chanthi suspension bridge** in **Tehri-Garhwal district**. It is the longest motorable single lane suspension bridge in India.

i. The bridge has been built over the Tehri Lake with a total cost of INR 2.96 Crore (approximately).
 ii. The bridge will connect Pratap Nagar town with Tehri Garhwal district headquarters.

Uttarakhand Free Internet service to Government colleges and Universities:

Trivendra Singh Rawat launched **free high-speed WiFi services** for all **government colleges and universities in the state**. With this Uttarakhand is the first state in the country to provide free internet to all government colleges and universities.

Assam's Tezpur Litchi Gets GI Tag

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Union ministry of commerce and industry, confirmed

that **Tezpur**

Litchi of Assam has received

the Geographical Indication

(GI) Tag. Tezpur Litchi was

granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag certification on **27th**

March 2015. The GI Tag to Tezpur Litchi made it an

incontrovertible proof of their origin in Assam. The GI tag

prevents the production of Tezpur Litchi from other places.

The Tezpur Litchi has got the GI tag under **Horticulture**

Products(Fruits) – Litchi in the **class 31**. This registration is

valid up to **28th August 2023**.



- The North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERMAC) applied for the GI tag of Tezpur Litchi on **29th August 2013**.

Tezpur Litchi:

Origin– Tezpur Litchi is a subtropical evergreen fruit produced in **Tezpur, Assam**.

Gujarat High Court became the 1st High Court in India to

Live-Stream its Court Proceedings on Youtube The Gujarat

High Court became the **first high court** to **live stream judicial proceedings on YouTube channel**. This is to increase the access to courts, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. The live stream also aims to broaden the implementation of the open court concept even for virtual hearings. 1,500 viewers were watching the proceeding on the day of live streaming.

NASA Detected first fast radio burst in Milky Way galaxy

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) detected a bright Fast radio bursts (FRB) and X-rays, which lasted for a millisecond, from the Milky Way galaxy for the first time ever. This signal, called FRB 200428, was found in April inside the Milky Way galaxy for the first time and was also the first to be traced to a magnetar, which are dead stars that have the most powerful magnetic fields in the universe.

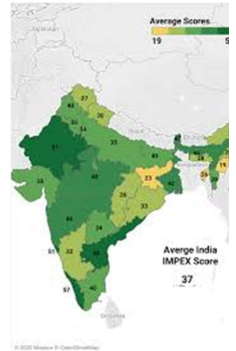
- The findings confirm that magnetars could be sources for FRBs.
- FRBs are bright bursts of radio waves from astronomical objects across galaxies, and their sources have been a mystery for over a decade.
- Further, a NASA-funded project called Survey for Transient Astronomical Radio Emission 2 (STARE2) also detected the radio burst seen by CHIME.
- The FRB and subsequent X-ray radiation was observed by at least four telescopes. The findings were published in three papers in the journal Nature.

Interstate Migrant Policy Index (IMPEX) 2019 released by India Migration Now, Kerala Top

i. The Mumbai (Maharashtra) based research non-profit India Migration Now has released “Interstate Migrant Policy Index (IMPEX) 2019” stating integration of interstate migrants. In accordance to this, the states

of **Kerala, Goa, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh (AP)** have been most successful in integrating migrant workers.

ii. India’s average IMPEX 2019 score for 28 states and the Union Territory (UT) of National Capital Territory (NCT) Delhi is 37 out of 100.



Static Points:

–The IMPEX is a regional adaptation of the international Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX).

–India Migration Now is a venture of the South East Migration Foundation.

High Biodiversity in 49% of Ganga River: Wildlife Institute of India Survey

Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in the **second phase** of its survey of the entire main stem of **Ganga river** (Main river without its tributaries) found that **49%** of the river has **high biodiversity** and increased biodiversity sightings. Scientists have stated that this indicated reduction of pollution levels and a healthier state of the river.

i. The study was initiated by WII on behalf of the **National Mission for Clean Ganga**.

ii. This is the **first ever study** done in India on the entire Ganga river, and first of all its biodiversity.

15th FC led by NK-Singh Submitted its 5yr Report for 2021-26 to President, Ram Nath Kovind; Centre released Rs 2,200 cr for 42 cities to improve air quality

i. the Fifteenth Finance Commission (XVFC) led by Chairman **Nand Kishore (NK) Singh** submitted its Report titled **"Finance Commission in Covid Time"** for the period of five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26 to the President of India Ram Nath Kovind. The cover of the report has a figure of **scales** indicating the balance between the States and the Union.

ii. Based on the recommendations of XVFC, the central government on November 9, 2020 released Rs 2,200 crore as the first installment to 15 states for the improvement of air quality measures in their cities. Greater Mumbai (Maharashtra) receive the highest allocation of **Rs 244 crore**

About Fifteenth Finance Commission (XVFC):

The Fifteenth Finance Commission was constituted by the President of India on November 27, 2017 in pursuance of clause (1) of Article 280 of the Constitution and Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1951.

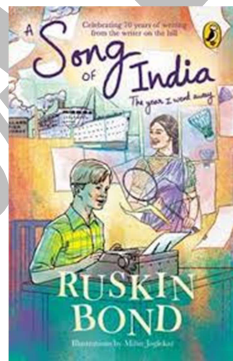
Ruskin Bond Authored Book Titled, 'How to Be a Writer'

The book titled **'How to Be a Writer'** authored by **Ruskin Bond** was published by HarperCollins India. The book gives practical advice for every person who is aspiring to write and be published.

About the Book:

- The book gives a glimpse into the writing credo of Ruskin Bond, the author who has over 70 years of successful writing career.
- The book has been written in the humorous style of Ruskin Bond.

As per Ruskin Bond, to become a writer, the person must have the following qualities-love of books, languages and life, an observant eye, a good memory, enthusiasm, optimism and



persistence.

About Ruskin Bond:

i. Ruskin Bond, Indian author of British descent, is one of India's most well-known children's writers.

ii. His first novel was 'The Room On the Roof'. His first children's book, 'Angry River', was published in the 1970s.

iii. **Awards**– He received the Padma Shri in 1999 and the Padma Bhushan in 2014.

HarperCollins to publish Kiwi PM Jacinda's Biography 'Jacinda Ardern: Leading with Empathy'

'**Jacinda Ardern: Leading with Empathy**' – A Biography of New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern will be **published** in 2021

by **HarperCollins**. The book will be authored by **Supriya Vani** and **Carl A Harte**.



About the Book:

i. The Biography will give readers an insight into the inner world of Jacinda Ardern.

ii. It will examine the Prime Minister of New Zealand through the Author's Interview, multitude of public statements and speeches.

iii. The book aims to take the reader to the places, to meet the people and see the culture, and understand the events that propelled this daughter of a small-town policeman to high office. In October, 2020, Jacinda Ardern was re-elected in the 2020 New Zealand General Elections.

GoI Issues Orders to bring Digital News Portals, Online Films, Content Providers under Purview of I&B Ministry

Government of India issued an order to bring **digital or online Media, films and audio-visual programmes, news** and current affairs content under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (**Ministry of I&B**).

This will include **OTT** (over-the-top) platforms such as Netflix, Hotstar, Prime Video & Online News Portal.

Amended Rule:

i. In Exercise of the powers conferred by Constitution, President

made the rules to amend the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961.

ii. The rules may be called Government of India (Allocation of Business) Three Hundred and Fifty Seventh Amendment Rules, 2020.

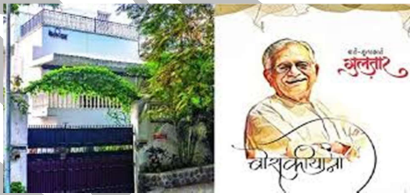
Abu Dhabi's SWF becomes 1st Notified Fund to get 100% IT exemption in India

The Abu Dhabi's Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF) – MIC Redwood 1 RSC Limited has become the first foreign SWF that has been notified and granted 100% income-tax exemption on income from interest, dividend and long-term capital gains for its investment in India's priority sector as per the Finance Act, 2020. The announcement was made by the Ministry of Finance.

- To ease the process of SWFs' notification, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) issued some detailed guidelines on 22nd July 2020. CBDT expected that income-tax exemption to SWFs and the pension Fund will provide foreign funding to India's infrastructure sector.
- To expand the scope of the exemption, the government issued a notification on July 6, creating all the sub-sectors of the compliant primary list of infrastructures eligible for this income tax exemption.

'Boskiyana', A New Hindi Book on Gulzar Published by Radhakrishna Prakashan

'Boskiyana', a new Hindi book on Gulzar, veteran Indian poet-lyricist has been published by Radhakrishna Prakashan. The book portrays the life of Gulzar through his films, poetry, philosophies, lifestyle, likes and dislikes. The 228-page book is edited and compiled by Yashwant Vyas.



- 'Boskiyana' is the name of the house of Gulzar in Mumbai.

About the Book:

i. The book expresses the personality of Gulzar through detailed conversations and reveals his thoughts and vision of the world.
ii. It is a compilation of some of the most defining interviews and

conversations of Gulzar from the last 30 years. Yashwant Vyas took 6 years to compile.

About Gulzar:

i. Gulzar is the professional name of Sampooran Singh Kalra.
ii. Apart from being a lyricist and poet he is also an author, screenwriter, philosopher, filmmaker and film director.

Awards– He has won many awards including 5 National Film Awards, 1 Academy Award for Best Original Song (2008) 2002 Sahitya Akademi Award for Urdu, and Padma Bhushan (2004) among others.

Hero MotoCorp Signed Distribution Agreement with Harley-Davidson for Indian Market

Hero MotoCorp signed a distribution agreement with Harley-Davidson Motor Company for Indian market, as a part of "The Rewire" a plan to change its

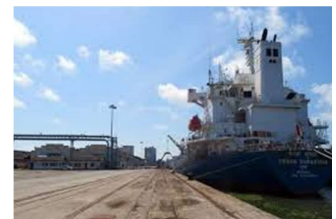


business model in India. Under this Hero will sell and service Harley-Davidson motorcycles, parts and accessories for general merchandise through a network of exclusive Harley-Davidson dealerships and MotoCorp will develop and sell a range of premium motorcycles under the Harley-Davidson brand.

In September 2020, Harley-Davidson Motor Co decided to exit India and announced the shutting down of its Manufacturing plant in Bawal, Haryana.

President gives nod for renaming Shipping Ministry as Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways

The President of India has given his assent for renaming Shipping Ministry as the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways by exercising of the powers



conferred by clause (3) of Article 77 of the Constitution and by amending the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961.

- Shipbuilding and ship-repair industry, ship-breaking, fishing vessels industry, floating craft industry among others will come under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

- Port Trusts in Mumbai, Kolkata and others, the Inland Waterways Authority of India and the Shipping Corporation of India will also come under the ministry.

Sonu Sood's Autobiography to be Titled as "I Am No Messiah"

Sonu Sood, an actor, producer and humanitarian, 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.

About the book:

- The book will feature the stories he heard and his interactions with the migrants and others.
- In this book Sonu Sood will share the experiences which impacted his life and changed his outlook and his purpose of life.
- In this book Sonu Sood narrates his emotional experiences and the challenges he faced along with the people he rescued during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Karnataka's Mysuru to Get India's First Sandalwood Museum

India's first Sandalwood

Museum is being established in Aranya Bhavan in Ashokapuram, **Mysuru**, Karnataka. The museum is



set up by the **Regional Forest Department** to educate farmers about the significance of **cultivation of sandalwood**. This will also provide technical support, information on availability of saplings, marketing facilities, pest control measures, incentives and schemes provided for sandalwood growers by the government.

On 9th November 2020, ST Somashekar, Karnataka's Minister in-charge of Mysuru district, inspected the museum, which will be inaugurated by Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa.

Nirmala Sitharaman Detailed 'Aatmanirbhar' Package 3.0 worth Rs 2,65,080 cr; 12 schemes Announced

i. Ahead of Diwali festival, Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Ministry of Finance during a press conference has announced the "Aatmanirbhar Package 3.0" covering following 12 schemes as a stimulus measure of additional **Rs 2,65,080 crores** to boost economic growth.

1. Announcement of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana, EPFO Incentive for New Employees
2. Extension of ECLGS 1.0 till March 31, 2021 from Oct 31, 2020; Launch of ECLGS 2.0
3. Rs 1,45,980 cr boost to Aatmanirbhar manufacturing by PLI for 10 Key Sectors
4. Rs 18,000 crore additional fund for PMAY-Urban
5. FinMin announced Rs 900 crore grant for COVID-19 vaccine research

India's Renewable Energy Sector to see the Largest Growth after COVID-19: IEA

According to the International Energy Agency's (IEA) report, **Renewables**

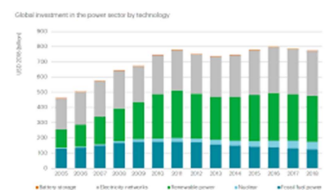
2020 – Analysis and Forecast to 2025, India's Renewable

Energy sector will see

the largest growth after COVID-19. India will double its green energy capacity addition in 2021 compared to 2020 levels. Driven by China and the United States, new additions of renewable power capacity worldwide are expected to a record level of almost **200 Gigawatts (GW) in 2020**.

i. Total Installed Wind and Solar PV capacity will **surpass natural gas in 2023** and coal in 2024. Solar PV accounts for 60% of all renewable capacity additions through 2025, and wind provides another 30%.

ii. Renewable will **overtake coal** to become the largest source of electricity generation worldwide in **2025** (one-third of world's electricity supply). **Hydropower** will be the **largest source of renewable electricity** worldwide, followed by wind and solar PV.



Rachna Bisht Rawat's New book "Insomnia: Army Stories", a Collection of Tales About Indian Army

Rachna Bisht Rawat launched her new book "Insomnia: Army Stories" featuring stories based on life in the armed forces. The book is published by the Penguin Random house India.

About the book:

i. Rachna Bisht Rawat stated that all the characters featured in Insomnia are not heroic, the characters represent ordinary people who have their own weaknesses and failures.

ii. She also stated that this book speaks more about emotions in various forms and speaks less about the army.

iii. The book also features Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), murder, human right violations, and the horrors of war.

About Rachna Bisht Rawat:

i. Rachna Bisht Rawat is a journalist and a writer, who has worked with publications like The Statesman, Indian Express, Deccan Herald, Outlook, Discover India, The Hindu and Femina.

ii. She has written for websites like www.yourstory.com and Iconoculture, a global research and advisory company.

iii. She had helped in the editing of the regimental history of The Fifth Airborne, the Indian Army's highly decorated Para regiment, to which her late father Brigadier B.S. Bisht and her brother Col Sameer Bisht belong.

Books:

Her books include, The Brave, 1965: Stories from the Second Indo-Pakistan War, Shoot.Dive.Fly. and The Dreamcatchers.

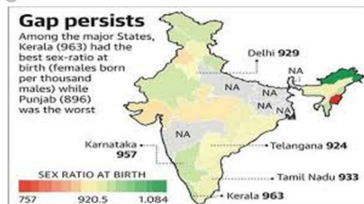
Arunachal Pradesh Records Best Sex Ratio in India: Annual Report from Office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner

According to Annual Report on 'Vital Statistics on India based on Civil Registration

System 2018', Arunachal Pradesh recorded the

Highest Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) in the country with

1,084 females born per thousand males. It was followed by Nagaland (965) & Mizoram (964), Kerala (963), and Karnataka



(957).

The report was released by the Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

States with High SRB:

State	Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB)
Arunachal Pradesh	1,084
Nagaland	965
Mizoram	964

States with Low SRB:

State	Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB)
Manipur	757
Lakshadweep	839

The Book "Reporting India: My Seventy Year Journey as a Journalist" authored by Prem Prakash has been Launched

Veteran Journalist Prem Prakash's new book titled "Reporting

India: My Seventy Year Journey as

a Journalist" has been launched. The

book was published by Penguin

Random House India. The book

accounts the life events of Prem

Prakash, a pioneer in the field of

Indian journalism.

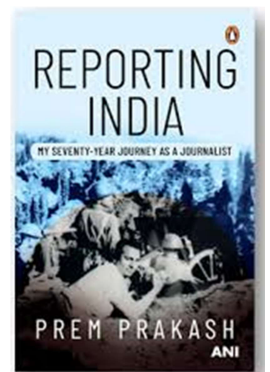
Prem Prakash is currently serving as

the Chairman of ANI (Asian News

International), leading news agency of India.

About the book:

i. The book provides a detailed account of the personal and



professional life of Prem Prakash along with the defining moments of Indian history.

ii. The book features his stories from the 1962 Indo-China war to 1965 and 1971 Pakistan War, from the Emergency period to the assassination of Indira Gandhi, and the Tashkent journey of Lal Bahadur Shastri to the liberation of Bangladesh.

iii. The book also features his stories from the demise of Jawaharlal Nehru to the rule of Narendra Modi.

About Prem Prakash:

i. Prem Prakash has reported the major events of India from the 1950's to the turn of the century (2001).

ii. He worked with foreign broadcasters like Gaumont Actualités in France, Deutsche Wochenschau in Germany and Warner-Pathé News in the United States (US).

Kerala's Responsible Tourism Mission Receives World Travel Mart's 'Highly Commended' Award

Kerala's **Responsible Tourism (RT) Mission** received World Travel Mart's '**Highly Commended**' Award in the category of "Meaningful Connections." for its activities that aimed at promoting RT during the COVID-19 pandemic. It received the award for its activities like "Work at Home Videos" developed by RT Mission entrepreneurs and storytelling audio and video series of various Mission units in the state that posed multiple challenges to the tourism sector. This award is the 5th International Award for the RT Mission since its formation in 2017. The Mission has also won 3 National Awards.

Bhubaneswar Becomes 1st City in India to get ISO Certification for FSSM services

Bhubaneswar, Capital of Odisha became the **First City** in the Country to get **ISO 9001:2015 Certification** for Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM) services. Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) was the first civic body to implement FSSM regulations in Odisha.

National Policy on Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM):

The National Policy on Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM) was launched by the **Ministry of Urban**

Development in 2017.

Objective of FSSM:

To ensure that all Indian cities and towns become totally sanitized, health and liveable and ensure sustenance of good sanitation practices.

Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad releases "My Stamp on Chhath Puja" virtually

Union Minister of Communications, Ravi Shankar Prasad released a "**My Stamp on Chhath Puja**". He also released a Special cover on the theme '**Chhath – A symbol of Simplicity and Cleanliness**'.

i. My Stamp is a new concept initiated by the **Department of Posts** where common persons or corporate organisations can now book orders and get personalised photographs or images of a Postage Stamp.

ii. The My Stamp on Chhath Puja will be available in all Philatelic Bureaux and major post offices across India for purchase.

'Chhath Puja':

i. On Chhath Puja, devotees **offer prayers to the God of Light i.e Sun** as he is considered the life force that binds the universe and gives energy to all living things.

Lonar lake in Maharashtra and Sur Sarovar in UP Added to Ramsar sites

i. Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change

(MoEFCC) announced

that **Sur Sarovar** also known as Keetham Lake in Agra, Uttar Pradesh



and **Lonar Lake** in Maharashtra, the only crater lake of Country has been added to the '**Ramsar Sites**'.

ii. These 2 wetlands have been included in the 'List of Wetlands of International Importance' established by Article 2.1 of the convention.

iii. With the inclusion of these 2 wetlands, the total number of Ramsar Sites in India is 41, the highest in South Asia.

MP CM launches 3-year roadmap for Aatmanirbhar MP; Becomes first state to release roadmap for Self-Reliance

Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh (MP), **Shivraj Singh**

Chouhan virtually launched a Three-year roadmap “**Aatma Nirbhar Madhya Pradesh 2023**” to make MP self-reliant.

MP became the **first state** to release a roadmap for self-reliance under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

The roadmap focuses on Transparent governance, farm welfare, job creation and booster shots for industry and healthcare.

Dignitaries present during the Launch:

It was launched by CM Shivraj Chouhan in the presence of State BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) President V D Sharma and NITI Aayog Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Amitabh Kant.

MILESTONES

- Developing MSME corridor along Chambal Expressway & Narmada Expressway
- 100% domestic tap water connection
- Setting up green energy corridor
- Going local in purchase of goods and equipment
- Converting 10,000 SHCs and 1200 PHCs into health wellness centers
- 10,000 schools with all basic facilities
- Task force for setting up agriculture guarantee trust

L&T Construction bags order to build 87.56 kms of India’s first Bullet Train Project

The Transportation Infrastructure business of **L&T (Larsen & Toubro) Construction**, the construction arm of L&T secured the contract to build **87.569 Kms of India’s first** high-speed rail corridor or Bullet Train Project -



‘Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR)’ from the National High-Speed Rail Corporation (NHSRCL).

Note – NHSRCL signed an agreement for the country’s biggest infrastructure contract for design and construction of 47 percent alignment for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project.

- i. The project is valued more than **INR 7, 000 Crores**.
- ii. The order includes the construction of viaducts, one station, major river bridges, maintenance depots, and other auxiliary works.
- iii. This particular package represents only 17.2 % of the total length of the project.

Funding Agency:

The project is funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and is expected to be completed by 2023.

CCI Approved Acquisition of Certain Undertaking of Future Group by RRVL & RRVL WOS

The Competition

Commission of

India (CCI) approved the acquisition of retail and wholesale undertaking and



logistics and warehousing undertaking of the **Future Group** by Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (**RRVL**) and Reliance Retail and Fashion Lifestyle Limited (**RRVL WOS**). The approval was given under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002.

Proposed Combination:

- i. Firstly, the Future Group entities will be reorganized by amalgamating with Future Enterprises Limited (FEL).
- ii. After the re-organisation of the Transferor Companies (All the FEL Group Companies), RRVL and RRVL WOS will acquire retail and wholesale undertaking and the logistics and warehousing undertaking of FEL.

About Transferor Companies :

- The Transferor Companies consists of many listed and unlisted companies, mainly engaged in retail, wholesale, logistics and warehousing businesses.
- These businesses operate on a pan-India basis.

RBI Becomes World’s 1st Central Bank to Reach 1 million Followers on Twitter

The number of followers of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased from 9.66 lakh to one million or 10 lakh on Twitter.

With this, the central bank of India is now the **first-ever** such **bank** in the **world** to reach these many **followers** in the **micro-blogging site**. The US Federal Reserve has about 6.67 lakh Twitter followers and the Frankfurt-headquartered European Central Bank (ECB), the second most powerful monetary authority in the world, has about 5.91 lakh followers. Currently, the RBI handle is followed by over 1 million people.

PM Modi releases book on the life of Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a book on the life and ideals of Sri Guru Nanak Dev the founder of Sikhism, India's fourth largest religion. The book was written by Chandigarh based writer Kirpal Singh and released on the presence of Minister of Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi.

About Sikhism:

i. Started in the Mid-15th century by **Guru Nanak Dev**, is the 5th largest organized religion in the world and the 4th largest religion in India

ii. Sikhism is originated in the Punjab region of Joint Indian subcontinent, which includes modern day Punjab state of India and Punjab Province of Pakistan.

iv. Holy Scripts of Sikhism:

- **The Adi Granth**, its first rendition, was compiled by the fifth Guru Arjan Singh
- **The Guru Granth Sahib**, is the final rendition is the Holy books of Sikhism.

India's GDP Q2 2020: Economic contraction narrows to 7.5% from 23.9% in Q1 as per NSO data

i. In accordance with the official data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO), India's gross domestic product (GDP) for the second quarter ended September 30, 2020 (Q2FY21) contracted by 7.5% as compared to the expansion of 4.4% in the corresponding July-September period of 2019-20.

ii. However, this shows a significant improvement over a 23.9% contraction in the previous April-June quarter (Q1FY21).

iii. Manufacturing sector saw a 0.6% growth in July-September after a massive contraction of 39% in Q1FY21.

UP Governor Anandiben Patel gives assent to Ordinance on "Unlawful Conversions"

Uttar Pradesh

Governor Anandiben Patel gave assent to "Uttar Pradesh

Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance,

2020" (Uttar Pradesh Vidhi Viruddh Dharm Samparivartan

Pratishedh Adhyadesh 2020) which aims to curb forcible or

"dishonest" religious conversion including those for the sake of marriage.

On November 24, 2020, Uttar Pradesh Cabinet gave its approval to the draft.

Objective:

The main objective of the ordinance is to prohibit conversion of religion through misrepresentation, force, fraud, undue influence, coercion, allurement or marriage.

Key Points:

i. A marriage will be declared "shunya" or null and void if the main intention of the marriage was to "change a girl's religion".

ii. It makes unlawful conversions a non-bailable offence and cognizable offence and Offenders will face **jail terms of upto 10 years**

Cyclone Nivar: 4th cyclone to hit the North Indian Ocean region in 2020

The Nivar Cyclone made a landfall near **Puducherry**, south of **Chennai** with a wind speed of **85 to 95 kmph**. Ambur,

Tiruvannamalai, Vellore and Arani also

experienced a wind speed

of 50 Kmph. The Nivar is

the **4th Cyclone** to hit the

North Indian Ocean Region in 2020. The storm was

named "**Nivar**" based on the guidelines of the World

Meteorological Organisation (WMO). **Nivar** was selected from

the names suggested by **Iran**.



International

United States formally exits Paris Climate Agreement to curb climate change

The **United States (US)** became the **first country** to formally **exit** the **Paris Climate Agreement**. The formal exit from the agreement happened over a period of three years, after President Donald Trump declared pull-out from the climate accord in June 2017.



Impact of US Exit:

- i. US is the **second largest emitter of Greenhouse gases** in the world (1st – China), accounting for a total of **25 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions**.
- ii. US had promised to **reduce its emissions by 26 percent to 28 percent by the year 2025 from 2005 levels**.

Overview of Indian Army Chief General MM Naravane's Three-day visit to Nepal from November 4-6, 2020

Indian Army Chief General MM Naravane visited Nepal from **November 4-6, 2020** to strengthen **overall ties** including in **areas of defence and security** between India and Nepal. He visited Nepal at the official invitation of **Nepal Army Chief Purna Chandra Thapa**.

- i. General MM Naravane was accompanied by his wife **Veena Naravane**, who is the **chairperson of the Army Wives Welfare Association (AWWA)** of the Indian Army.
- ii. They were received by Chief of General Staff, Lieutenant General Prabhu Ram of Nepal upon arrival at the Tribhuvan International Airport.
- iii. General MM Naravane was conferred with the **honorary rank of General of Nepali Army** by **Nepali President Bidya Devi Bhandari** in a ceremony at the President's Official Residence '**Shital Niwas**' in Kathmandu.

Virgin Hyperloop completes First-ever Human Trial in Hyperloop Pod in US

Virgin Hyperloop successfully completed the **first-ever human trial** in the hyperloop pod at the 500 metre DevLoop test facility in the Las Vegas, United States (US) on November 8, 2020. **Josh Giegel**, Co-Founder and Chief Technology Officer, Virgin Hyperloop and **Sara Luchian**, Director of Passenger Experience of Virgin Hyperloop, were the first people in the world to ride on Hyperloop.

- i. They travelled 500 metres in 15 seconds in newly-unveiled **XP-2 vehicle**, reaching 107 mph (172 Km per hour).
- ii. The testing campaign will continue with Pune native and Virgin Hyperloop Power Electronics Specialist, Tanay Manjrekar to ride next in Hyperloop.

About the Vehicle:

- i. The 2 passengers made their maiden voyage on the newly-unveiled **XP-2 vehicle**, designed by **Bjarke Ingels Group**, which was custom-built with occupant safety and comfort in mind.

Hyperloop:

- i. It is a next-generation travel system which uses **pods or capsules** travelling at high speeds through low-pressure tubes erected on columns or tunnelled underground using **magnetic levitation**.
- ii. It is fully autonomous and sealed eliminating driver-related errors.
- iii. The idea of 'Hyperloop' was first publicly mentioned by **Elon Musk** in 2012.

Hyperloop in India:

- i. Maharashtra Government recognized hyperloop as a public infrastructure project and approved the Virgin Hyperloop-DP World Consortium as Original Project Proponent (**OPP**) for the Mumbai-Pune hyperloop project. It was expected to run along Mumbai-Pune Express Highway.
- ii. In October, 2020 Virgin Hyperloop announced a partnership with Bangalore International Airport Limited (**BIAL**) to conduct feasibility study for a proposed hyperloop corridor from Bangalore Airport.

20th Summit of SCO Council of Heads of State 2020 Virtually Chaired by Russia's Vladimir Putin; 16 Documents Adopted

i. the virtual 20th Summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of State (CHS) 2020 was chaired by President of Russia Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin where Indian Delegation was led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



ii. This was the first SCO Summit held in Virtual Format and the third meeting that India participated in after becoming a full member in 2017.

iii. It should be noted that President Emomali Rahmon of Tajikistan will assume the chairmanship of SCO in 2021.

World's First 6G Satellite Sent Into Orbit by China

China has successfully launched the world's first 6G satellite named "UESTC" satellite (Star Era-12)" into orbit with an aim to test communications from space using high-frequency terahertz (THz) spectrum. It was one of the 13 satellites aboard



the Long March-6 rocket, which launched on November 6, 2020 at the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in Shanxi province of China.

- The UESTC is named after the **University of Electronic Science and Technology of China** and will test the performance of the 6G frequency band in space which is expected to be over 100 times faster than 5G which is already expected to be ultra-fast.
- It will carry out terahertz (THz) communication tests in space to validate satellite high speed technology. THz is a type of Electro Magnetic wave with a frequency range between microwave and infrared.
- This 70kg test satellite will also verify a number of smart city, environmental protection and disaster prevention applications, such as crop and forest fire monitoring.

2nd World Health Expo held in Wuhan, China

The Second World Health Expo is being held in Hubei's Capital City, Wuhan in China from November 11-14, 2020. The World Health Expo will showcase the Latest Technology in Fitness Sports and the most realistically restored anti-epidemic Scenes. It will feature 12 different venues for audiences to experience the most frontier health technology. 1st World Health Expo was also held in Wuhan, China from April 7 to 10, 2019.

SpaceX launches 4 astronauts into space

SpaceX launched Four Astronauts (3 Americans, 1 Japanese) to the International Space Station on the first full-fledged taxi flight for NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) 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 (First Black Astronaut on a long-term space station) mission and Japan's Soichi Noguchi (First person in 40 years to launch on three types of spacecraft).



UK Government announces First sponsors for 2021 UN Climate Change Conference

The UK (United Kingdom) Government announced SSE, ScottishPower, NatWest Group and National Grid as the first **Principal Partners** for the 2021 United Nations (UN) Climate Conference also known as COP26.

i. As Principal Partners, they will be the **top tier of sponsorship** for COP 26.

ii. COP26 is scheduled to take place on November 1-12, 2021 at SEC Centre, Glasgow, Scotland (UK).

Arsenal Becomes First Premier League club to sign up to the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework:

Football club Arsenal became the **first Premier League club** to sign up for United Nations (UN) Sports for Climate Action Framework to support the ambition to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

About COP26:

President – Alok Sharma

Scheduled Place – Glasgow, Scotland

London (UK) Topped the 2021 World's Best Cities Ranking; Delhi Placed at 62nd: Resonance Consultancy Ltd

i. In accordance with the annual report and ranking of best cities around the world titled “2021 World's Best Cities” by Resonance Consultancy Ltd, London,



United Kingdom (UK) is at top spot for the 6th consecutive year.

It was followed by New York, United States (US) and Paris (France) at 2nd and 3rd rank respectively.

ii. Notably **only one Indian city**, Delhi, is listed in the ranking at 62 which was ranked 81st in previous year ranking.

iv. Notably, for the **first time**, the cities were also ranked on new criteria such as unemployment, the rate of COVID-19 infections (as of July) and income disparity.

About Resonance Consultancy Ltd:

Resonance Consultancy Ltd. is a **Vancouver**, Canada based company which has specialties in destination development, branding, marketing, design, tourism, data, and travel reports.

12th BRICS Summit 2020 Virtually Hosted by Russian President Vladimir Putin; Narendra Modi Participated

i. The 12th BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa)

Summit 2020 held virtually on November 17, 2020 which was attended by heads of state of the five-member states. The summit was



hosted by Vladimir Putin, President of Russia on the theme “**Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth**” where India was represented by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi

ii. The virtual summit comes in the backdrop of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations (UN) and amid COVID-19

pandemic.

iii. Importantly, Vladimir Putin announced the approval of the **Moscow Declaration**, the **BRICS Anti-Terrorism Strategy** and the **BRICS updated strategy** for the economic partnership until 2025.

About BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa):

The BRICS represents over 3.6 billion people, or half of the world's population. The BRICS countries have a combined GDP of USD 16.6 trillion.

Establishment– 2009

4 Indian Cities among 36 Global Cities selected by WEF to pioneer roadmap for Smart Cities

4 Indian Cities namely **Bengaluru, Faridabad, Indore and**

Hyderabad figure in the 36 cities selected by World Economic Forum (WEF) for pioneering a new global policy roadmap for smart cities. They will be developed by **G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance**.



i. The 36 cities have been selected from 22 Countries & 6 Continents.

ii. Cities such as London, Moscow, Toronto, Brasilia, Dubai and Melbourne have figured in the list. The full list of cities can be **accessed here**.

iii. The G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance was established in June 2019 to establish and advance global policy norms to accelerate best practices, mitigate potential risks, foster greater openness and public trust.

Elon Musk Becomes World's 2nd richest person: Bloomberg Billionaires Index

The Bloomberg Billionaires Index ranked **Elon Musk**, co-founder & CEO of Tesla as the **world's 2nd richest person** with a total net worth of USD



140 Billion after

surpassing **Bill Gates**(USD 129 Billion), co-founder of Microsoft.

Elon Musk is also the CEO of Space Exploration Technologies Corp.(SpaceX). **Jeff Bezos** is ranked in **1st position** with a net worth of USD 187 Billion. **Mukesh Ambani**, chairman of Reliance Industries Ltd(RIL) ranked in **10th position** with a net worth of USD 74.4 Billion. The Bloomberg Billionaires Index is a **daily ranking** of the world's richest people

India's Param Siddhi bags 62nd Rank in TOP500 list of most powerful non-distributed computer systems in the World

According to **56th Edition of the TOP500 project** which ranks and details the 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in the world, India's Supercomputer – **PARAM Siddhi-AI** – **Ranked 62** in the list of **most powerful non-distributed computer systems** in the World. Japan's Fugaku topped the list, the second & third rank were taken by US (United States) Supercomputers "**Summit**" & "**Sierra**".

Rank of India's Supercomputer –**PARAM Siddhi** is **62**.

The Top500 project Rankings are published twice a year.

Pratyush & Mihir:

Another Supercomputer, Pratyush – Ranked 77 featured in the Top 100 while "Mihir" – Ranked 145 featured in the list of Top 500 supercomputers in the list.

Both Pratyush and Mihir are located at two Government Institutes.

Pfizer Inc & BioNTech Completed the COVID-19 Vaccine – "BNT162b2" Trial with 95% Success Rate

The **Pfizer Inc** of the United States of America(USA) and its partner **BioNTech** of

Germany completed the Phase 3 trial of their COVID-19 vaccine

candidate, **BNT162b2** against

SARS-CoV-2 with **95%** effective, **highest success rate**.

Pfizer and BioNTech will submit an application to the United States Food and Drug Administration for Emergency Use Authorization and share the data of the trial with other regulatory bodies across the globe.

About the Vaccine:

i.Pfizer stated that the vaccine was well tolerated and has no



serious side effects.

ii.Pfizer-BioNtech Vaccine has to be stored at a ultracold temperature of **-70 degree celsius** i.e, -94 degree Fahrenheit.

iii.The vaccine was developed with new messenger RNA(**mRNA**) technology that transmits the genetic instruction to teach the human immune system about the generation of virus slaying antibodies.

iv.The cost of the single dose of Pfizer vaccine will be around 20 USD (around Rs.1500).

Key Points:

i.The exhibits to be **94%** effective for people above the age of 65.

ii.Pfizer expects to make around 50 million vaccines doses in 2020, which will protect 25 million people and then produce 1.3 billion doses in 2021.

Other vaccines:

i.**Moderna Inc.**, claimed that the pre preliminary results of its COVID-19 vaccine using the mRNA technology showed to be **94.5% efficient**.

ii.AstraZeneca and Oxford University are expected to release the final trial results of their **AZD1222** or **ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 vaccine** by December 2020.

15th G20 Leaders' Summit Virtually Hosted by Saudi Arabia; PM Narendra Modi Participated

i.The 15th G20 (Group of Twenty) Summit was virtually convened by Saudi

Arabia where the Indian side was represented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



ii.The summit, chaired by Saudi Arabian King **Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud** saw the participation of respective Heads of State/ Government of 19 member countries, European Union (EU), other invited countries and international organizations. This was scheduled to take place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia but due to COVID-19 it was held virtually.

iii.**Agenda of the Summit:** Overcoming the pandemic, economic recovery and restoring jobs, and building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future.

iv. Importantly, during the culmination of the summit, the Saudi Arabia passed the G20 Presidency to Italy for 2021.

About G-20 or Group of Twenty:

The G-20's member-countries represent around 85 per cent of the world's economic output and three-quarters of international trade.

Members – 19 countries and the European Union (EU)

The 19 countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the UK, and the US.

2020 theme – Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century for All.

UAE: First Arab Country to generate electricity from coal

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is all set to become the first Arab Gulf country, and probably the last, to generate electricity from coal, as; the Acwa Power of Saudi Arabia is developing a \$3.4 billion Hassyan coal plant in Dubai.



- In this regard, the company has already inked a long time agreement with Japan's Jera Co under which the latter will supply coal.
- The capacity of the plant will be 600 megawatts (MW) initially which will be increased to 2,400 MW by 2023.

Reason behind Coal based power generation by UAE:

As we all know, coal is the dirtiest fuel for power generation but this will be developed based on the guidelines for natural-gas plants. If met then Hassyan emits less carbon than the European Union (EU) and the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC).



It should be noted that the coal-based power plants in the Gulf region have been abandoned and UAE is also moving towards the project powered by 100% solar, nuclear and other renewable by 2050 in order to reduce carbon emissions.

Defence

India Successfully Test-Fired Air Launched Version of BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile

- i. Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully test-fired an air launched version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from a **Sukhoi fighter aircraft** in the Bay of Bengal. The missile hit the target of the sinking ship with deadly accuracy.
- ii. The aircraft, belonging to Thanjavur-based Tigersharks squadron, took off from a frontline airbase in Punjab and it was refuelled mid-air before the missile was released.



Navies of India, US, Japan, Australia participated in 24th Edition of 1st Phase of Malabar Naval Exercise 2020 held in Bay of Bengal

Phase

1 of the 24th Edition of the Four-nation Naval Exercise **Malabar 2020** took place in the Bay of Bengal from **November 3-6, 2020**. Since 2007, all the **QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) Group countries** (India, United States, Japan, Australia) participated for the 1st time in the Malabar Naval Exercise. The exercise was restricted to sea phase and was conducted in “Zero Contact” format due to Pandemic.

Participants:

Indian Navy (IN), United States Navy (USN), Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF), and Royal Australian Navy (RAN) participated in the maritime exercise.

- i. For the **first time in more than 10 years**, exercise is witnessing the participation of all four Quad countries.
- ii. **Australia** is taking part in the exercise for the **first time after 2007**.

Indian Navy receives 9th P-8I Surveillance Plane from US at INS Hansa, Goa Naval Airbase

Indian Navy received the **9th Poseidon 8I maritime surveillance aircraft** from the United States (US) at the **INS Hansa, Goa Naval Airbase**.



- i. The P-8I Aircraft received on November 18, 2020 is the **first of the Four** Additional planes ordered by India after completion of the Initial order for eight aircrafts.
- ii. In 2016, India signed a deal of USD 1.1 Billion with the US for Four Additional P-8I Aircrafts.
- iii. The P-8I is developed and produced by **Boeing Defense, Space & Security** (US-based).
- iv. It is capable of long-range **anti-submarine warfare**, anti-surface warfare, intelligence, surveillance and surveillance in support of broad area, maritime and littoral operations.

Appointments or Resign/Retired

Duarte Pacheco, MP of Portugal elected as the 30th President of IPU; succeeds Gabriela Cuevas Barron

Duarte Pacheco, Portugal Parliamentarian was elected as the 30th President of Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) for a three-year term of 2020-2023. He succeeds Gabriela Cuevas Barron, a Mexican Parliamentarian.



The Presidential Election was conducted over the virtual platform during the 206th Session of the Governing Council of IPU, which was conducted as a virtual session.

Note:

The 206th session will be held from 1st to 4th November 2020.

About Duarte Pacheco:

- i. Duarte Pacheco has been a member of Parliament in Portugal since 1991 and handled various functions in Parliament like Member of Budget and Finance Committee and Committee on Foreign Affairs and Portuguese communities.
- ii. He also served as the vice President of the IPU's Standing Committee on Peace and International Security from 2014 to 2016 and served as its Internal Auditor in 2007, 2011, 2013 and 2015.

About the Presidential Election:

- i. Around 400 parliamentarians from 140 member Parliaments registered their vote during the 24-hour window.
- ii. More than 40% of the voting members were women parliamentarians and 27% of them were under 45.

Priyanca Radhakrishnan becomes New Zealand's first-ever Indian-origin Minister

41-year old Priyanca Radhakrishnan became New Zealand's first-ever Indian-origin Minister as Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern unveiled her new cabinet after her victory in the 2020 General Elections of New Zealand.

- i. Priyanca was appointed as Minister for the Community and

Voluntary Sector, Minister for Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities, Minister for Youth. She was also appointed as Associate Minister for Social Development and Employment.

- ii. Priyanca hails from Paravur in Ernakulam district of Kerala. She was born in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- iii. She belongs to the New Zealand Labour Party.
- v. Priyanca Radhakrishnan and other Ministers will take charge on November 6, 2020.

M M Kutty Appointed as the 1st Chairperson of the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of M M

Kutty as the 1st Chairperson of the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and



Adjoining Areas. The center has also appointed members of the commission for 3 year term, with effective from the date of assumption of charge of the post or until the attainment of age of 70 years.

- M M Kutty is a former secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Members:

Arvind Kumar Nautiyal, joint secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change will serve as the full-time member of the commission.

About M M Kutty:

i. M M Kutty is a 1985 batch IAS (Indian Administrative Service) officer of Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram-Union Territories (AGMUT) cadre.

ii. He retired from the post of secretary of Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry, Government of India in 2020. He has also served as the Chief Secretary of Delhi.

Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha Appointed as 11th CIC of Central Information Commission, India

Ram Nath Govind, President of India administered the "Oath of Office" for Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha (62 years), former Diplomat as the 11th Chief Information



Commissioner (CIC) in the Central Information Commission of India. The "Oath of Office" ceremony was held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. He succeeds **Bimal Julka** who completed his term as CIC in August 2020.

Sinha will serve as CIC for a term of **3 years**. (CIC and Information commissioners are appointed for a tenure of 5 years or until the age of 65 years).

Appointment of Sinha:

i. Sinha was shortlisted for the CIC post by the three-member committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Other members of the committee are Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, leader of Congress in Lok Sabha & Home Minister Amit Shah are the members of the panel.

About Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha:

i. Sinha joined as the Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission on January 1, 2019
ii. He has served as the Indian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and Sri Lanka.

US Elections 2020 – Joe Biden Elected 46th President of US; Kamala Harris becomes 1st Woman to serve as Vice President

Joe Biden of **Democratic Party** passed the 270 vote electoral college required to claim victory in the 2020 United States (U.S.) Presidential election, making him **President-elect of the U.S.** and **Senator Kamala Harris** as **Vice President-elect**. Joe Biden defeated Incumbent U.S. President, Donald Trump & Vice President, Mike Pence of the Republican Party in the 2020 elections.

i. **Joseph Robinette Biden Jr.** is set to become the **46th President of the United States**.

ii. **Kamala Devi Harris** will become the First Woman, The First Black American and the first American of Asian descent to serve as Vice President of the U.S.

Aung San Suu Kyi's NLD Party Wins Majority in 2020 Myanmar election

According to the Union Election Commission (UEC) of Myanmar, **Aung San Suu**

Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) is likely to win the 2020 Myanmar elections by securing 346 seats



out of 664 seats in the Parliament (as on 13th November) which is enough to form the next government.

i. This will be the **second term** for Aung San Suu Kyi as State Counsellor and second victory for her party NLD.

ii. This is the **Second Free elections** in Myanmar, since the country emerged from Military rule in 2011.

Sonu Sood Appointed as State Icon of Punjab by Election Commission of India

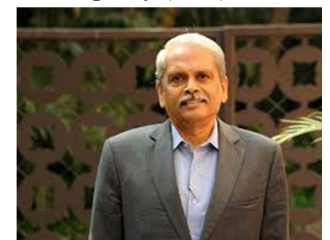
The Election Commission of India (ECI) approved the appointment of **Sonu Sood** as the **State Icon of Punjab**. The proposal for the appointment was made by S Karuna Raju, Punjab Chief Electoral Officer (CEO). Sonu Sood hails from the Moga district of Punjab.

RBI Appoints Senapathy (Kris) Gopalakrishnan, as the 1st Chairperson of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed **Senapathy (Kris)**

Gopalakrishnan, co-founder, and former co-Chairman, Infosys as the **1st chairperson of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)**.

He is currently the Chief Mentor of Start-up Village, an incubation hub for start-ups.



Note: RBIH will be guided and managed by a Governing Council (GC) led by a Chairperson.

Nitish Kumar takes charge as Bihar Chief Minister for the 7th Time; Renu Devi becomes First Woman Deputy CM of Bihar

Nitish Kumar of Janata Dal (United) party, 23rd person to become a CM of Bihar and takes oath as 37th chief minister of Bihar. His swearing-in ceremony was administered by Governor Phagu Chauhan, along with Nitish Kumar 14 Ministers from NDA (National Democratic Alliance) took oath as Ministers.

i. Nitish Kumar has been sworn in as the CM of Bihar for Four Consecutive Terms.

ii. He is also taking charge as CM of Bihar for the seventh time in two decades.

Two Deputy CMs:

i. Four-Time BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) MLA's (Member of Legislative Assembly), **Tarkishore Prasad** (Constituency – Katihar) and **Renu Devi** (Constituency – Bettiah) were sworn-in as Deputy Chief Ministers.

ii. Renu Devi is the First Woman Deputy CM of Bihar.

GC Murmu, 14th CAG of India Elected as External Auditor of Inter Parliamentary Union

Girish Chandra (G.C.) **Murmu**, 14th Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India elected as the **External Auditor** of Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) for 3 years. He will take charge of this position from the Supreme Audit Institution of Switzerland. **Key Info**



Mr. Duarte Pacheco has been elected as the 30th President of the IPU. He succeeds Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron.

New Zealand's Greg Barclay elected as new chairman of International Cricket Council

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named **New Zealand's Greg Barclay** as its new independent chairman to succeed **Shashank Manohar**. He defeated Imran Khwaja in the second round of voting.



- Imran Khwaja was serving as the Interim chairman after Shashank Manohar stepped down from the post in July 2020.
- Greg Barclay is the second-ever head of ICC from New Zealand after Alan Isaac president from 2012-14.

Greg Barclay, a commercial lawyer by trade has served as a director of NZC (New Zealand Cricket) since 2012. He was a director of 2015 Men's World Cup, held in Australia and New Zealand.

About International Cricket Council (ICC):

Chief Executive Officer – Manu Sawhney

Head Quarter – Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Honours/ Awards

Dinesh Katre, Senior Director of C-DAC Won Emmett Leahy Award 2020

i. **Dr. Dinesh Katre**, Senior Director & Head of Department

(HOD), Human-Centred

Design and Computing

Group, Centre for

Development of Advanced

Computing (C-DAC), Pune



won the **Emmett Leahy Award for 2020**. Dr. Vijay P Bhatkar

Founder Executive Director of C-DAC and Chancellor of

Nalanda University presented the award to Dinesh Katre.

ii. He was honoured with the award for his sustained leadership on the issues of digital stewardship and preservation over the past years

iii. He led the team that developed **Digitalaya**, e-library and Archiving system.

Karsh Kale & Salvage Audio Collective Won Best Music Award for “Gully Boy” at 14th Asian Film Awards

i. The Asian Film Awards Academy (AFAA) announced the winners of the 14th Asian Film Awards (AFA14) held at Busan, South Korea. **Karsh Kale** and the **Salvage Audio** Collective won the **Best Original Music Award 2020** for the film **Gully Boy** directed by Zoya Akhtar.

ii. **Yang Ik-Joon**, South Korean Actor and Director presented the Award to Kale and The Salvage Audio Collective.

iii. The music of the movie “Gully Boy” was supervised by Ankur Teawari, composer and singer and the “Apna Time Aayega” track of the film became the anthem.

About Asian Film Awards Academy(AFAA):

Asian Film Awards Academy, a nonprofit organisation created jointly by the three main Asian Film Festivals, Busan, Hong Kong and Tokyo.

AFA Academy has been presenting awards since 2015.

The Book “Moustache” by Malayalam Author S Hareesh won the JCB Prize for Literature 2020

The book “**Moustache**” (original Malayalam title –

“**Meesha**”) authored by

Malayalam writer S.

Hareesh and translated to

English by Jayasree Kalathil

won the JCB Prize for

Literature 2020 worth Rs.25 lakhs. The book was published by HarperCollins India in 2020.

This is the **2nd Debut novel** and **2nd Malayalam Translation** to

Win the JCB prize for Literature. The winner was announced by

Lord Bamford, Chairman of JCB in a virtual awards ceremony.

Note:

i. First Debut novel to win the JCB Prize for Literature was “The Far Field” by Madhuri Vijay in 2019.

ii. First Malayalam translation to win the JCB Prize was Jasmine Days authored by Benyamin And translated by Shahnaz Habib in 2018(the inaugural JCB prize).

About the JCB Prize for Literature:

i. The JCB Prize for Literature is an annual prize, instituted in 2018 to recognise the distinguished work of fiction by Indian Author..

ii. The author of the winning work will receive Rs 25 lakh and the translator (if any) will get an additional Rs. 10 Lakh and the authors of the shortlisted works receive Rs.1 lakh and the translators (if any) will receive Rs. 50,000.

Dr Satish Mishra from CSIR-CDRI won the Dr. Tulsi Das Chugh Award 2020

National Academy of Medical

Sciences(NAMS) (India)

announced that **Dr Satish**

Mishra the Principal Scientist of

the Division of Molecular

Parasitology and Immunology at

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – Central Drug

Research Institute (CSIR-CDRI), Lucknow has won the “**Dr.**

Tulsi Das Chugh Award 2020” for his research work on the life



cycle of Malaria Parasite which involves two hosts and 3 invasive stages.

Note:

The invasion of mammals and mosquitoes needs a coordinated sequence of events.

About Dr. Satish Mishra:

i. Dr. Satish Mishra was elected as the member of National Academy of Medical Science (NAMS), India in 2019.

ii. He was elected as a member of the National Academy of Science, India in 2018.

Awards:

i. He received the Shakuntala Amir Chand Prize from Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in 2018.

ii. He was awarded the Ramalingaswami re-entry Fellowship by the Department of Biotechnology in 2013.

About Dr. Tulsi Das Chugh Award:

i. Dr. Tulsi Das Chugh Award was instituted by Dr. T.D.

Chugh, FAMS in 2018 to recognise the best published work in the field of Infectious Diseases which includes, epidemiology, pathogenesis, Translational studies on clinical development of modalities for prevention, control and treatment.

ii. The award comprises a Scroll, a commemorative medal and Cash incentive.

Azim Premji of Wipro Tops in 7th Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2020, followed by Shiv Nadar & Mukesh Ambani

The Hurun India and EdelGive Foundation released the 7th edition of the EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2020. Azim Premji & Family, the founder and Chairman of Wipro



topped the 2020 list. **Azim Premji** became **India's Most Generous man** with a donation of Rs.7904 crores.

The list featured the individuals who have donated Rs.5 crores and more during the review period (from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020).

Azim Premji is followed by Shiv Nadar, Founder-Chairman of

HCL Technologies and Mukesh Ambani, Chairman of Reliance Industries at 2nd & 3rd position respectively.

VP M. Venkaiah Naidu Virtually Presented the 2nd National Water Award

M. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President (VP) of India virtually presented the **2nd National Water Awards for 2019**. The awards were presented at an award ceremony on 11th and 12th November 2020 organised by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation under the Ministry of Jal Shakti over a virtual platform.

- Tamil Nadu won the first prize for the Best State Award under Normal Category followed by **Maharsashtra** and **Rajasthan** in 2nd and 3rd prizes respectively.
- **Mizoram** won the Best State Award under **special category**.

HelpAge India and Her Majesty Gyalum Sangay Choden Wangchuck, Queen Mother of Bhutan Receive 2020 UN Population Award

i. **HelpAge India** won the **2020**

United Nations (UN)

Population Award as

the **institutional laureate**.

ii. **Her Majesty Gyalum**

Sangay Choden Wangchuck, Queen Mother of Bhutan won the award as the **individual laureate**.



About UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund):

Executive Director– Dr. Natalia Kanem

Headquarters– New York, United States

Sadat Rahman from Bangladesh Won the International Children's Peace Prize 2020 for his work to Combat Cyberbullying

i. 17 year old **Sadat Rahman** from Bangladesh won the **International Children's Peace Prize 2020** for his involvement in setting up his social organization and creating mobile application '**Cyber Teens**' to end cyberbullying.

ii. Nobel Peace Prize laureate **Malala Yousafzai** presented the award to Sadat Rahman, during a ceremony in the Netherlands.

Delhi Airport Became the 1st Airport in Asia Pacific Region to Get Level 4+ Transition Carbon Accreditation

Indira Gandhi International

Airport (IGIA), Delhi, implemented by Delhi International

Airport Limited (DIAL) became

the **first airport in Asia Pacific**

Region to get the highest level –

Level 4+ Transition – carbon

accreditation. The airport was

accredited under **ACI's Airport Carbon Accreditation**

program for its works in aligning its carbon management with

global climate goals to reach net zero emission reduction

The Airport is owned and operated by **GMR Group.**

The announcement was made by the Airports Council

International (ACI) during the **ACI Europe Annual Assembly**

and congress on 17th November 2020.

Note:

Dallas Fort Worth (DFW) International Airport, Texas, United

States of America became the first airport in the North America

region to receive the Level 4+ accreditation.

Scottish Writer Douglas Stuart Won Booker Prize 2020 for his debut Novel "Shuggie Bain"

New York based Scottish writer **Douglas Stuart** (44 years) won

the Booker Prize 2020 for his

debut novel "**Shuggie**

Bain" published by **Grove**

Atlantic in the United States

and **Picador** in the United

Kingdom. **Shuggie Bain** is a story of a boy from 1980's Glasgow

with a mother with alcohol addiction.

He is the **second Scottish writer** to win the award after James

Kelman who won the Booker Prize in 1994 for his book titled

"How Late It Was, How Late".

Note:

i. He won the award defeating **Burnt Sugar** by Dubai based Indian

origin author, Avni Doshi.

ii. The Booker prize 2019 was won jointly by Atwood for **The**

Testaments and Evaristo for **Girl, Woman, Other.**

About "Shuggie bain":

i. The subjects covered in **Shuggie bain** include poverty,

alcoholism and neglect with love and compassion.

ii. The book portrays the life of the working class during the 1980s

in Glasgow.

iii. The book is about a family which is struggling to survive and

the life of the parents who love their children amid all the

difficulties..

About Booker Prize:

i. The Booker Prize is an annual award presented to the best novel

written in English and published in the United Kingdom or

Ireland.

ii. This Booker prize was founded by publisher Tom Maschler and

Campbell and the first prize was awarded in 1969.

iii. In 2002, Booker ceased to fund the Booker prize and the

current Booker Prize foundation, an independent charity was

established and the Man Group became the sponsor for the prize.

Vinisha Umashankar, TN School Girl won 5th Children's

Climate Prize 2020 for Designing Solar Powered Ironing Cart

Vinisha Umashankar (13 year old), 9th Grade school girl from

Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu (TN),

India won the **Children's Climate**

Prize 2020 under the **2020 Clear Air**

Category at the **5th edition of**

Children's Climate Prize. She won

the award for designing a **solar**

ironing cart which uses solar panels to

power a steam iron box instead of the conventional charcoal.

- **Isabella Lövin**, Swedish Minister for Environment and Climate and Deputy Prime Minister presented the award to Vinisha over a virtual event.
- The award consists of a diploma, medal and a cash award of 100000 Swedish Krona (SEK) (around Rs.8.64 lakh)



About Vinisha Umashankar:

i. Vinisha Umashankar has won the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam IGNITE Award 2019 for innovation.

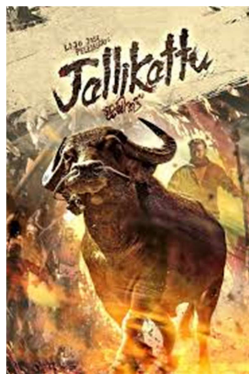
ii. She is also shortlisted for the Prime Minister of India's Rashtriya Bal Shakti Puraskar 2021, highest civilian award in India for students under the age of 18.

Children's Climate Prize:

i. The Children's Climate Prize was instituted by Swedish energy company **Telge Energi** in 2016 and from 2020, **Children's Climate Prize foundation** will award the prizes annually.

Malayalam Film 'Jallikattu' Selected as India's official entry for Oscars 2021

A Malayalam film "Jallikattu" directed by **Lijo Jose Pellissery**, has been selected as India's official entry for the International Feature Film category at the **93rd Academy Awards or 2021 Oscars**. It was unanimously chosen from 27 entries across Hindi, Marathi and other languages by the 14-member jury headed by **Rahul Rawail**, Chairman, Jury Board, Film Federation of India (FFI).



- The film about a tribe of men coming together to stop a bull that has run amok in their village is based on a short story by Hareesh.
- The film name is derived from the popular-yet-controversial bull-taming event from the South.
- It features actors Antony Varghese, Chemban Vinod Jose, Sabumon Abdusamad and Santhy Balachandran.

Key Points:

–The jury was comprised of directors Abhishek Shah, Atanu Ghosh, writer Shrinivas Bhanage, costume designer Sabarni Das, editor Vijay Khochikar, among others.

–Lijo Pellissery also won the **best director** trophy at the 50th International Film Festival of India (FFI) in 2019 for "Jallikattu".

Sports**Amit Panghal, Ashish Kumar & Sanjeet won gold medal in 1st Alexis Vastine International Tournament held in Nantes, France**

i. 1st edition of Alexis Vastine International Boxing Tournament for elite boxers was held from October 27, 2020 to October 31, 2020 at Nantes, France where nine Indians boxers i.e. five men and four women qualified for the Tokyo Olympics, postponed to next year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.



ii. It was organized by **AIBA** (International Boxing Association), **FFBOXE** (French Boxing Federation) and **EUBA** (European Boxing Federation) which saw participation from 10 nations.

Hamilton wins Emilia Romagna Grand Prix for 93rd F1 win; Mercedes wins 7th consecutive Constructor's Title

British Driver Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) won the **2020 Emilia Romagna Grand Prix** (officially known as the Formula 1 Emirates Gran Premio dell'Emilia Romagna 2020) held at **Autodromo Internazionale Enzo e Dino Ferrari in Imola, Italy**. This was Hamilton's record extending **93rd F1 victory**. The Championships are organized by **Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA)**.

i. Finland Driver **Valtteri Bottas** (Mercedes) finished **second**, while Australia's **Daniel Ricciardo** (Renault) finished **third**.

ii. The One-Two Finish of Mercedes drivers gave the **Mercedes team their 7th Successive Formula One Constructors title**, which is a **new all-time record**.

iii. It was the 13th round of the 2020 Formula One World Championship.

Australian Cricketer Shane Watson announces Retirement from All Forms of Cricket

Former **Australian All Rounder** Shane Robert Watson announced retirement from all forms of Cricket at the **age of 39**. He



had already **announced retirement** from International Cricket in 2015 but **was playing Franchise-based Cricket tournaments** such as Indian Premier League (IPL), Pakistan Super League (PSL).

Key Points:

- i. He is a right-handed batsman and a right-handed fast medium bowler.
- ii. He made his debut for the Australian cricket team in 2002, playing his first One Day International against South Africa.
- iii. Watson has played 59 Tests, 190 One Day Internationals (ODIs), and 58 Twenty20 Internationals (T20I), scoring 3731 runs and picked up 75 wickets in Tests, 5757 runs and 168 wickets in ODIs and 1462 runs & 48 wickets in T20Is.
- iv. He was part of the **World cup winning Australian Team** in both **2007** and **2015** World cups.

IPL 2020-Mumbai Indians won the 13th edition of IPL; Trailblazers won the 3rd edition of Women's T20 Challenge 2020

Mumbai Indians won the **13th Edition** of the Indian Premier League (IPL) officially known as **Dream11 Indian Premier League 2020** that took place from 19th September-November 10, 2020 at the United Arab Emirates (UAE) (This is 5th win of Mumbai Indians). A total of 8 teams participated in the event. **Delhi Capitals** became the **runner up** in the 13th edition of IPL. **Jofra Archer** of Rajasthan Royals won the Player of the Series.

Winners of **Jio Women's T20 Challenge (Women's Title)** – IPL Trailblazers (1st Title)

BCCI Announces Jio as Title Sponsor for 2020 Edition of Women's T20 Challenge

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced that Jio, a Telecommunications Company owned by Reliance Industries will be the title sponsor for the 2020 edition of



the Women's T20 Challenge. The partnership will also have the support of Reliance Foundation Education and Sports for All (RFESA). This is the first time a sponsor has signed with BCCI exclusively for women's matches. The Women's T20 Challenge will be played from November 4-9 here in Sharjah and the competition will be contested between three teams – Trailblazers, Supernovas, and Velocity.

Lewis Hamilton wins F1 DHL Turkish Grand Prix 2020; Secures Record Equalling 7th Driver's Championship Title

British Driver **Lewis Hamilton** (Mercedes) won the Formula 1 DHL Turkish Grand Prix 2020 held at Intercity Istanbul Park, Turkey. With this victory, Lewis Hamilton clinched the 2020 Driver's Championship Title



and secured his 7th F1 World Driver's Championship, equalling **Michael Schumacher's** (Germany) World Record of 7 Titles.

The Championships are organized by Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA).

Key Points:

- i. Mexico's Sergio Perez (Racing Point-BWT Mercedes) finished Second, while Germany's Sebastian Vettel (Ferrari) finished Third in the race.
- ii. With this win Hamilton holds the following records: most pole positions (97), most podium finishes (163) and most consecutive points finishes (47).

Lewis Hamilton:

i. Lewis Carl Davidson Hamilton is now the **most successful driver** of all time with 7 F1 Championships (2008, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020).

ii. Hamilton equalled Schumacher's record of 91 wins with a victory at Eifel Grand Prix 2020 on October 12, 2020.

2020 ATP Finals – Overview

The **51st Edition** (51st edition of Singles, 46th edition of doubles) of 2020 ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) officially known as **2020 Nitto ATP Finals** took place from November 15-22, 2020 at The **O2 Arena, London, United Kingdom**. It is organized by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP).

i. ATP Finals is an Annual season-ending event for the 8 highest ranked singles players and double teams on the ATP Tour.

ii. London has held ATP Finals for the last 12 years, the 2021 tournament is set to be moved to Turin in Italy.

iii. The Tournament is played on Hard Court and is a men's tennis tournament.

Winners of 2020 ATP Finals:

Category	Winner	Runnerup
Men's Singles	Daniil Medvedev (Russia)	Dominic Thiem (Austria)
Men's Doubles	Wesley Koolhof (Netherlands), Nikola Mektic (Croatia)	Jurgen Melzer (Austria), Edouard Roger-Vasselin (France)

About Association of Tennis Professionals:

Chairman – Andrea Gaudenzi

Headquarters – London, United Kingdom

India to host 2022 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup

World Football Governing body FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association) approved **India** as the **host** of the **U-17 Women's World Cup in 2022**.

FIFA announced that the U-17 Women's World Cup scheduled to take place in India in 2021 was **cancelled** due to COVID-19 and the next edition of the tournament will be held in 2022.



i. This is the **First time** that India will host a **FIFA women's** football tournament.

ii. India is hosting a FIFA Tournament for the Second Time after the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup.

iii. FIFA has also approved Costa Rica as host of the 2022 U-20 Women's World Cup.

iv. Spain are the defending champions, they won their first title in 2018.

v. FIFA Club World Cup 2020 has been rescheduled, it will now be held from 1 to 11 February 2021 in Qatar. It is the second successive Club World Cup to be held in Qatar

India's Ranking in Football

According to Rankings released by FIFA, The Indian men's Team currently ranks at its 108th position (as of October, 2020) whereas the women's team ranks at 55th Position (as of August 2020).

FIFA Ranking:

FIFA Men's Ranking (as on October, 2020) – Belgium (Rank 1), France (Rank 2), Brazil (Rank 3)

FIFA Women's Ranking (as on August, 2020) – United State of America (Rank 1), Germany (Rank 2), France (Rank 3)

Obituaries

Sir Thomas Sean Connery, James Bond Actor & Oscar Winner Passed Away at 90

Sir Thomas Sean Connery, Scottish actor & Oscar Awardee who portrayed in James Bond, fictional British secret agent in film in 7 bond films between 1962 and 1983 passed away at the age of 90 in Nassau, The Bahamas (officially- The Commonwealth of The Bahamas). He is the first actor to play James Bond on the big screen. He was born on 25th August 1930 at Edinburgh, Scotland.



- He received Academy Awards (Oscar) for the films the Untouchables (1987) and the Name of the Rose (1986).

7 bond films (1962-1983):

- He portrayed British agent 007-James Bond in the 1st 5 Bond films, namely, Dr. No (1962), From Russia with Love (1963), Goldfinger (1964), Thunderball (1965), and You Only Live Twice (1967).
- He again appeared as Bond in Diamonds Are Forever (1971) and Never Say Never Again (1983).

Awards and Honours

He has received many awards and honours, few of them are mentioned below:

- He received BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) Fellowship, or the Academy Fellowship in 1998.
- In 2000 he received Knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II.

Violin Maestro, Padma Awardee T N Krishnan Passed Away at 92

The Veteran Violinist and Padma Shri & Padma Bhushan Awardee Tripunithura Narayanaiyer Krishnan (T N



Krishnan) passed away at the age of 92 at Chennai, Tamil Nadu. He was born in 1928 in Kerala.

About TN Krishnan:

- T N Krishnan was a child prodigy who made his first solo violin concert in Thiruvananthapuram in 1939.
- He was mentored by Alleppy K. Parthasarathy and had

accompanied numerous musicians like Ariyakudi Ramanuja Iyengar, Musiri Subramania Iyer, Alathur Brothers, Madurai Mani Iyer, Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavathar among others.

Awards & Titles:

- He received the **Padma Shri** in 1973 and **Padma Bhushan** in 1992, India's highest civilian awards, for arts.
- He received the **Sangeetha Kalanidhi** title, the highest recognition in the field of Carnatic Music in 1980.

Bahrain's Prince Khalifa bin Salman al Khalifa, World's Long-Serving Prime Minister Passed Away at 84

Prince Khalifa bin Salman al Khalifa, Prime Minister (PM) of **Bahrain** passed away at the age of 84 at Mayo Clinic hospital, United States. He is the **World's Longest Serving PM**. He has been serving as PM since 1971. He was born on November 24, 1935 in Jasra, Bahrain.

- He has played a vital role in the political and economic affairs of Bahrain for over 3 decades.

About Prince Khalifa bin Salman al Khalifa:

- He is the son of Bahrain's former ruler, Sheikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, who ruled from 1942 to 1961.
 - He was appointed as prime minister by his brother Emir Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, in 1971.
- Award:-** He received a World Peace Culture Award in the year 2017.

Legendary Bengali Actor and Padma Bhushan Awardee Soumitra Chatterjee Passed Away at 85

Soumitra Chatterjee, veteran Bengali actor and Padma Bhushan awardee passed away at the age of 85 in a private hospital at Kolkata, West Bengal. He died due to COVID-19. He was born on 19th January, 1935 in Calcutta, Bengal Presidency (British India).

About Soumitra Chatterjee:

- Soumitra Chatterjee debuted as an actor in the film "Apar Sansar" (3rd part of Apu Trilogy) directed by Satyajit Ray in 1959.
- He worked with Satyajit Ray in 14 films including Abhijan, Charulata, Kapurush, Aranyer Din Ratri and Sonar Kella.

Awards:

- He became the **first Indian film personality** to receive

the **Officier des Arts et Métiers**, the highest award for arts given by the French government in 1999 and he also received a lifetime achievement award from Italy.

ii. Soumitra Chatterjee received the **Padma Bhushan** for arts in 2004 (he turned down the Padma Shri award in 1970's).

iii. He received the **2011 Dadasaheb Phalke Award** for his lifetime contribution to the film industry in 2012.

iv. In 2018, French Ambassador Alexandre Ziegler presented the **Legion d'Honneur**, France's highest civilian award, to Chatterjee.

"Paatal Lok" Actor Asif Basra Passed Away at 53

The 53-year-old actor Asif Basra, committed suicide and found dead in a private complex in Mcleodganj, Dharmashala, Himachal Pradesh. He was well known for his role as a senior executive in "Paatal Lok" series. He was born on 27th July 1967 in Maharashtra.



About Asif Basra:

- i. He started his career in the film industry with Woh in 1998.
- ii. He last appeared in the 2nd season of Disney+ Hotstar series "Hostages".
- iii. He starred in the films like, Jab We Met, Once Upon a Time in Mumbai, Krrish 3, Ek Villain, Black Friday and Parzania etc.

Senior Rajasthan Minister Bhanwar Lal Meghwal passed Away at 72

Bhanwar Lal Meghwal, Rajasthan's Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment and the leader of Indian National Congress (INS) of Rajasthan passed away at the age of 72 in a private hospital in Gurugram, Haryana due to prolonged illness. He was born on 2nd July 1948 in Sujangarh in Churu district, Rajasthan.

About Bhanwar Lal Meghwal:

- i. Bhanwar Lal Meghwal served as Rajasthan's Education minister in 2009-2013 cabinet led by Ashok Gehlot.
- ii. He was elected as the member of the Rajasthan's legislative assembly from the **Sujangarh constituency** in Churu district for 5 times (1980, 1990, 1998, 2008 and 2018).

Tarun Gogoi, Former Assam Chief Minister Passed Away

Tarun Gogoi, the longest serving chief minister of Assam and popular leader of **Indian National Congress (INC)** passed away at a hospital in Gauhati, Assam. He passed away due to post COVID-19 complications and multiple organ failures. He was born in Assam Province, British India (now Assam, India).



About Tarun Gogoi:

- i. Tarun Gogoi served as the Chief minister of Assam for three terms from 2001 to 2016, He has served as the Member of Legislative Assembly from the Titabor Constituency since 2001.
- ii. He also served as the member of Parliament for 6 terms and served as a Union Minister for two terms.

Ahmed Patel, Senior Congress Leader & Rajya Sabha MP Passed Away at 71

Ahmedbhai Mohammedbhai Patel (**Ahmed Patel**), a senior leader of **Indian National Congress Party** and **Rajya Sabha** Member of Parliament (MP) from Gujarat passed away at the age of 71 at Medanta Hospital, Delhi due to complications from COVID-19.

About Ahmed Patel:

- i. Ahmed Patel represented Gujarat for 8 terms in the Parliament of India.
- ii. He served 3 terms in Lok Sabha and 5 terms in Rajya Sabha.

Faqir Chand Kohli, 'Father of Indian IT industry' & founder of TCS dies at the age of 96

The founder and 1st CEO of **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** **Faqir Chand Kohli**, who is also known as the '**Father of Indian Information**



Technology (IT) industries' passed away at the age of 96 in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was born on March 1924 Peshawar, British India. (Presently Peshawar is presently located in Pakistan).

Career:

i. Mr. Kohli joined Tata Electric company in 1951, later **Founded TCS alongside J.R.D Tata** and become the Director of the company in 1970.

Awards:

i. He received India's third-highest civilian honor, 'Padma Bhushan Award' in 2002 for his contributions to the Indian software industry.

ii. He also received the Dadabhai Naoroji Memorial Award in 2000.

Former Argentina Football Player & FIFA World Cup Winner, Diego Maradona Passed away at 60

Former Argentina Football Player & FIFA World Cup

Winner, **Diego Armando**

Maradona passed away at the age of 60 due to heart attack in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



Achievements:

i. Under his captaincy, Argentina's National Football Team won the **FIFA World Cup** that held in Mexico against West Germany in the year **1986**.

ii. He won the **Golden Ball Award** in the FIFA World Cup 1986 Match.

iii. He was well known for his game against England, during which he scored 2 goals, The first goal was an unpenalized handling foul known as the "Hand of God", while the second goal followed a 60 m (66 yd) dribble past five England players, voted "Goal of the Century" by FIFA.com voters in 2002.

Career:

i. Diego Maradona played for the Argentina's Under-20 National Football Team between the year 1977-1979.

Important Days with theme

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) observed on October 31, 2020

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day is observed **annually on October 31** to mark the **Birth**

Anniversary of Iron Man of India-Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

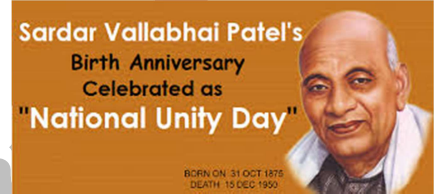
The year 2020 marks the 145th Birth Anniversary of Vallabhai Patel.

National Unity Day was introduced by the Government of India in 2014.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel:

i. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel played a crucial role in integration of India from 560 princely states as the First Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of Independent India.

ii. The day is being observed to acknowledge the efforts of Patel to unite India.



National Legal Services Day 2020: November 9

i. **National Legal Services Day** is observed annually on **November 9** across India to commemorate the

enactment of the **Indian Legal Services Authorities Act 1987**. The Supreme Court

of India started to observe the 1st National Legal Service day in 1995.

Aim of the Day:

i. The primary aim of the day is to spread legal awareness among people, i.e., about various provisions under the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 and the rights of the litigants.

ii. In order to ensure justice for all, the day also aims to provide free legal aid and advice to the people of poor and weaker sections.

National Legal Services Authority (NALSA):



The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) was constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

National Education Day 2020 – November 11

- i. The National Education Day is annually celebrated in India on 11th November to mark the birth anniversary of Maulana Sayyid Abul Kalam Ghulam Muhiyuddin Ahmed bin Khairuddin Al-Hussaini Azad (known as Maulana Abul Kalam Azad), the first education minister of Independent India.
- ii. The day is observed to spread awareness on the importance of education and literacy.
- iii. On 11th September 2008, the Ministry of Human Resource and Development (now Ministry of Education) declared the 11th November as the National Education Day to commemorate the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, first Education Minister of India.

World Diabetes Day 2020 – November 14

- i. United Nations (UN)'s **World Diabetes Day** is annually observed across the globe on **14th November** to recognise the need to undertake multilateral efforts to promote and improve the health of the humans and to provide access to treatment and healthcare education.
- ii. The theme of the World Diabetes Day 2020 is “**The Nurse and Diabetes**”, which focuses on the vital role of the nurses in supporting the lives of the diabetic patients.
- iii. As a part of the World Diabetes day, WHO has announced the Global Diabetes Compact, a comprehensive and inclusive approach to support the member nations to implement programmes to prevent and manage diabetes.



Children's Day in India 2020: November 14

- i. **Children's Day in India**, also known as ‘Bal Diwas’ is celebrated annually across India on **November 14** to commemorate the birth anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, who is fondly called ‘Chacha Nehru’ (Uncle Nehru) by childrens.



- ii. This year (2020) marks the 131st birth anniversary of Chacha Nehru.
- iii. **Aim of the day**- To increase the awareness of the rights, care and education of children.

National Press Day 2020: November 16

- i. **National Press Day** is celebrated annually on **November 16** across India to commemorate the establishment of the Press Council of India (PCI) in 1966.
- ii. The day aims to raise public awareness of the role of a free, pluralistic and independent news media in the development of the democratic society. The day is the symbol of a free and responsible press in India.

Press Council of India:

Current Chairman– Justice Chandramauli Kumar Prasad (appointed for a 2nd term, succeeds Justice Markandey Katju)

World Toilet Day 2020 – November 19

- i. United Nations (UN)'s **World Toilet Day** is annually celebrated across the globe on **19th November** to celebrate Toilets and to raise awareness about the 4.2 billion people across the globe who are living without any access to safely managed sanitation. The **First UN's World Toilet Day** was observed on **19th November 2013**.
- ii. Every year the **UN Water**, the UN's coordination mechanism on water and sanitation sets the theme of the World Toilet Day. The **theme** of the 2020 World Toilet Day is “Sustainable sanitation and climate change”
- iii. The World Toilet Day is about the action to tackle the global

sanitation crisis and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal(SDG) 6 – Water and Sanitation for all by 2030.

International Men's Day 2020 – November 19

International Men's Day is annually celebrated across the globe on **19th November** to create awareness about the difficulties that men face on a global scale. The day is observed to celebrate the men who make a positive impact on society and influence their gender as a role model. The International Men's day is supported by more than 80 countries and international organisations. The **theme** of the international Men's Day 2020 is **"Better Health for Men and Boys"**.

Objective:

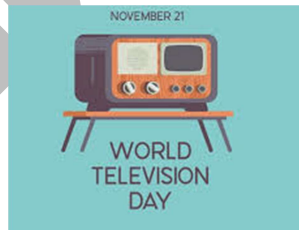
To address the difficulties faced by men and boys and to initiate conversations on men's mental health and male suicide.

Background:

- i. **Thomas Oaster**, the director of the Missouri Center for Men's Studies initiated the International Men's day in the early 1990's.
- ii. Initially the organisations from the United States, Australia and Malta celebrated the International Men's day in the month of **February**.
- iii. **Dr Jerome Teelucksingh**, a doctor from Trinidad and Tobago relaunched the International Men's Day in **1999**. He chose the date **19th November** to honour the birth anniversary of his Father.

World Television Day 2020 – November 21

i. The United Nations(UN)'s World Television Day is annually observed across the globe on 21st November to recognise the increasing impacts of television on decision making and to focus on the issues like economic and social issues.



- ii. The United Nations General Assembly(UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/51/205 of 17th December 1996 and proclaimed the 21st November of every year as the World Television Day.
- iii. The first terrestrial television in India was started in Delhi in 1959 at a makeshift studio.

World Fisheries Day 2020 – November 21

The World Fisheries Day is annually celebrated across the globe on 21st November 2020, to create and spread awareness about the importance of the healthy ocean ecosystem and to ensure the sustainable stock of fisheries in the world.



The Food and Agriculture Organisation(FAO) of the United Nations(UN) celebrated World Fisheries Day 2020 on **20th November 2020** instead of 21st November 2020.

The government of India felicitated the **fisheries sector awards** for the **first time** on the World Fisheries day 2020, the awards includes, Best Performing States, Best Organisations, best districts.

72nd NCC Raising Day 2020: November 22

The National Cadet Corps (NCC)'s **Raising Day** is observed annually on the **4th Sunday of November**. This year(2020) falls on **November 22** and also marks the **72nd Edition**.

Note

- The 2019 NCC raising day was celebrated on November 24.
- The 2021 NCC raising day will be celebrated on November 28.

Key Info

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a scheme for expansion of National Cadet Corps coverage, in Border and Coastal regions of the country on August 15, 2020.

About NCC Cadets

The cadets participated in 'Swachhta Abhiyan', 'Mega Pollution Pakhwada'.

They have also played an important role to spread awareness about various government initiatives like 'Digital Literacy', 'International Day of Yoga', 'Tree Plantation' and immunisation programs.

About National Cadet Corps (NCC):

i. NCC is the youth wing of the Armed Forces. It is open to school and college students on a voluntary basis.

ii. It is a Tri-Services Organisation, comprising the Army, Navy and Air Wing to make the youth of the country into disciplined and patriotic citizens.

Came into existence – April 16, 1948 under the The National Cadet Corps Act 1948

National Milk Day 2020 – November 26

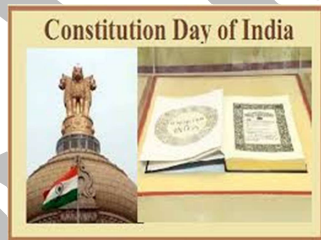
i. National Milk Day is annually celebrated across India on 26th November to celebrate the importance of milk in the life of humans. The day honours the birth anniversary of padma awardee Dr Verghese Kurien, who is known as the Milkman of India and Father of India's White Revolution.

ii. The National Milk Day 2020 marks the **99th Birth Anniversary** of Dr Verghese Kurien.

iii. As a part of the National Milk Day, NDDB awarded certificates and awards to 86 milk producers, 19 dairy cooperatives and 8 milk producer companies across 22 states for their efforts towards increasing the digital bill payments.

71st Constitution Day or Samvidhan Divas observed on November 26, 2020: An Overview

i. The **Constitution day or Samvidhan Divas** is observed annually on **November 26** since 2015 to mark the adoption of the Indian Constitution by the Constituent Assembly on this day in 1949. The Constitution then came into force on January 26, 1950. The year 2020 marked the 71st Constitution Day.



ii. Notably, Government of India (GoI) decided yearlong celebration for this day where the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJ&E) was administered as the nodal ministry for the same. As a part of this, the ministry had organized many programs throughout the year, one of which was producing a documentary on the Constitution titled "Illustrations and Calligraphy in the Constitution of India". It was e-released by

Union Minister **Dr Thawar Chand Gehlot**, MoSJ&E on November 26, 2020 in New Delhi.

- Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the 80th AIPOC 2020 at Kevadia, Gujarat on the theme "Harmonious Coordination between Legislature, Executive and Judiciary- Key to a Vibrant Democracy".