

## Weekly Current Affairs PDF November 29 to December 05, 2020

### Current Affairs PDF- December 05, 2020

#### NATIONAL

##### International Sand Art Festival & Konark Festival 2020 begins

- The 9th edition of the International Sand Art Festival and the 31st edition of the Konark Festival has kicked-off in Odisha. International Sand Art Festival is being held at the Chandrabhaga Beach of Konark in Puri district of Odisha. About 70 artists from across the country are taking part in the festival. The world-renowned sand artist and Padmashree Awardee, Sudarsan Pattnaik, has been appointed as Chief Curator of the festival.
- The festival is organised every year as part of the Konark Dance Festival, to provide a platform for both national and international sand artists to showcase their talent. However, in 2020 international artists are not participating due to the ongoing global C-19 pandemic.
- Meanwhile, the Konark Festival is organised by Odisha Tourism to showcase the best of India's traditional and classical dance forms, and offer interesting insights into the rich cultural heritage of the country.
- Leading exponents and dance enthusiasts of almost all classical dance forms of India, including Odissi, Bharatanatyam, Manipuri, Kuchipudi and Kathak, are participating in the five-day classical dance carnival.

#### OBITUARY

##### Lakshadweep Administrator Dineshwar Sharma passes away

- Lakshadweep Administrator, Dineshwar Sharma passed away. He was earlier headed the Intelligence Bureau and was also the Interlocutor for Jammu and Kashmir.
- The 66-year-old retired IPS officer of the Kerala cadre had been appointed administrator of the Lakshadweep Union Territory in October 2019. He was assistant director in the IB in Kashmir between 1994 and 1996 and then went on to serve on the Kashmir desk of the bureau in the national capital.

##### Former PM of Pakistan Zafarullah Jamali passes away

- The 15th Prime Minister of Pakistan, Zafarullah Khan Jamali passed away. He served as PM from November 2002 to June 2004 for a duration of 1 Year, 7 Months and 3 days. He is the first politician from Balochistan to become Prime Minister.
- Jamali served the country when former military dictator Pervez Musharraf was the President of the country. As PM, Jamali vowed to sign a peace agreement and cease-fire in the disputed Kashmir region. In 2004, Jamali made the first high-level visit from Pakistan to Afghanistan after the fall of the Taliban government in 2001.

##### Former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing passes away

- The former President of France, Valery Giscard d'Estaing has passed away at the age of 94, from

the complications of coronavirus. He had served as the third president of the Republic of France from 1974 to 1981. He was born on 2nd February 1926 in Koblenz, French-occupied Germany (now Germany).

- Giscard founded the Union for French Democracy, a centre-right political party in 1978 to counter the Gaullist preponderance over the political right in France. He lowered the voting age from 21 to 18 and he also liberalised the laws on divorce, abortion and contraception during his tenure as the President.

## APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

### Kuldeep Handoo appointed as “Fit India” movement ambassador

- Srinagar born Wushu coach and the first Dronacharya Awardee from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Kuldeep Handoo is appointed as the Ambassador of Fit India movement. He won 11 gold medals in National and 6 in International stage, is the Wushu coach of Team India. Under his guidance Athletes have won two gold medals at the world championship and one at the World Cup. He also serves as Inspector of police in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Jammu and Kashmir Police medal award, for meritorious service
- The Parshuram Award, an honour of sports in the state of Himachal Pradesh
- Fit India movement was launched in August 2019, to encourage Indians to include fitness activities and sports in their daily lives to pave the way for a healthy and fit lifestyle.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Soil Day: 05 December

- The World Soil Day is celebrated every year on December 5 to raise awareness of the importance of soil quality for human well-being, food security and ecosystems. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) campaign “Keep soil alive, protect soil biodiversity” aims to raise awareness of the importance of sustaining healthy ecosystems and human well-being.
- The date of 5 December was chosen because it corresponds with the official birthday of the late H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand, who was one of the main proponents of this initiative.
- An international day to celebrate Soil was recommended by the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) in 2002. Under the leadership of the Kingdom of Thailand and within the framework of the Global Soil Partnership, FAO has supported the formal establishment of WSD as a global awareness-raising platform. The FAO Conference unanimously endorsed World Soil Day in June 2013 and requested its official adoption at the 68th UN General Assembly. In December 2013, the UN General Assembly responded by designating 5 December 2014 as the first official World Soil Day.

### International Volunteer Day: 05 December

- The International Volunteer Day (IVD), also called International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development is observed on 5 December every year. IVD 2020 Theme: “Together We Can Through Volunteering”. The IVD international observance was mandated by the UN General Assembly in 1985.

- The purpose of the day to celebrate the efforts of volunteers and organizations and offer the opportunity to promote volunteerism, encourage governments to support volunteer efforts and recognize volunteer contributions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at local, national and international levels.

### SUMMITS AND MOU'S

#### India & USA signs MoU on Intellectual Property Cooperation

- The Government of India and the United States of America (USA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of Intellectual Property Cooperation. As a part of this MoU, the two sides will develop Biennial Work Plan to implement the MoU which will include the detailed planning for carrying out of the co-operation activities including the scope of action. The Union Cabinet had approved the signing the MoU for the same on 19 February 2020.
- The MoU was signed between Dr Guruprasad Mohapatra, Secretary, DPIIT and Mr Andrei Iancu, who represented the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Department of Commerce of the United States of America respectively.

### RANKING

#### Manipur's Nongpok Sekmai Police Station best in India

- The Nongpok Sekmai Police Station in Manipur topped the list of best police stations in India, while Sooramangalam All Women Police Station at Salem, Tamil Nadu was adjudged the second best police station in the country. The Kharsang PS, Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district was adjudged the country's third-best police station.

Here is the list of Top 5 Police Stations for 2020:

State	District	Police Station
Manipur	Thoubal	Nongpok Sekmai
Tamil Nadu	Salem City	AWPS-Suramangalam
Arunachal Pradesh	Changlang	Kharsang
Chhattisgarh	Surajpur	Jhilmili (Bhaiya Thana)
Goa	South Goa	Sanguem

- The top 10 Police Stations were selected from among the 16,671 Police Stations in the country through data analysis, direct observation and public feedback.

#### HCL's Roshni Nadar tops Kotak Wealth-Hurun wealthy women list 2020

- Chairperson of HCL Technologies, Roshni Nadar Malhotra has topped the list of wealthiest women in India, according to the second edition of 'Kotak Wealth Hurun-Leading Wealthy Women' report. The report is compiled by Kotak Wealth Management, a division of Kotak Mahindra Bank, and Hurun India.
- Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw of Biocon and Leena Gandhi Tewari of USV are at the second and third rank respectively in the Kotak Wealth Hurun wealthy women list 2020. Shaw is also the

wealthiest self-made woman on the list. 19 women from this list also feature in the Hurun India Rich List 2020, and 6 women have made it to the Hurun Global Rich List 2020.

- The ranking is based on the net worth of women as on September 30, 2020, and focuses exclusively on women who play an active role in their family business, entrepreneurs and professionals.

### Reliance Industries tops Fortune India 500 Ranking 2020

- Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has topped the 2020 Fortune 500 list of Indian companies, released. The revenue of RIL clocked Rs 615,854.00, accounting for 7% of cumulative revenues and 11 per cent profit of the companies. The country's biggest oil firm, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC), bagged the second spot, followed by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) at the third position. The list was published by Fortune India, which is part of the Kolkata-based RP Sanjiv Goenka Group.

#### Top 10 companies on the 2020 Fortune India-500 list:

1. Reliance Industries
2. Indian Oil Corporation
3. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
4. State Bank of India
5. Bharat Petroleum Corporation
6. Tata Motors
7. Rajesh Exports
8. Tata Consultancy Services
9. ICICI Bank
10. Larsen & Toubro

## Current Affairs PDF- December 04, 2020

### INTERNATIONAL

#### New Zealand declares climate emergency

- New Zealand has declared a "climate emergency" and promised to make its public sector carbon neutral by 2025. New Zealand now joins 32 other countries that have declared a climate emergency. They include Japan, Canada, France and the United Kingdom.
- Prime Minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern told legislators that the climate emergency declaration was "an acknowledgement of the next generation – an acknowledgement of the burden that they will carry if we do not get this right and do not take action now".

#### India invites UK's Johnson as 2021 Republic Day chief guest

- United Kingdom Prime Minister, Boris Johnson is expected to be the chief guest at 2021 Republic day with Prime Minister Narendra Modi formally inviting him. Johnson, on his part, has invited PM Modi to the G-7 summit in the United Kingdom next year.
- The last British prime minister at the Republic Day parade was John Major in 1993.

## NATIONAL

### Karnataka's 1st 11.5 megawatt power plant being set up at Bidadi

- In Karnataka, Chief Minister, BS Yediyurappa laid the foundation stone for a 11.5 megawatt power plant based on municipal waste in Bidadi, Bengaluru. It is first of its kind power plant in the state being set up by the Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) and will help in converting 600 tonnes of municipal waste into 11.5-megawatt energy.
- This power plant will add 80.59 million units of power to the existing power grid. The power plant project is being constructed at a cost of Rs. 260 crore and is likely to be operational by 2022.

## SPORTS

### England's Dawid Malan achieves highest-ever rating points in T20

- Dawid Malan of England has attained the highest-ever rating points for batsmen in the MRF Tyres ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings. The 33-year-old Malan has reached 915 points, and thus became the first player to cross the 900-point mark in the format.
- Before him, Australia's Aaron Finch reached exactly 900 points in July 2018. Babar Azam (871) of Pakistan and Aaron Finch (835) of Australia is second and third in the list. India's KL Rahul is at fourth position, while Virat Kohli's rank has dropped to 9th in the list.

### Virat Kohli fastest to 12000 runs in ODI cricket

- Virat Kohli became the fastest to reach 12,000 runs in One-day International cricket. Kohli breached the mark in the third ODI against Australia in Canberra. He got to the milestone in his 242nd inning thus bettering the previous record set by Sachin Tendulkar, who got his 12000th run in his 300th inning.
- Kohli is the second-highest scorer for India in ODIs behind Tendulkar's 18,426 from 463 ODIs. The India captain also holds the record for the fastest batsman (in terms of innings) to 10,000 and 11,000 runs in ODIs. Kohli reached 11,000 runs in 222 innings and became the fastest to breach the 10000-run mark by doing so in his 205th inning.

## OBITUARY

### World's greatest athlete-turned actor Rafer Johnson passes away

- American decathlete and film actor, Rafer Johnson, who was 1960 Olympic gold medalist in the decathlon, has passed away.
- After he retired from athletics, Johnson turned to act and appeared in a number of films, including the James Bond film Licence to Kill in 1989.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Indian Navy Day: 04 December

- In India, December 4 is observed as the National Navy Day every year, to celebrate the achievements and role of the naval force to the country. The theme of Navy Day 2020 is "Indian Navy Combat Ready, Credible & Cohesive".
- The day is marked in recognition of the launch of Operation Trident during the Indo-Pakistan war

in 1971. During Operation Trident, on December 4 in 1971, the Indian Navy sank four Pakistani vessels and also killed over 500 Pakistani Navy personnel, meanwhile, the Indian side suffered no losses.

- The Indian Navy is the marine branch of the Indian Armed Forces and is led by the President of India as Commander-in-Chief. The Maratha Emperor, Chhatrapati Shivaji Bhosle of the 17th century is considered as “Father of the Indian Navy”.

### International Day of Banks: 4 December

- International Day of Banks is observed globally on the 4th of December. On 19 December 2019, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 74/245, which designated 4 December as the International Day of Banks.
- The day is celebrated to the recognition of the significant potential of multilateral development banks and other international development banks in financing sustainable development and providing know-how, and also in recognition of the vital role of the banking systems in the Member States in contributing to the improvement of the standard of living.

## BANKING AND ECONOMY

### RBI Monetary Policy: Policy Rate unchanged

- The six-member Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), headed by Governor Shaktikanta Das, has decided to maintain the status quo on policy rate amid sticky rate of inflation. At this point, the repo rate or the rate at which RBI lends to banks stands unchanged at 4 per cent. The reverse repo rate also stayed unchanged at 3.35 per cent. The MPC committee members voted unanimously in favour of the decision.
- The repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) has been kept unchanged at 4.00%.
- The reverse repo rate under the LAF has been kept unchanged at 3.35%.
- The marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate have been kept unchanged at 4.25%.

### RBI Monetary Policy Highlights & Key Decisions:

- Governor Shaktikanta Das proposes to put in place criteria for NBFC dividend distribution, introduces risk-based audit in large NBFCs & co-op banks.
- RTGS will soon be made 24X7 in the next few days.
- The business sentiment of manufacturing firms is gradually improving.
- CPI inflation is seen at 6.8% for Q3 and 5.8% for Q4.
- Real GDP growth for FY21 is projected at -7.5%. Q3 FY-21 GDP is seen at +0.1% while Q4 FY-21 GDP is seen at +0.7%.
- Corporate bond spreads have narrowed to pre-covid levels.
- RBI proposes to enhance limits for contactless card payments from ₹2000 to ₹5000 from Jan 2021.
- On-tap Targeted Long Term Repo Operations (TLTRO) will be expanded to cover other stressed sectors in tandem with Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) scheme.

### RBI orders HDFC Bank to halt its digital launches

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued an order to HDFC Bank with regard to certain

incidents of outages in the internet banking, mobile banking and payment utilities of the lender over the past 2 years, the private sector bank informed to the stock exchanges. The RBI also noted the recent outages in the HDFC Bank's internet banking and payment system on November 21, 2020, owing to a power failure in the primary data centre.

**The RBI vide Order has advised the Bank to temporarily stop:**

- i) All launches of the Digital Business generating activities planned under its program - Digital 2.0 (to be launched) and other proposed business generating IT applications.
- (ii) Sourcing of new credit card customers.
- (iii) In addition to this, the order also states that HDFC Bank's board should examine the lapses and fix accountability.

## Current Affairs PDF- December 03, 2020

### NATIONAL

#### IOCL launches India's first 100 Octane Premium Petrol

- Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel, Dharmendra Pradhan launched India's first indigenously developed '100 Octane premium petrol' through video conferencing. Octane ratings are measures of fuel stability that increases engine efficiency. The high octane premium grade petrol will be marketed under the brand 'XP-100'. It has been developed by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) at its Mathura refinery in Uttar Pradesh.
- XP-100 will be made available in a phased manner across the country and in the first phase, it will be made available in 10 cities. The cities are Delhi, Gurgaon, Noida, Agra, Jaipur, Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Mumbai, Pune and Ahmedabad.
- With this launch, India has joined a select league of nations globally that have such superior quality fuel. Till date, such quality of fuel is available only in six countries including USA, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Malaysia and Israel.

#### West Bengal launches massive 'Duare Sarkar' outreach campaign

- West Bengal Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee has launched a massive campaign titled 'Duare Sarkar' (government at doorsteps) to aware people about the 11 state-run welfare schemes and help them avail its benefits. The two-month-long outreach programme has been launched keeping in view the 2021 state assembly elections which are due in April-May.
- The campaign will continue from December 1, 2020, to January 30, 2020, in four phases, with slogan 'jar jekhane darkar, asche apnar duare sarkar' (government will be at your doorsteps whenever you need it). The 11 schemes will be made available to the beneficiaries through camps set up for the purpose.

#### Arjun Munda e-launches "Virtual Aadi Mahotsav-Madhya Pradesh"

- The Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda has launched the first-ever virtual edition of Aadi Mahotsav – Madhya Pradesh. The event will showcase the tribal traditions of the various tribal communities by having their crafts and natural products on display. Videos showcasing different aspects of their culture – music, dance etc, will also be shared. In essence, it will still

be a celebration of the tribes and their diverse, varied lifestyle but on a different platform.

- The 10-day long festival will begin from December 1, 2020. It is being hosted on the Tribes India website – [www.tribesindia.com](http://www.tribesindia.com). The highlights of the virtual launch included a virtual tour of the artisans' workplace and glimpses of the tribal dance and music from Madhya Pradesh. The main focus of the first virtual Aadi Mahotsav is on the tribal craft and culture of Madhya Pradesh. The next focus state of the programme would be Gujarat ( from 11th December 2020), followed by West Bengal from the 21st December 2020.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Indian Army successfully testfires Anti-Ship version of BrahMos missile

- India successfully test-fired the anti-ship version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands territory. The test was conducted as part of the ongoing trials being conducted by the Indian Navy. The DRDO-developed BrahMos supersonic cruise missile with a strike range of 300 Km was launched from Indian Navy's INS Ranvijay and it successfully hit its target ship near the Car Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal.
- Recently the land-attack version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was also successfully test-fired from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands territory. The BrahMos supersonic cruise missile is the world's fastest operational system in its class.

## OBITUARY

### MDH owner 'Mahashay' Dharampal Gulati passes away

- The owner of MDH Masala, Dharampal Gulati passed away. He was born in 1923 in Sialkot, Pakistan. He was fondly called 'dalaji' and 'Mahashayji'. A school dropout, Dharampal Gulati joined his father's spice business in the early days. Back in 2019, the government honoured him with Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian award in the country.
- After partition in 1947, Dharampal Gulati moved to India and stayed at a refugee camp in Amritsar. He then moved to Delhi and opened a store in Delhi's Karol Bagh. Gulati officially established the company in 1959. The business did not just flourish in India only but Gulati became a distributor and exporter as well. His company exports Indian spices to various parts of the world including the UK, Europe, UAE, Canda, etc.

## APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

### Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhary becomes new Director General of BRO

- Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhary has been appointed as the 27th Director General of Border Roads Organisation (BRO). His appointment is effective from 1st December 2020.
- Lt Gen Chaudhary succeeds Lt Gen Harpal Singh who has been appointed as the new Engineer-in-Chief of the Indian Army. The BRO is responsible for construction and maintenance of all border roads including those along the frontiers with China and Pakistan.

### AR Rahman roped in as 'BAFTA Breakthrough' India ambassador

- Oscar and Grammy-winning Indian composer, AR Rahman has been roped in as ambassador of

the BAFTA Breakthrough initiative in India. In 2020, BAFTA will identify and support up to five exceptional talents working in film, games or television in India.

- The BAFTA Breakthrough initiative, is part of the Academy's year-long programme to support new talent, coming up in the film, games and television industries in the UK, China, India and the US and gives them access to unique career development and mentoring opportunities. It is a unique opportunity for promising artists to be supported by a world-renowned organisation, including connections with other talented creatives across the world and being mentored by BAFTA-winners and nominees.

### Bata names Sandeep Kataria as global CEO

- Footwear major Bata Shoe Organization has appointed Sandeep Kataria as the new global Chief Executive Officer (CEO). He is the first Indian to be appointed to the global role of Bata (Headquarter-Lausanne, Switzerland). He takes over from Alexis Nasard, who has stepped down after almost five years in the role.
- Before this, Kataria was the CEO of Bata India since 2017. Under Kataria, Bata India managed to transform into the largest footwear retailer in India within a relatively short span.

### IMPORTANT DAYS

#### International Day of Persons with Disabilities: 03 December

- The International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed annually on December 3. The IDPWD day was proclaimed in 1992 by the United Nations General Assembly. The 2020 theme: 'Not all Disabilities are Visible'.
- The day is celebrated to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development, and to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

### RANKING

#### India ranked 8th in Global Terrorism Index 2020

- In the Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2020, India has been ranked at 8th spot globally in the list of countries most affected by terrorism in 2019. The GTI score of India is 7.353 out of 10. India recorded 277 Deaths, 439 Injuries & 558 Incidents due to Terrorism in 2019. Regionally, South Asia was the most impacted region by terrorism in 2019, recording more deaths than any other region. Also, globally the deaths caused due to terrorism fell by 15 per cent to 13,286 in 2019 over 2018.

#### India:

- Jammu and Kashmir was the most affected Region due to terrorism, it reported 165 attacks and 103 deaths. The three most active groups in Kashmir was Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), Hizbul Mujahideen & Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).
- Chhattisgarh was the second most affected region in India with 85 attacks and 53 deaths all from Maoist Extremists.

#### Countries Most Affected by Terrorism:

- With a score of 9.592, Afghanistan has topped the index as the worst terror impacted nation

among the 163 countries.

- It is followed by Iraq (8.682) and Nigeria (8.314) at second and third place respectively.

#### **Countries Least Affected by Terrorism:**

- Qatar (0.014) took the 133rd Rank followed by Uzbekistan (0.010) in the 134th Rank and around 29 Countries (score of 0.000) took the 135th Rank which means they are Least Affected Countries or Face No Impact due to Terrorism.

#### **US Air Quality Index: Lahore is world's most polluted city**

- Lahore, the cultural capital Pakistan, has been ranked as the world's most polluted city, according to air pollution data released by the US Air Quality Index (AQI). Lahore reported a particulate matter (PM) rating of 423. New Delhi stood second with a PM of 229, while Nepal's capital Kathmandu ranked the third with a PM of 178.
- The Air Quality Index (AQI) is released by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to give people an idea of whether it's safe to breathe the air.
- AQI is based on the levels of five major pollutants regulated by the EPA: ground-level ozone, particulate matter (PM2.5), carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide.
- AQI measures air quality by placing it on a scale of 0-500, where air quality is regarded as satisfactory if the AQI is under 50.

### **BANKING AND ECONOMY**

#### **ADB and India sign \$50 million loan agreement for West Bengal**

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India have inked \$50 million policy-based loan agreement to improve financial management procedures and operational efficiencies in West Bengal. Titled as the 'West Bengal Public Finance Management Investment Programme', the project will help to achieve more fiscal savings, promote informed decision making, and improve service delivery in the state.
- A centre for fiscal policy and public finance will be established to deepen the capacity of the state government officials on public finance management while developing a web-based grievance redress system for transport corporations and urban local bodies will provide a credible citizen-government interface.

## **Current Affairs PDF- December 02, 2020**

### **NATIONAL**

#### **Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat inaugurates Suryadhar Lake**

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat has inaugurated the Suryadhar lake at Doiwala, Dehradun. The Suryadhar lake is 550 meters long, 28 meters wide and 10 meters deep with a capacity of 77,000 cubic meters.
- Besides fulfilling the drinking water and irrigational needs of 18-20 villages, the lake will recharge the water resources in the area and help build a healthy eco-system that will attract migratory birds. The state government's plans to organize a water sports festival at the lake either by Makar Sankranti or Basant Panchami next year to showcase the beauty of its

surrounding environs.

### Piyush Goyal inaugurates Dhigawara-Bandikui section of NWR

- The Union Minister of Railways, Piyush Goyal has inaugurated newly electrified Dhigawara-Bandikui section of North Western Railway (NWR) in the state of Rajasthan. The Minister also flagged off the first train on this newly electrified route. The Dhigawara-Bandikui section is on Delhi-Ajmer route via Jaipur.
- The Railways has set the target to electrify the entire percentage of railway lines across the country in a phased manner. Once these electrified trains start running, the trains that run on diesel will be stopped.

### Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launches "Sahakar Pragya" initiative

- The Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar recently unveiled a new initiative called Sahakar Pragya. Sahakar Pragya is an initiative of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), to help in capacity development of the cooperative sector in India, through the training programme.
- Under this initiative, 45 new training modules have been developed for the farmers and would be imparted to primary cooperative societies in rural areas of the country by NCDC.
- The training modules aim to impart knowledge and organisational skills and attempt to prepare the primary cooperative societies across the country to be able to play a big role in the government's AtmaNirbhar Bharat initiative.

## APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

### IAS officer Varsha Joshi named Chairperson of NDDB

- The Government of India has appointed IAS officer Varsha Joshi as the new Chairperson of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). She is presently served as Joint Secretary (CDD), Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India.
- With incumbent Dilip Rath's tenure as Chairman of NDDB ends on November 30, 2020, Joshi's appointment is made effective from December 1, 2020, until further orders.

### Utpal Kumar Singh Appointed as Secretary-General of Lok Sabha

- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has appointed senior IAS officer Utpal Kumar Singh as Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha and Lok Sabha Secretariat. His appointment will come into effect from December 1, 2020. He will succeed incumbent Snehlata Shrivastava.
- Mr Singh is a 1986 batch IAS officer of Uttrakhand Cadre and has been appointed as Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha in the rank and status of Cabinet Secretary.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Computer Literacy Day: 02 December

- The World Computer Literacy Day is observed annually on 2nd December to create awareness and drive digital literacy in underserved communities worldwide. The day promotes

technological skills, especially in children and women. The World Computer Literacy Day controls the advanced gap that exists in the world today.

- The day was originally founded by the Indian computer company NIIT to mark its 20th anniversary in 2001. World Computer Literacy Day was first observed and held in the year 2001 on 2nd Dec.

#### **National Pollution Control Day: 02 December**

- In India, the National Pollution Control Day is observed every year on December 2 to commemorate the life of people lost in the unfortunate incident of Bhopal Gas Tragedy that occurred in the year 1984 on the night of 2–3 December.
- The year 2020 marks the 36th anniversary of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy. Through this day, awareness is created about the rising pollution of air, water, and soil, as well as shifts the attention of people with regards to the pollution control acts.

#### **International Day for the Abolition of Slavery**

- International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is observed annually on 2nd December since 1986 by the United Nations General Assembly. The focus of this day is on eradicating contemporary forms of slavery, such as trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, the worst forms of child labour, forced marriage, and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict.
- The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, 2 December, marks the date of the adoption, by the General Assembly, of the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (resolution 317(IV) of 2 December 1949).

### **BOOKS AND AUTHORS**

#### **Ministry of I&B release booklet on birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji**

- A booklet titled 'PM Modi and his Government's special relationship with Sikhs' was released, on the occasion of birth anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. It has been produced by Bureau of Outreach Communication under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and is released in three languages Hindi, Punjabi and English.
- The booklet was jointly inaugurated by the Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shri Prakash Javadekar and Union Minister for Civil Aviation and Housing and Urban Affairs Shri Hardeep Singh Puri. The Minister credited the Prime Minister for personally supervising the smallest of arrangements and personally seeing off the first Jatha for Kartarpur Corridor.
- Mentioning other important decisions, the Minister highlighted the decision on no taxation on Langars, FCRA Registration to Sri Harmandir Sahib, allowing global Sangat participation, revision of 'Blacklist' as per the demand of Sikh community et al.

## Current Affairs PDF- December 01, 2020

### INTERNATIONAL

#### Arab Gulf's first coal-based power plant being developed in Dubai

- The first coal-based power plant of Arab Gulf country is being developed in Saih Shuaib, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The 2,400MW Hassyan clean coal power station will be built at an estimated cost of \$ 3.4 billion.
- The project will comprise four units of 600MW each, which are expected to start operations in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 respectively. The power plant is expected to produce sufficient electricity to power approximately 250,000 households.

### NATIONAL

#### Narendra Singh Tomar launches Honey FPO Programme in 5 states

- The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar virtually inaugurated Honey Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) Programme in five states, for producing honey. The Honey FPO Programme aims to address the issues faced by the beekeeping industry and also promote honey production in the country. This will also help in achieving the goal of increasing farmer's income.
- These 5 FPOs will be set up by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED). They will be set up at
  - East Champaran (Bihar)
  - Morena (Madhya Pradesh)
  - Bharatpur (Rajasthan)
  - Mathura (Uttar Pradesh)
  - Sunderbans (West Bengal)
- The Honey FPO Programme has been launched under the Central Sector Scheme for Formation & Promotion of new 10,000 FPOs.
- The Government has approved 2,200 FPOs for the current financial year 2020-21.
- The task of creating these FPOs has been given to Nabard (600 FPOs), Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (500), National Cooperative Development Corporation (500) and NAFED which will support 50 commodity-specific FPOs and some State-level organisations.

### SPORTS

#### Lewis Hamilton wins Bahrain Grand Prix 2020

- Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) has won the 2020 Bahrain Grand Prix at Bahrain International Circuit, Bahrain. The race was the fifteenth round of the 2020 Formula One World Championship. This is the 11th victory for Hamilton of the season, and 95th F1 win of his career.
- Also, Hamilton now holds the records for the most wins (95), in Formula One history. Red Bull Racing teammates Max Verstappen (Netherlands) and Alexander Albon (Thailand) were second and third respectively.

## Virat Kohli becomes fastest to reach 22,000 international runs

- Indian cricket team skipper Virat Kohli scripted another record in the game. He broke Sachin Tendulkar's record and became the quickest batsman to complete 22,000 runs. He reached the milestone in his 462nd innings. Tendulkar batted 493 times to reach that mark. They are followed by Brian Lara (511 innings) and Ricky Ponting (514 innings) on the list. The only batsman with an average of over 50 across all formats, Kohli has 7240 runs in Tests, 12834 runs in ODIs and 2794 runs in T20Is.
- Kohli achieved this feat during the second ODI between Australia and India at the SCG. Notably, Kohli has become the eighth batsman overall and the third Indian to surpass 22,000 international runs. Rahul Dravid, who scored 24208 runs, is another Indian on the list.

## OBITUARY

### Senegal World Cup footballer Papa Bouba Diop passes away

- Senegal's professional footballer, Papa Bouba Diop, who helped the country win the FIFA World Cup match in 2002, has passed away. He was of the age of 42. His goal helped Senegal secure historic 1–0 win over the then-world champions France in the opening match of the 2002 FIFA World Cup, and Senegal's first-ever match at the FIFA World Cup. Diop has won 63 caps for Senegal.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World AIDS Day: 01 December

- Every year, on 1 December, the world commemorates World AIDS Day. The day provides an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness. This year the theme of World AIDS Day is "Global solidarity, shared responsibility".
- In 2020, the world's attention has been focused by the C-19 pandemic on health and how pandemics affect lives and livelihoods. C-19 is showing once again how health is interlinked with other critical issues, such as reducing inequality, human rights, gender equality, social protection and economic growth.

### BSF Celebrates its 56th Raising Day on December 1, 2020

- The Border Security Force (BSF), is observing its 56th Raising Day on 01 December 2020. BSF was formed on December 1, 1965, as a unified central agency, after the Indo-Pak and India-China wars, for ensuring the security of the borders of India and for matters connected therewith. It is one of the five Central Armed Police Forces of the Union of India and stands as the world's largest border guarding force. BSF has been termed as the First Line of Defence of Indian Territories.

### International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

- The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is an UN-organized day held every year on November 29. It is observed to mark the anniversary of resolution 181, wherein the Assembly adopted the resolution on the partition of Palestine on November 29, 1947.

- In 1977, the General Assembly called for the annual observance of 29 November as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. On that day, in 1947, the Assembly adopted the resolution on the partition of Palestine. This date, which was chosen because of its meaning and significance to the Palestinian people, is based on the call by the United Nations General Assembly for an annual observance of the resolution on the partition of Palestine.

### SUMMITS AND MOU'S

#### India and Finland sign MOU on environmental protection

- India and Finland signed an MoU for developing cooperation in the field of Environment protection and biodiversity conservation. The MoU was signed by Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar from the Indian side and his Finnish counterpart Krista Mikkonen through video-mode.
- Further, advance Indian and Finnish partnership and strengthen technological, scientific and management capabilities and develop bilateral cooperation in the field of environmental protection and biodiversity conservation
- Support, exchange best practices in areas like prevention of air and water pollution, waste management, and promotion of circular economy.

### BOOKS AND AUTHORS

#### A book titled 'Future of Regional Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific' by ADB

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has released a new book titled 'Future of Regional Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific'.
- The book provides insight on how stronger regional cooperation strategies, including in health, trade, finance, and disaster risk, can help governments in Asia and the Pacific accelerate economic growth and robust recovery from the C-19 pandemic. It also explores opportunities for economies in the region to work together to recover and rebuild from the C-19 pandemic.

## Current Affairs PDF- November 30, 2020

### INTERNATIONAL

#### Quarantine' named Cambridge Dictionary's Word of the Year 2020

- Cambridge Dictionary has named 'quarantine' as Word of the Year 2020. The word has been named the word of the year based on data that showed that it was one of the most highly searched words on the Cambridge Dictionary this year. Cambridge editors have noticed that people are using the word in a new way this year describing a "general period of time in which people are not allowed to leave their homes or travel freely so that they do not catch or spread a disease." This new sense of quarantine has now been added to the Cambridge Dictionary.
- "Quarantine was the only word to rank in the top five for both search spikes and overall views (more than 183,000 by early November), with the largest spike in searches (28,545) seen in the week of March 18-24, when many countries around the world went into lockdown as a result of C-19," as per an official release.

## NATIONAL

### PM Modi Chairs 33rd PRAGATI Meet

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

### PM Modi visits 3 cities to review vaccine development

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has embarked on a three-city visit on 28 November 2020, to personally review the C-19 vaccine development and manufacturing process at facilities in these cities.  
**Facilities visited by PM Modi are:**  
Zydus Biotech Park in Ahmedabad,  
Bharat Biotech in Hyderabad  
Serum Institute of India in Pune
- The scientists at these facilities expressed their joy that the Prime Minister met them face to face in order to boost their morale and help accelerate their efforts in the vaccine development journey.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare

- The United Nation recognised Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare on 30th November every year since 2005. The day marks a tribute to the victims of chemical warfare, as well as to reaffirm the commitment of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to the elimination of the threat of chemical weapons, thereby promoting the goals of peace, security, and multilateralism.
- The history of the serious efforts to achieve chemical disarmament that culminated in the conclusion of the Chemical Weapons Convention began more than a century ago. Chemical weapons were used on a massive scale during World War I, resulting in more than 100,000 fatalities and a million casualties.

## OBITUARY

### British Actor David Prowse passes away

- British character actor David Prowse, best known for playing ‘Darth Vader’ in the original Star Wars trilogy, passed away. He was a weightlifter-turned-actor, was selected to portray Darth Vader for his imposing physique of 6-foot-7 inch. However, the role was voiced by James Earl Jones.
- Prowse wore the black suit and helmet to play Darth Vader.

## BANKING AND ECONOMY

### UBS Projects India's GDP at -10.5% for FY21

- The UBS has projected India's real GDP to contract 10.5% in FY21, in its Global Economics & Markets Outlook 2021-2022 report. For the fiscal 2021-22 (FY22) UBS expect India's real GDP growth to rebound to +10% in FY22. UBS also estimates India's GDP to stabilise at 6.2 per cent YoY in FY23.

### YES Bank launches 'SMS Pay' on POS Terminals

- Private lender YES Bank has launched an 'SMS Pay' functionality on POS terminals, which would allow merchants to accept contactless and remote payments from their customers. YES Bank has collaborated with French payment services company Worldline to launch the new facility.
- SMS Pay will facilitate merchants to accept remote payments on their POS machines and enable their customers to transact safely without leaving the comfort of their homes.
- Through SMS Pay, local merchants & department stores could request payments from their customers by entering their contact details in the POS terminal following which an SMS would be triggered to the customer's mobile number instantly, with a payment URL link.
- Customers can complete the payment through their domestic debit and credit cards.

### IRDAI approves ICICI Lombard acquisition of Bharti Axa General

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has given its in-principle approval for the merger of Bharti AXA General Insurance with ICICI Lombard. The merged entity will have a market share of around 8.7 per cent on a proforma basis in the general insurance business.
- Based on the share exchange ratio recommended by independent valuers, shareholders of Bharti AXA will receive two shares of ICICI Lombard for every 115 shares of Bharti AXA. At present, promoter ICICI Bank Ltd holds is 51.89% stake in ICICI Lombard, while the rest is with the public. After the proposed deal, the promoter stake will come down to 48.11%.
- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has already approved the acquisition of the two entities while approvals request from other concerned regulators for the transaction has been applied. The policyholders should benefit from an enhanced product suite and deeper customer connects touchpoints.

## Current Affairs PDF- November 29, 2020

### INTERNATIONAL

#### Russia test-fired Tsirkon hypersonic missile in the Arctic

- Russia successfully test-fired a Tsirkon hypersonic cruise missile in the Arctic. the frigate Admiral Gorshkov in the White Sea fired a Tsirkon hypersonic cruise missile, hitting a naval target 450 km away in the Barents Sea at a speed of over Mach 8.
- In early January, the same frigate test-fired a Tsirkon missile for the first time, striking a ground

target over 500 km away. Last month, the warship deployed in the White Sea destroyed a naval target in the Barents Sea with a Tsirkon missile.

## NATIONAL

### Bengaluru's Bowring Medical College named after Atal Bihari Vajpayee

- The Bowring and Lady Curzon Medical College and Research Institute in Bengaluru have been named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The institute was set up in 2018-19 on the campus of Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital in Shivajinagar in the heart of Bengaluru.
- Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the first leader from the Bharatiya Janata Party to become the Prime Minister. He served as Prime Minister thrice — briefly in 1996, from 1998 to 1999, and then for a full five-year term between 1999 and 2004. Among his several portfolios, Vajpayee had also served as External Affairs Minister during PM Morarji Desai's tenure during 1977 and 1979.

### Indian Army launches cycling expedition in Gujarat & Rajasthan

- Konark Corps of Indian Army has launched a 1971 kilometres cycling expedition in Gujarat and Rajasthan to commemorate the commencement of the Golden Jubilee Victory Celebrations of Indian Armed Forces in the Indo-Pak War of 1971. 1971 Kilometers 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh Cyclothon' across Gujarat & Rajasthan has been joined by the relay teams of 20 participants each of the various Army Formations across the two states.
- The cycle expedition was flagged off from an outpost near Lakhpat in Kutch by Honorary Captain Gumansinh Jhala, an 87-year-old War Veteran who had participated in both Indo-Pak wars of 1965 & 1971 then serving with 7 Grenadiers.

### Prakash Javadekar launches India Climate Change Knowledge Portal

- Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar has launched the "India Climate Change Knowledge Portal". According to Prakash Javadekar, India has practically achieved its pre-2020 climate action targets. He said, though India is not responsible for climate change it is taking responsible action to mitigate the challenge.
- The portal will have all the major steps the Government is taking at both national and international levels to address the climate change issues.
- Portal will be a single-point information resource that provides information on the different climate initiatives taken by various Line Ministries enabling users to access d status on these initiatives.

## SPORTS

### India rise four spots to 104th in latest FIFA rankings

- The Indian national team have moved up a spot to 104 in the latest FIFA Rankings. The Indian team were ranked 108th in the October 2020 rankings. In two months, India has climbed 5 spots after being 109th in September.
- Meanwhile, on the global scene, the top six remain unchanged. Belgium continues to lead the rankings followed by France, Brazil, England, Portugal and Spain. Argentina is seventh, having interchanged spots with eighth-placed Uruguay. Mexico and Italy complete the top 10.

### SUMMITS AND MOU'S

#### L&T bags Rs 7,000-cr order to construct part of Bullet Train project

- Infrastructure major Larsen and Toubro (L&T) has bagged an order worth over Rs 7,000 crore to construct a part of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR), also known as the Bullet Train Project. The scope of the order includes the construction of viaducts, one station, major river bridges, maintenance depots, and other auxiliary works.
- The approximately 508 km Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail project will cover Maharashtra, Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Gujarat, with 12 stations along the route. Upon completion, the high-speed rail will operate at a speed of 320 kmph, covering the entire distance in approximately 2 hours with limited stops and in 3 hours with all stops.

### BANKING AND ECONOMY

#### India's GDP Contracts 7.5% in September Quarter

- The National Statistical Office (NSO) has released the estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the second quarter (July-September) Q2 of 2020-21.
- The GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q2 of 2020-21 is estimated at Rs 33.14 lakh crore, as against Rs 35.84 lakh crore in Q2 of 2019-20, showing a contraction of 7.5% as compared to 4.4% growth in Q2 2019-20.