
MANTHAN

A General Awareness Weekly

16th November to 22nd November, 2020

PREFACE

Dear Students,

The 'Current Affairs' section is an integral part of any examination. This edition of Manthan has been developed by our team to help you cover all the important events of the Week. This comprehensive bulletin will help you prepare the section in a vivid manner. We hope that our sincere efforts will serve you in a better way to fulfill aspirations.

Happy Reading

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended 12th BRICS summit with Putin

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 12th BRICS Summit hosted by Russia on November 17. The theme for this year's summit has been decided as 'Global stability, shared security and innovative growth' and the met conducted in a virtual format.
- The ministry also confirmed that India will host the next session of the BRICS summit in 2021. The 12th Summit has seen the leaders from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa engage in topics ranging from intra-BRICS cooperation and key issues in the global context, the official statement read.
- India will be taking over the chairmanship of the BRICS, which would be the third BRICS Presidency for India since its inception, after 2012 and 2016, and will host the 13th BRICS Summit in 2021.
- The meeting was originally scheduled to take place in Saint Petersburg from July 21 to 23, 2020, but was changed to a video conference held on November 17 due to the outbreak of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

BRICS is the acronym for an association of five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Originally the first four were grouped as "BRIC" (China, Brazil, Russia and India), before the induction of South Africa in 2010. In 2009, the first BRIC Summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia.

Operation Thunder 2020: India Customs intercepts 18 tonnes red sandalwood

- The India Customs intercepted an 18-tonne shipment of red sandalwood destined for the United Arab Emirates, during a month-long "Operation Thunder 2020", coordinated by the Interpol and the World Customs Organisation, which involved law enforcement agencies in 103 countries.
- The operation against environmental crime was held from September 14 to October 11. It resulted in large seizures of protected wildlife and forestry specimens and products, triggering arrests and investigations worldwide, said the Interpol.
- "Focusing on pre-identified routes and hotspots, 'Operation Thunder 2020' resulted in more than 2,000 seizures of wildlife and forestry products. In total, 699 offenders were apprehended and at least one Interpol Red Notice has already been requested based on information gained during the operation.

Operation Thunder 2020 is a month-long operation coordinated by the Interpol and the World Customs Organisation (WCO), which involved law enforcement agencies in 103 countries. "Operation Thunder 2020" is the fourth in a series of "Thunder" operations carried out annually since 2017.

Nitish Kumar takes oath as Bihar CM for 4th consecutive term

- Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar made history after he took oath for the top post for the fourth consecutive term to become the longest serving Chief Minister of the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA). He took oath as Bihar Chief Minister for the seventh time with two Deputy Chief Ministers from the BJP — four-time Katihar MLA Tarkishore Prasad and four-time Bettiah MLA Renu Devi.

- **This is the seventh time when Nitish Kumar took an oath to become the Chief Minister of Bihar.** He had served as the Chief Minister of the state for little over seven days in March 2000, after which he was elected in 2005 when he served a full term. He was re-elected to power in November 2010, after which he served for four years before resigning, and had again taken oath as Chief Minister in February 2015.
- He was voted to power in 2015 Assembly election as part of the ‘Mahagathbandhan’. However, after corruption allegations were levelled against his deputy Tejashwi Yadav in 2015, Nitish resigned only to be sworn in as Chief Minister merely 12 hours later joining hands with the BJP to form a government in the state.

Following COVID-19 lockdown, the Bihar Education Project Council (BEPC) has launched a mobile application and plans to book a slot with the All India Radio for the audio broadcast of study materials for government school students. Recently, the BEPC, a wing of the State Education department, launched a mobile application “Unnayan: Mera Mobile, Mera Vidyalaya” for Class VI to XII of over 70,000 government-run schools.

Bihar is the third-largest state of India by population, according to the census 2011. It is a land-locked state, although the outlet to the sea through the port of Kolkata is not far away. Nalanda University is located in the town of Rajgir, in the northern Indian state of Bihar. It was a Buddhist center of learning from 427 to 1197 CE. It has been called “one of the first great universities in recorded history. Phagu Chauhan is the current Governor of Bihar. Nitish Kumar is the current Chief Minister of Bihar.

Arunachal Records Best Sex Ratio in India, Manipur Fares Worst

- According to a 2018 report on the ‘vital statistics on India based on the Civil Registration System’, **Arunachal Pradesh recorded the best sex ratio in the country with 1,085 females born per thousand males, while Manipur fared the worst with just 757.**
- Sex ratio refers to the number of females born per thousand males. The report was released by the Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, Ministry of Home Affairs, GOI and **sex ratio was determined on the basis of data provided by 30 states and Union Territories.**
- **Manipur, which recorded the lowest sex ratio, was followed by Lakshadweep at 839 and Daman & Diu at 877, Punjab at 896 and Gujarat at 896.** Delhi recorded a sex ratio of 929, Haryana recorded 914 and Jammu and Kashmir 952.
- **Besides Arunachal Pradesh, two other Northeastern states topped the list. Nagaland (965) took the second spot and Mizoram (964), the third.** The top three states were followed by Kerala at 963 and Karnataka at 957.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveils ‘Statue of Peace’ in Rajasthan’s Pali

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the ‘Statue of Peace’ in Rajasthan to mark the 151st Birth Anniversary celebrations of Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj.
- PM Modi paid tribute to Jainacharya and the spiritual leaders present on the occasion. **Mentioning two ‘Vallabhs’, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel and the Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj.**
- **The 151-inch-tall statue is made of “ashtadhatu” (eight metals with copper being the major constituent) and is being installed at the Vijay Vallabh Sadhana Kendra, Jetpura, in Rajasthan’s Pali.** The saint, who lived during 1870-1954, led an austere life, working selflessly and dedicatedly to spread the message of Lord Mahavira.
- He worked relentlessly for the welfare of the people, the spread of education and eradication of social evils, wrote inspiring literature (poetry, essays, devotional hymns and stavans) and gave active support to the ‘freedom movement’ and the cause of the ‘swadeshi’. He died in the year 1954.

The Statue of Unity is a colossal statue of Indian statesman and independence activist Vallabhbhai Patel (1875–1950), who was the first Deputy Prime Minister and Home minister of independent India and adherent of Mahatma Gandhi during the non-violent Indian Independence movement. Patel was highly respected for his leadership in uniting 562 princely states of India with a major part of the former British Raj to form the single Union of India. The statue is located in the state of Gujarat, India. It is the world’s tallest statue with a height of 182 metres (597 feet). It is located on the Narmada River.

External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar represented India at 15th East Asia Summit

- **External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar has represented India at the 15th East Asia Summit (EAS)** which will discuss ways to strengthen the platform and to make it more responsive to emerging challenges on its 15th anniversary.
- **The virtual summit was chaired by Vietnamese Prime Minister, Nguyen Xuan Phuc** and has seen the participation of all eighteen East Asian countries. The External Affairs Ministry in a release said, the leaders at the summit will also exchange views on issues of international and regional interest including the COVID-19 pandemic and the cooperation among EAS participating countries to achieve an expeditious and sustainable economic recovery.
- **The EAS is a leaders-led forum** that provides a platform for discussion on important strategic issues in the Indo-Pacific region. It is a **regional grouping of 18 participating countries i.e. 10 ASEAN countries** that includes Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam), besides Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russia and the United States. India is a founding member of EAS.

East Asia Summit (EAS) is a regional forum held annually by leaders of, initially, 16 countries in the East Asian, Southeast Asian, South Asian and Oceanian regions, based on the ASEAN Plus Six mechanism. Membership expanded to 18 countries including Russia and the United States at the Sixth EAS in 2011. Since its establishment, ASEAN has held the central role and leadership in the forum. EAS meetings are held after the annual ASEAN leaders' meetings, and plays an important role in the regional architecture of Asia-Pacific. The first summit was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 14 December 2005.

SC won't entertain plea challenging constitutional validity of Epidemic Act

- **The Supreme Court refused to entertain a plea challenging the constitutional validity of the Epidemic Act** and questioned the petitioner as to why he has not moved the high court on the issue.
- **The apex court said high courts have all the power to strike down Central Acts, like the Epidemic Act, and the petitioner should go there first.**
- What kind of petition you have filed Mr Mirashi (petitioner). Don't you have the Bombay High Court to challenge the Epidemic Act? **The high court has jurisdiction to strike down the Central Act, a bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud told petitioner H N Mirashi.**
- **The apex court observed that the contention of petitioner that high courts do not have the power to strike down a Central Act is totally misconceived. The high court has all the powers to do this,** the bench told the petitioner who had raised issue regarding COVID-19 quarantine policy of the Maharashtra government.

Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 is a law which was first enacted to tackle bubonic plague in Mumbai (formerly Bombay) in former British India. The law is meant for containment of epidemics by providing special powers that are required for the implementation of containment measures to control the spread of the disease. Starting in March 2020, the act is being enforced across India in order to limit the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 during the COVID-19 pandemic in India. On 22 April 2020, the Government of India announced the promulgation of an ordinance, 'The Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance 2020', to amend the act, adding provisions to punish those attacking doctors or health workers. The ordinance allows for up to seven years of jail for attacking doctors or health workers (including ASHA workers). The offense will be cognizable and non-bailable among other things. In addition to this, such cases need to be investigated in a time-bound and must be resolved in 1 year.

Sea Trials of India's First Indigenous Aircraft Carrier Vikrant Set to Begin in Jan 2021

- **The Indian Navy is set to begin sea trials of its new aircraft carrier named after the erstwhile INS Vikrant** which was decommissioned in January 1997.
- **The new INS Vikrant which is yet to be commissioned will be India's first-ever Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC-1)** which is expected to begin sea trials in January 2021 along the coast of Karwar or Visakhapatnam as these two places are the only ones with facilities to accommodate it. The aircraft carrier is being constructed by Cochin Shipyard Limited in Kochi, Kerala.

First solar power-enabled Textile Mill in Asia to come up in Parbhani district

- In Maharashtra, the first solar power-enabled Textile Mill in Asia is coming up in Parbhani district. The project, once functional, will provide jobs to many women in the district.
- The Jai Bhawani women's cooperative textile mill will be the first in Asia that will operate on solar power. Spread across thirty acres of land the mill will process cotton to cloth.

The textile industry in India traditionally, after agriculture, is the only industry that has generated huge employment for both skilled and unskilled labour in textiles. The textile industry continues to be the second-largest employment generating sector in India. The first cotton mill in India was established in 1818 at Fort Gloster near Kolkata but was a commercial failure.

India, Kazakhstan reviews entire gamut of bilateral cooperation

- The 7th round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Kazakhstan was held via video-conference. The Indian side was led by Vikas Swarup, Secretary (West) and the Kazakh side by Shakhmat Nuryshev, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan.
- The two sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral cooperation within the framework of their Strategic Partnership. The consultations covered political, economic and commercial, energy, defence, space, consular and cultural matters. They also shared views and experiences on combating COVID-19 pandemic.
- The two sides also exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest and agreed to enhance cooperation in the multilateral arena, including during the forthcoming stint of India in the UN Security Council for the period 2021-22. An MoU on "Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of High Impact Community Development Projects in Kazakhstan" was signed.

Kazakhstan is the world's largest landlocked country and the ninth largest in the world. Nur-Sultan is the capital city of Kazakhstan. Known between 1998 and 2019 as Astana and before that Akmola, it was renamed Nur-Sultan in March 2019, in honour of the departing Kazakh President, Nursultan Nazarbayev. The tenge is the currency of Kazakhstan. Nursultan Nazarbayev served as longest President of Kazakhstan since the office was created on April 24, 1990 until March 2019. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev is the current President of Kazakhstan.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Bengaluru Tech Summit 2020

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Bengaluru Tech Summit, 2020 this month via video conferencing. The theme of the summit is "Next is Now".
- The summit deliberated on the key challenges emerging in the post-pandemic world with focus on the impact of prominent technologies and innovations in the domains of 'Information Technology & Electronics' and 'Biotechnology'. It has seen participation of Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Vice President of the Swiss Confederation Guy Parmelin, and many other prominent international figures.

Goa to get India's first green energy convergence project

- The Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) is set to roll out of India's first Green Energy Convergence Project in Goa. Under the project, EESL and the Department of New and Renewable Energy (DNRE) in Goa will carry out feasibility studies and implementation of decentralized solar energy projects.
- The project aims to connect seemingly independent sectors like Solar Energy, Energy Storage and LED lights to provide solutions, which can enable in decarbonisation and affordable energy access.
- Department of New & Renewable Energy (DNRE), Goa, together with Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture of PSUs under the Ministry of Power signed a memorandum of understanding to discuss rolling out of India's first project under the newly formed Convergence Energy Services Limited (Convergence) in the State.
- It will include the installation of 100 Megawatt decentralized ground-mounted solar power projects on government land to be used for agricultural pumping. It seeks to replace 6,300 agricultural pumps and distribute 16 lakh LED bulbs for rural domestic households.

World Bank approves 120-mn to improve transport sector of Meghalaya

- The Government of India, Meghalaya government and the World Bank signed a 120 million dollar project to improve and modernise the transport sector of Meghalaya. This will help the state to harness its vast growth potential for high-value agriculture and tourism.
- The project will improve about 300 kilometres of strategic road segments and stand-alone bridges by using innovative, climate resilient, and nature-based solutions. It will also support innovative solutions such as precast bridges to reduce both time and cost of construction.

The World Bank is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. The World Bank Group comprises five institutions managed by their member countries. It was established in 1944, the World Bank Group is headquartered in Washington, D.C. David Robert Malpass is an American economic analyst and former government official serving as President of the World Bank Group since 2019. Together, IBRD and IDA form the World Bank, which provides financing, policy advice, and technical assistance to governments of developing countries. IDA focuses on the world's poorest countries, while IBRD assists middle-income and creditworthy poorer countries.

Madhya Pradesh to set up Gau Cabinet for protection & promotion of cows in state

- In Madhya Pradesh, the state government has decided to set up a Gau Cabinet for the protection and promotion of cows in the state. The Chief Minister informed that we have been decided to constitute a gau cabinet for the protection and fostering of godhan, cow and its progeny in the state.
- Ministers of the animal husbandry, forest, panchayat and rural development, revenue, home and farmers' welfare departments will be included in this cabinet. India's first cow sanctuary, Kamdhenu Gau Abhyaranya in Agar Malwa was set up by the state government in September 2017. It was developed by the MP Gau Samvardhan Board by spending about Rs 32 crore. The sanctuary is spread across 472 hectares.

Madhya Pradesh (meaning Central Province) is a state in central India. Its capital is Bhopal. Nicknamed the "Heart of India" due to its geographical location in India. Madhya Pradesh is the second-largest state in the country by area after Rajasthan. This state was the largest in India by area until 2000, when its southeastern Chhattisgarh region was made as a separate state. MP has the largest reserves of diamond and copper in India. The current governor of Madhya Pradesh is Anandiben Patel. Shivraj Singh Chouhan is the current Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated RE-INVEST 2020

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the 3rd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo (RE-Invest 2020) through video conferencing. The summit is organised by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. The theme for RE-Invest 2020 is 'Innovations for Sustainable Energy Transition'.
- The Prime Minister expressed happiness that in the renewable energy sector, within a short time the progress from megawatts to gigawatts in generation capacity and "One Sun, One World, One Grid" are becoming a reality, all of which were discussed in the earlier editions. The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, UK and President COP-26, and the Minister of Energy, Utilities and Climate, Denmark attended and spoke in the inaugural session.
- Minister for New and Renewable Energy, RK Singh informed that the 3rd RE-Invest will build upon the success of the first two editions held in 2015 and 2018. It will provide an international forum for investment promotion in renewable energy. It will also send signals to the global renewable community about India's commitment to the development and scaling up of renewable energy to meet its energy requirements in a sustainable manner.

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is a ministry of the Government of India that is mainly responsible for research and development, intellectual property protection, and international cooperation, promotion, and coordination in renewable energy sources such as wind power, small hydro, biogas, and solar power. The ministry is currently headed by R. K. Singh, a Minister of State (Independent Charge). He is a Member of the Indian Parliament for Arrah, Bihar, since May 2014.

Karnataka Deputy CM launches first State BioEconomy Report during Bengaluru Tech Summit

- Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister Dr. C N Ashwath Narayan launched the first State BioEconomy Report during the ongoing Bengaluru Tech Summit.
- According to the report, Karnataka's BioEconomy has grown by 14 to 17 percent in the previous two years, contributing 10.3 percent to the Gross State Domestic Product GSDP.
- This contributed 2.3 percent of India's 2.8 trillion GDP in the previous year. The report also says that Karnataka contributes more than one third to the national BioEconomy.
- BioEconomy refers to all the biological resources to produce food, feed, bio-based products, energy and services.

Karnataka is a state in the south western region of India. It was formed on 1 November 1956, with the passage of the States Reorganisation Act. Originally known as the State of Mysore, it was renamed Karnataka in 1973. The capital and largest city is Bengaluru. Bookanakere Siddalingappa Yediyurappa is serving as the 19th and current Chief Minister of Karnataka. Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala is currently serving as the Governor of Karnataka.

Govt releases backend code of Aarogya Setu App to enhance transparency

- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has released the backend code of Aarogya Setu App in open domain. The source code of the Android and iOS versions were released earlier and the backend source code is also being released as per the policy of Government of India to share all code repositories with developer community.
- Ministry of Electronics and IT in a statement said that Aarogya Setu has proved to be very useful in India's fight against COVID19 and release of the source code of the Aarogya Setu App is a step in the direction of reaffirming the commitment of the Government to complete transparency.

Aarogya Setu (the bridge to liberation from disease) is an Indian COVID-19 "contact tracing, syndromic mapping and self-assessment" digital service, primarily a mobile app, developed by the National Informatics Centre under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

India - Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise SIMBEX-20 held in Andaman Sea

- Indian Navy hosted the 27th edition of India - Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise SIMBEX-20 in Andaman Sea. It was continued till 25th of this month.
- The SIMBEX series of exercises between Indian Navy and Republic of Singapore Navy being conducted annually since 1994 are aimed at enhancing mutual inter-operability and imbibing best practices from each other. The scope and complexity of these exercises has increased steadily over the past two decades to include advanced naval drills covering a wide spectrum of maritime operations.
- The 2020 edition of SIMBEX witnessed the Indian Navy ships including, destroyer Rana with integral Chetak helicopter and indigenously built corvettes Kamorta and Karmuk, IN submarine Sindhuraj and P8I maritime reconnaissance aircraft were participated in the exercise. RSN was represented by the 'Formidable' Class frigates 'Intrepid' and 'Steadfast' with integral S70B helicopter and 'Endurance' Class Landing Ship Tank 'Endeavour' in the exercise.

The Indian Navy is the naval branch of the Indian Armed Forces. The President of India is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Navy. The Chief of Naval Staff, a four-star admiral, commands the navy. Admiral Karambir Singh, PVSM, AVSM, ADC, is the 24th and current Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) of the Indian Navy. When India became a republic in 1950, the Royal Indian Navy as it had been named since 1934 was renamed to Indian Navy. On March 17, 2020, in a major verdict, the Supreme Court had paved the way for granting permanent commission to women officers in Indian Navy, saying a level playing field ensures that women have the opportunity to overcome "histories of discrimination".



Two day 15th G20 Summit chaired by Saudi Arabia begins

- The 15th G20 Summit was held in a virtual format. The 15th G20 Summit was held under the chairmanship of Saudi Arabia. King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia chaired the Summit through video-conferencing, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The theme is “Realising the Opportunities of the 21st Century for All”. The summit is the second G20 Leaders’ meeting this year. The focus of the G20 Summit was on an inclusive, resilient, and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 and the leaders discussed pandemic preparedness and the ways and means to restore jobs.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the Summit along with the respective Heads of State/ Government of 19 member countries, EU, other invited countries and international organizations. Italy will take over the Presidency of the 16th G20 on 1st December 2020.

The G20 or Group of Twenty is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union. It was founded in 1999; the G20 aims to discuss policy pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability. Membership of the G20 consists of 19 individual countries plus the European Union (EU). Collectively, the G20 economies account for around 90% of the gross world product (GWP), 80% of world trade (or, if excluding EU intra-trade, 75%), two-thirds of the world population, and approximately half of the world land area.

India to host G20 Summit in 2023

- G20 leaders announced that India will host the summit of the high-profile grouping in 2023 — a year later than what was decided earlier. However, no reason for this change has been given publicly. Indonesia was earlier scheduled to hold both G-20 and ASEAN summits in 2023.
- India was earlier slated to host the summit in 2022 with the Osaka declaration of the G20 stating last year that “we look forward to meeting again in Saudi Arabia in 2020, in Italy in 2021 and in India in 2022”.
- India had first got the chance to host the summit for 2021. But, during the 2018 summit in Argentina, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had requested for a change so that its G-20 chairmanship would coincide with the 75th anniversary of Indian independence.

Second phase of Malabar Exercise held in Northern Arabian Sea

- The second phase of Exercise Malabar 2020 is held in the Northern Arabian Sea. Taking forward the synergy achieved in the recently concluded Phase One of Exercise Malabar 2020, which was conducted earlier this month, this second phase involved coordinated operations of increasing complexity between the navies of Australia, India, Japan and the United States.
- Phase Two witnessed joint operations, centered around the Vikramaditya Carrier Battle Group of the Indian Navy and Nimitz Carrier Strike Group of the US Navy. The two carriers, along with other ships, submarines and aircraft of the participating navies, would be engaged in high intensity naval operations over four days.
- These exercises include cross-deck flying operations and advanced air defence exercises by MIG 29K fighters of Vikramaditya and F-18 fighters and E2C Hawkeye from Nimitz.

Exercise Malabar is a trilateral naval exercise involving the United States, Japan and India as permanent partners. Originally begun in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between India and the United States, Japan became a permanent partner in 2015. Past non-permanent participants include Singapore and Australia. With Australia's participation in the drills in 2020, it will be the first time in 13 years that all members of the regional grouping known as the Quad will be engaging militarily.

Tristan Da Cunha Island creates massive marine protection zone

- **Tristan da Cunha**, an island with 245 permanent residents, is creating a marine protection zone to safeguard endangered rockhopper penguins, yellow-nosed albatross and other wildlife in an area of the South Atlantic three times the size of the United Kingdom.
- The government of the British overseas territory, which calls itself the most remote inhabited island on Earth, that fishing and other “extractive activities” will be banned from 627,247 square kilometers of ocean around Tristan da Cunha and the archipelago's three other major islands.
- The sanctuary will be the biggest “no-take zone” in the Atlantic Ocean and the fourth biggest anywhere in the world, protecting fish that live in the waters and tens of millions of seabirds that feed on them.

Peru's interim President resigns as chaos embroils nation

- Peru's interim President **Manuel Merino** resigned as the nation plunged into its worst constitutional crisis in two decades following massive protests unleashed when Congress ousted the nation's popular leader.
- On November 9, 2020, **Martin Vizcarra**, predecessor of Manuel was impeached by the Peruvian Legislature. He was impeached on the grounds of unproven charges of corruption.
- Vizcarra had promised an anti-graft agenda that initiated reforms to tackle corruption in the judicial and legislative branches of the Peruvian Government. This was basically seen as threats by most of the political parties in the country. Vizcarra dissolved the 130-member unicameral legislative body in 2019 that triggered constitutional crisis in the country. This led to parliamentary elections in January 2020.
- In the elections, Peru saw historic division of parties. In the end, no party received more than 11% vote in the elections. Since the elections, Peruvian Congress had sought to remove Vizcarra from power. The current constitution of Peru was drafted and enacted in 1993 after the constitutional crisis in 1992. The current constitution gives more powers to the president.

Peru is a country in western South America. Lima is the capital and the largest city of Peru and sol is the currency of Peru. César Villanueva has been the Prime Minister of Peru since April 2018.

Myanmar: Ruling NLD claims victory

- The ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) in Myanmar has claimed victory in the general elections held on November 8. The NLD secured 396 Union Parliamentary seats, improving upon its 2015 tally of 390 seats.
- The NLD won 258 seats in the Lower house Pyithu Hluttaw and 138 seats in the upper house Amyotha Hluttaw. It required 322 seats for the majority. According to the constitution, 25 percent seats in Myanmar parliament are reserved for candidates nominated by the army.

Aung San Suu Kyi is a Myanmar politician, diplomat, author, and Nobel Peace Prize laureate (1991). She is the leader of the National League for Democracy and the first and incumbent State Counsellor, a position akin to a prime minister. She is also the first woman to serve as Minister for Foreign Affairs. The incumbent president is Win Myint. Myanmar's capital city is Naypyidaw and kyat is the currency of Myanmar. Sittwe Port is a deep-water port constructed by India in 2016 at Sittwe, the capital of Rakhine State in Myanmar, on the Bay of Bengal. Situated at the mouth of the Kaladan River, the USD 120 Million port is being financed by India as a part of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, collaboration between India and Myanmar. Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project is a project that will connect the eastern Indian seaport of Kolkata with Sittwe seaport in Rakhine State, Myanmar by sea.

‘Five Eyes’ alliance urges China to reconsider their decision on Hong Kong legislators

- Foreign ministers from the United States, Australia, Britain, Canada and New Zealand have urged China to reconsider its actions against Hong Kong’s elected legislature and immediately reinstate the Legislative Council members.
- The group of five countries also known as ‘Five Eyes’ alliance said that China’s imposition of new rules to disqualify elected legislators in Hong Kong appeared to be part of a campaign to silence critics. They have called on Beijing to reverse its decision.
- China has rebuked the United States and its ‘Five eyes’ alliance over their demands and termed the National People’s Congress Standing Committee resolution, legitimate.
- The alliance said that China’s action is a clear breach of its international obligations under the legally binding, UN-registered Sino-British Joint Declaration. It breaches both China’s commitment that Hong Kong will enjoy a ‘high degree of autonomy’, and the right to freedom of speech.

Hong Kong is a special administrative region of the People’s Republic of China on the eastern Pearl River Delta of the South China Sea. Hong Kong became a colony of the British Empire after the Qing Empire ceded Hong Kong Island at the end of the First Opium War in 1842. The colony expanded to the Kowloon Peninsula in 1860 after the Second Opium War and was further extended when Britain obtained a 99-year lease of the New Territories in 1898. The whole territory was transferred to China in 1997 after obtaining guarantees to preserve its systems, freedoms, and way of life for at least 50 years in Hong Kong under the Basic Law. As a special administrative region, Hong Kong maintains separate governing and economic systems from that of mainland China under the principle of “one country, two systems”. Umbrella Movement was a political movement that emerged during the Hong Kong democracy protests of 2014. In June 2019, mass protests erupted in response to a proposed extradition amendment bill permitting extradition of fugitives to mainland China.

Japan & Australia sign landmark defence deal to counter China’s growing influence in South China Sea

- Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison have signed a landmark defence deal in a bid to counter China’s growing influence in the South China Sea and over the Pacific island nations.
- Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA) comes weeks after foreign ministers of the Quad alliance, which includes the US and India, met in Tokyo. The pact allows Japanese and Australian troops to visit each other’s countries and conduct training and joint operations.
- Australian Prime Minister said that the treaty will strengthen their security ties and facilitate cooperation between defence forces. The joint statement said, the two sides also agreed on the need for a framework to allow Japanese military to protect Australian forces if needed.

Naruhito is the Emperor of Japan. He acceded to the Chrysanthemum Throne on 1 May 2019, beginning the Reiwa era, following the abdication of his father, Emperor Akihito, on 30 April 2019. He is the 126th monarch according to Japan’s traditional order of succession. Yoshihide Suga is serving as Prime Minister of Japan. He was the chief cabinet secretary under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe from 2012 to 2020. Tokyo is the capital city of Japan and yen is the official currency of Japan and it is the third most traded currency in the foreign exchange market after the United States dollar and the euro.

Australia is the largest country in Oceania and the world’s sixth-largest country by total area. Australia’s capital is Canberra, and its largest city is Sydney. Scott Morrison is serving as the current Prime Minister of Australia. Elizabeth II is the Head of the Commonwealth and queen regnant of seven independent Commonwealth countries: the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, and Ceylon. The country’s other major metropolitan areas are Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, and Adelaide. Australia is a highly developed country, with the world’s fourteenth-largest economy.

World's first hydrogen powered double-decker buses

- **The world's first hydrogen-powered double decker bus was launched in Aberdeen, Scotland** which showcases the city as a trailblazer in hydrogen technologies. **The arrival of the first of the zero emission buses underlines the city's role as the energy capital of Europe** and shows its commitment to the transition of green energy from oil and gas as part of the Net Zero Vision.
- It is an attempt to reduce air pollution and transform the city into a green economy. A fleet of 15 such buses have been launched as part of the trial. These buses emit water vapour instead of carbon monoxide. The **UK's first hydrogen production and bus refuelling station was opened in Aberdeen in 2015**, as part of a £19million green transport demonstration project.

Scotland is a country that is part of the United Kingdom. Edinburgh is the capital city of Scotland. Nicola Sturgeon is the current First Minister of Scotland.

Green Climate Fund approves USD 256 million for Bangladesh

- **The Green Climate Fund has approved dollar 256 million for Bangladesh in grants and loans to meet its Green House Gas (GHG) emission reduction targets under the Paris agreement.**
- The financing is provided as an **integrated package for textile and Ready Made Garments (RMG) sectors of Bangladesh** are the largest industrial contributors in carbon emission.
- **The two sectors combined together contribute more than 27 percent of the industrial carbon emission** as they are working with old and outdated machines with poor energy management. **By 2030, Bangladesh is committed to reduce its GHG emission by 15 percent compared to business-as-usual scenario.**

Green Climate Fund (GCF) is a fund established within the framework of the UNFCCC as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism to assist developing countries in adaptation and mitigation practices to counter climate change. The GCF is based in Incheon, South Korea. It is governed by a Board of 24 members and supported by a Secretariat. **The current executive director is Yannick Glemarec. The objective of the Green Climate Fund is to "support projects, programmes, policies and other activities in developing country Parties using thematic funding windows".**

Australia to temporarily host ISRO satellite tracking facilities

- As part of steps to deepen cooperation in civil space activities, **the space agencies of India and Australia were working together to position temporarily Indian tracking facilities in Australia.**
- "These include earth observation and data analytics, robotics, and space life sciences. **This mission will see India become just the fourth nation to send a crew into space.** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has embarked on an ambitious plan to put an Indian in space by 2022 under Gaganyaan mission.

Britain, Canada ink rollover trade deal

- **Britain and Canada struck a rollover trade deal to protect the flow of 27 billion dollar-worth of goods and services between them after Brexit. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson joined Canada's Justin Trudeau and their respective trade ministers on an online call to mark the trade deal.**
- The deal paves the way for a tailor-made **agreement covering more areas such as digital trade, small businesses, the environment and women's economic empowerment.** UK's international trade secretary, said that the agreement underpins 20 billion pounds worth of trade and locks in certainty for thousands of jobs. **Britain is Canada's fifth largest trading partner after the United States, China, Mexico and Japan.**

London is the capital and most populous city of England and the United Kingdom. Pound sterling is the official currency of the United Kingdom. Boris Johnson is serving as the current Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Elizabeth II is Queen of the United Kingdom and the other Commonwealth realms. She is the longest-lived and longest-reigning British monarch as well as the world's longest-reigning queen regnant and female head of state, the oldest and longest-reigning current monarch and the oldest and longest-serving head of state.



RBI sets up innovation hub for financial sector under Kris Gopalakrishnan

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up an Innovation Hub for the financial sector and appointed Senapathy (Kris) Gopalakrishnan, co-founder and former co-chairman of Infosys, as the chairperson of the governing council for the entity.
- The central bank had said in its August monetary policy that it was going to set up a Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) to promote innovation across the financial sector by leveraging on technology and creating an environment which would facilitate and foster innovation.
- The aim of the RBIH is to create an eco-system that would “focus on promoting access to financial services and products. This will also promote financial inclusion.”

The Reserve Bank of India was founded on 1 April 1935 to respond to economic troubles after the First World War. RBI was conceptualised as per the guidelines, working style and outlook presented by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in his book titled “The Problem of the Rupee – Its origin and its solution” and presented to the Hilton Young Commission. The bank was set up based on the recommendations of the 1926 Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance, also known as the Hilton–Young Commission. In 1969, the Indira Gandhi-headed government nationalised 14 major commercial banks. Upon Indira Gandhi’s return to power in 1980, a further six banks were nationalised. The first Governor of the RBI was British banker Osborn Smith and C.D. Deshmukh was the first Indian Governor of RBI. Shashikant Das is the current Governor of RBI.

DIPAM inks agreement with World Bank

- Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) signed an agreement with World Bank. Under the agreement, World Bank is to provide advisory services to DIPAM for asset monetization.
- DIPAM is mandated with facilitating monetization of non-core assets of government CPSEs under strategic disinvestment or closure and enemy property of value of Rs. 100 crore and above. DIPAM has a framework for monetizing non-core assets.
- The World Bank advisory project, approved by the Finance Minister, is aimed at analyzing public asset monetization in India and benchmarking its institutional and business models against international best practices as well as supporting development of operational guidelines and capacity building for their implementation.

The Department of Disinvestment was one of the Departments under the Ministry of Finance. It was renamed as Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) from 14th April, 2016. According to the government, strategic disinvestment would imply the sale of a substantial portion of the Government shareholding of a central public sector enterprises (CPSE) of upto 50%, or such higher percentage as the competent authority may determine, along with transfer of management control.

Reserve Bank places Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd under moratorium

- In view of its weak financials, the Reserve Bank has placed the Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited under moratorium with immediate effect.

- Accordingly, **RBI has capped all cash withdrawals from the bank to twenty five thousand rupees**. According to the banking regulator, **the private sector lender has seen a steady decline in its financials with it incurring losses over the last three years**.
- It may be recalled that **the Karur based bank was placed under the Prompt Corrective Action framework in September 2019** and yet there was **no improvement in its position with declining advances and mounting non-performing assets**.
- Meanwhile, **RBI has appointed the former Non-Executive Chairman of Canara Bank, T. N. Manoharan as the banks' administrator for the moratorium period**.

Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited was an Indian private sector bank established in 1926 in Karur, Tamil Nadu. As of November 2020, the bank has 566 branches in 19 states and 1 union territory. On 27 November 2020, the bank was merged into DBS Bank.

Narendra Modi addressed Bloomberg New Economy Forum

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Bloomberg New Economy Forum**. The forum witnessed discussions **centered on refuelling the economy and charting a course for the future as the global economy grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic**.
- **The Bloomberg New Economy Forum, it added, was established in 2018 by Michael Bloomberg**. It seeks to build a community of leaders to engage in real conversations leading to actionable solutions about the critical challenges facing a world economy in the throes of a historic transition. **The inaugural forum was held in Singapore, and the second annual forum was hosted in Beijing**.

RBI names 2 startups as a part of its regulatory sandbox programme

- **Reserve Bank of India has announced the names of two startups that have been selected as a part of its regulatory sandbox programme**. RBI has shortlisted **six companies out of 32 entities that had applied for the 'Test Phase' of the first cohort**.
- **The two companies are Jaipur based Natural Support Consultancy Services Private Limited and New Delhi based Nucleus Software Exports Limited**.
- While the former has **named its product 'eRupaya', which will facilitate offline Person-to-Merchant transactions and offline digital payments in remote locations**; the second company's product **'PaySe', proposes to help in digitisation of payments in rural areas, starting with Self Help Groups, through an offline payment solution and a digitised SHG-centered ecosystem**.
- **The regulatory sandbox is a protected environment within which the selected companies will operate**. They will have to show their system's preparedness **while dealing with dummy data**. Once they achieve success within the protected environment, the systems will be allowed to be tested in the live environment with actual banks and consumer data.

Economic cooperation will be the focus at the SCO Council of Heads of Government on 30th Nov: Secretary General Vladimir Norov

- **SCO Secretary General Vladimir Norov has said that economic cooperation will be in focus at the upcoming SCO Council of Heads of Government under India's chairmanship on 30th November**. The SCO countries will be able to **overcome the crisis of economic losses caused by the pandemic**.
- **SCO as a grouping is paying special attention to measures to restore national economies in the post-Pandemic period**. SCO acted as a strong platform in cooperation against COVID-19 and highlighted the importance of the international community's efforts in strengthening the WHO's capacity

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a Eurasian political, economic, and security organisation, the creation of which was announced on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai, China by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan; the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Charter was signed in June 2002 and entered into force on 19 September 2003. India and Pakistan have become latest full members in SCO in 2017.

PMs of India and Bhutan virtually launched RuPay Card phase-2 in Bhutan

- **Prime Ministers of India and Bhutan virtually launched RuPay Card phase-2 in Bhutan.** The two Prime Ministers had jointly launched phase-1 of the project during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bhutan in August last year.
- **The implementation of phase-1 of RuPay cards in Bhutan has enabled Indian visitors in Bhutan to access ATMs and points of sale terminals across Bhutan. Bhutanese cardholders to access RuPay network in India.**

RuPay is a domestic card payment service conceived and launched by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) on 26 March 2012. It was created to fulfil the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) vision of establishing a domestic, open and multilateral system of payments. RuPay facilitates electronic payment at all Indian banks and financial institutions. RuPay cards were officially launched in Bhutan on 17 August 2019 with Prime Minister Modi making the first RuPay transaction in the country with a purchase from Simtokha Dzong.

India ranks 77 in global bribery risk matrix

- **India is at 77th position with a score of 45 in a global list that measures business bribery risks of 2020.** The list by TRACE, an anti-bribery standard setting organisation, measures business bribery risk in 194 countries, territories, and autonomous and semi-autonomous regions.
- **According to this year's data, North Korea, Turkmenistan, South Sudan, Venezuela and Eritrea present the highest commercial bribery risk, while Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden and New Zealand present the lowest. In 2019, India's rank stood 78 position with a score of 48 while in 2020 the country was ranked 77 with a score of 45, the data showed.**
- **The score is based on four factors -- business interactions with government, anti-bribery deterrence and enforcement, government and civil service transparency, and capacity for civil society oversight, including the role of the media.**

SBI Signs Pact with Luxembourg Stock Exchange

- **State Bank of India (SBI) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Luxembourg Stock Exchange (LuxSe).**
- **The MoU will help SBI and LuxSE set up a long-term cooperation mechanism, and promote ESG (Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance) and green finance.**
- **Through this MoU, the Luxembourg Stock Exchange would work towards creating a sustainable environment for issuers, asset managers, and investors in terms of ESG focused funds and bonds.**
- **SBI was the first Public Sector Bank in India to publish its Sustainability Report as per Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) framework."**

On April 1, 2017, the State Bank of India, which was India's largest bank, merged with five of its associate banks (State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala and State Bank of Travancore), and with the Bharatiya Mahila Bank. Rajnish Kumar is the current chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI). Imperial Bank of India was the oldest and the largest commercial bank of the Indian subcontinent, and was subsequently transformed into State Bank of India in 1955.

Nirmala Sitharaman attends G20 Finance Ministers' virtual meeting

- **Minister for Finance Nirmala Sitharaman virtually participated in the G20 Finance Ministers meeting in New Delhi.**
- **Finance Ministers of the G20 countries gathered to discuss their views on the global economic outlook and downside risks in wake of the COVID-19 crisis and how G20 could carry forward the collective global action initiated during the crisis.**
- **Ms Sitharaman also congratulated the Saudi Arabian Presidency for their tireless efforts and exceptional leadership to steer the G20 agenda in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Finance Minister shared that India looks forward to work with the Italian Presidency as a Troika member from December 2020.**

Nirmala Sitharaman is the current Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs of India. She is currently a member of the Rajya Sabha from Karnataka. Sitharaman formerly served as the Defence Minister of India, thereby becoming India's second female defence minister and also the second female finance minister after Indira Gandhi, and first full-time female Finance Minister. **Santosh Kumar Gangwar** is the Minister of State with independent charge in the Ministry of Labour and Employment in the Government of India.

132 countries attend 4th Global meet on criminal finances

- Over 2,000 representatives from 132 countries attended the virtual 4th Global Conference on Criminal Finances and Cryptocurrencies organised by the Interpol, Europol and the Basel Institute on Governance from November 18 to 19.
- "Representatives from law enforcement and the judiciary, Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs), international organisations and the private sector have met virtually to shape international cross-sector solutions against the criminal use of cryptocurrencies," said the Interpol.
- The conference is an initiative of the Working Group on Cryptocurrencies and Money Laundering established in 2016 by the three organisations, launched with an objective of strengthening knowledge, expertise and best practices for investigations into financial crimes and intelligence on virtual assets and cryptocurrencies.

Four Indian cities figured among the 36 cities all over the world as part of the G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance

- The four Indian cities- Indore, Faridabad, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad, figured among the 36 cities all over the world that have agreed to pioneer a roadmap for safely adopting new technology as part of the G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance.
- According to the statement released by World Economic Forum (WEF) on November 17, 2020, COVID-19 has been accelerating the adoption of new technology by the cities as the governments struggle for managing the growing pandemic with limited resources.

The World Economic Forum (WEF), based in Cologny, Geneva Canton, Switzerland, is an international NGO, founded in 1971. The WEF's mission is stated as "committed to improving the state of the world by engaging business, political, academic, and other leaders of society to shape global, regional, and industry agendas". The WEF hosts an annual meeting at the end of January in Davos, a mountain resort in Graubunden, in the eastern Alps region of Switzerland. The WEF was founded in 1971 by Klaus Schwab.

NCRTC and NDB sign USD 500m for Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Rapid Transit System Project

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, National Capital Region Transport Corporation Limited and the New Development Bank signed a loan agreement for lending 500 million dollars for the 'Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System Project'.
- The Rapid Transit System will provide a fast, reliable, safe and comfortable public transport system in the National Capital Region. Due to lack of efficient public transport options, the number of private vehicles in NCR has increased. It can take about 3 to 4 hours to travel between Delhi and Meerut in Uttar Pradesh by road during peak hours.
- Rapid growth in vehicular traffic has made NCR one of the most polluted regions in the world. Fast transit system will support in achieving the goal of sustainable urban development in NCR region including National Capital Territory of Delhi. It will activate processes which will enable sustainable economic and social development with environmental protection, for future generations.

New Development Bank (NDB), formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank, is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS states (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa). The bank is headquartered in Shanghai, China. The first regional office of the NDB is in Johannesburg, South Africa. Marcos Troyjo is the chief of the New Development Bank of BRICS countries.



Inventions/Discoveries

SpaceX's Dragon docks at Space Station with four astronauts

- The International Space Station welcomed four additional crew members with the arrival and docking of the SpaceX Dragon capsule after a 27-hour voyage.
- The spacecraft, dubbed “Resilience,” made a so-called soft capture docking at 11:01 p.m. U.S. Eastern time. The hard capture sequence completed about 15 minutes later, setting the stage for the crew to enter the space station in a few hours to begin a six-month science mission aboard the orbiting lab.
- The mission, which followed a successful test flight by SpaceX earlier this year with two astronauts, is the first in the history of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration with a full crew ferried by a commercial transporter. A second NASA vendor, Boeing Co., is working to overcome delays caused by software flaws before shuttling astronauts to the space station, possibly in 2021.
- The crew is comprised of NASA astronauts Michael Hopkins, Shannon Walker and Victor Glover, and Japanese astronaut Soichi Noguchi. They will join two Russian cosmonauts, Sergey Kud-Sverchkov and Sergey Ryzhikov, and NASA astronaut Kate Rubins. That trio arrived last month on Russia's Soyuz spacecraft.

Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (SpaceX) is an American aerospace manufacturer and space transportation services company headquartered in Hawthorne, California. SpaceX has developed several launch vehicles, the Starlink satellite constellation, the Dragon cargo spacecraft, and flown humans to the International Space Station on the SpaceX Dragon 2. Elon Reeve Musk is a business magnate and investor. He holds South African, Canadian, and U.S. citizenship and is the founder, CEO, and lead designer of SpaceX; co-founder, CEO, and product architect of Tesla, Inc.; co-founder and CEO of Neuralink; and co-founder of PayPal. As of October 2018, he has a net worth of \$19.8 billion and is listed by Forbes as the 46th-richest person in the world.

First ever vaccine listed under WHO emergency use

- WHO listed the nOPV2 vaccine (Bio Farma, Indonesia) for emergency use to address the rising cases of a vaccine-derived polio strain in a number of African and East Mediterranean countries.
- Countries in WHO's Western Pacific and South-East Asia regions are also affected by these outbreaks. The emergency use listing, or EUL, is the first of its kind for a vaccine and paves the way for potential listing of COVID-19 vaccines.
- The world has made incredible progress toward polio eradication, reducing polio cases by 99.9% in the last 30 years. But the last steps to ending this disease are proving the most difficult, particularly with continuing outbreaks of circulating vaccine-derived polio viruses (cVDPVs).
- cVDPVs are rare and occur if the weakened strain of the poliovirus contained in the oral polio vaccine (OPV) circulates among under-immunized populations for a long time. If not enough children are immunized against polio, the weakened virus can pass between individuals and over time genetically revert to a form that can cause paralysis. Type 2 cVDPVs are currently the most prevalent form of the vaccine-derived virus.

Poliomyelitis, commonly shortened to polio, is an infectious disease caused by the poliovirus. In about 0.5 percent of cases, it moves from the gut to affect the central nervous system and there is muscle weakness resulting in a flaccid paralysis. This can occur over a few hours to a few days. The first polio vaccine was developed in the 1950s by Jonas Salk. Soon after, Albert Sabin developed an oral vaccine, which has become the world standard. Only two countries worldwide continue to see wild poliovirus transmission: Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Indian astronomers collaborated with Nobel laureate on Thirty Meter Telescope project

- **2020 Physics Nobel Laureate Prof. Andrea Ghez had worked closely with Indian astronomers on the design of back-end instruments and possible science prospects of the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) project being installed at Maunakea in Hawaii, which can revolutionized the understanding of the universe and the enigmas in it.**
- **Besides, Prof. Ghez's remarkable contribution in the discovery of a super massive compact object at the center of our Galaxy along with Prof. Roger Penrose and Prof. Reinhard Genzel for which they shared the Nobel prize in physics, Prof. Ghez was deeply involved in the development of the related instrumentation and possible science prospects for the TMT, the next-generation observatory.**

IIT Guwahati scientists make breakthrough in developing efficient catalytic systems for biofuel, lactic acid production

- **IIT Guwahati Scientists make Breakthrough in Developing Efficient Catalytic Systems for Biofuel and Lactic Acid Production**
- **A research team led by IIT Guwahati Professors, Dr. Akshai Kumar Alape Seetharam, of the Department of Chemistry and Centre for Nanotechnology, Dr. Hemant Kumar Srivastava, currently at National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) Guwahati, research scholars Kanu Das, Moumita Dutta, Siriyara Jagannatha Prathapa, Eileen Yasmin and Dr. Babulal Das, have formulated efficient "pincer" catalytic systems that transform industrial/biomass wastes into valuable chemicals.**
- **Tiny amounts of these "pincer catalysts" repeatedly convert large amounts of industrial waste such as glycerol into lactic acid and hydrogen. Such catalysts also efficiently convert bioethanol, a low-energy density fuel, into high-energy density butanol.**

Indian Navy's fifth Scorpene class submarine Vagir launched

- **Indian Navy's fifth Scorpene class submarine 'Vagir' was launched at Mumbai's Mazagon Dock. Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik launched the submarine through video conferencing.**
- **Vagir is part of the six Kalvari-class submarines being built in India. The submarines, designed by French naval defence and energy company DCNS, are being built as part of Indian Navy's Project-75.**
- **Vagir, ex-Russia, named after the Sand Fish, a deadly deep sea predator of the Indian Ocean, was commissioned into the Indian Navy on December 3, 1973, and was decommissioned on June 7, 2001, after almost three decades of yeoman service to the nation.**
- **INS Kalvari, the first of the six Scorpene-class submarines, was launched in 2017, followed by Khanderi, Karanj and Vela. These submarines can undertake missions like anti- surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, intelligence gathering, mine laying, and area surveillance.**

Project-75 is a programme by the Indian Navy that entails building six Scorpene-Class attack submarines. The programme has been undertaken with transfer of technology from French company Naval Group (formerly known as DCNS) at the Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL). The submarines in the P75 Scorpene-Class are powered by the conventional diesel-electric propulsion system. The first Scorpene submarine, Kalvari, was commissioned in 2017 and Second Scorpene Khanderi was inducted in September 2019. The remaining submarines (Vela, Vagir, and Vagsheer) in the series are in advanced stages of manufacturing and trials.

India's Param Siddhi bags 63rd rank in list of 500 most powerful supercomputers in world: DST

- **Param Siddhi, the supercomputer established under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM), has achieved 63rd rank in the list of 500 most powerful supercomputers in the world.**

- “It is a historic first. **India has one of the largest supercomputer infrastructures in the world** and that is evidenced by the ranking that Param Siddhi-AI has received.”

The Government of India created an indigenous development programme as they had difficulty purchasing foreign supercomputers. As of June 2020, when ranking by **number of supercomputer systems in the TOP500 list**, **India is ranked 23rd in the world**. Pratyush and Mihir are the supercomputers established at Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune and National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecast (NCMRWF), Noida respectively. Pratyush and Mihir are the fastest supercomputer in India with a maximum speed of 6.8 PetaFlops at a total cost of INR 438.9 Crore.

L&T delivers first hardware for Gaganyaan to ISRO

- **Larsen & Toubro Ltd. (L&T)** has delivered the first hardware, a booster segment, for **Gaganyaan Launch Vehicle to ISRO** ahead of schedule.
- The segment was produced at **L&T's Powai Aerospace Manufacturing Facility, in Mumbai** meeting the enhanced quality and timeline requirements for India's maiden manned mission.

Gaganyaan is the Rs. 10,000-crore Indian human space flight scheduled for 2022. It is designed to have **3-7 crew members spend 3-7 days in space in a 400-km orbit**. The first of the two pre-Gaganyaan flights with a humanoid will be launched in 2020-end along with some of the six shortlisted microgravity experiments. **Four Indian Air Force (IAF) pilots, chosen as candidate-astronauts for India's first manned mission Gaganyaan, have begun training at the Gagarin Research and Test Cosmonaut Training Centre (GCTC) in Moscow, Russia.**

New species of vine snakes discovered

- **A team of researchers from the Centre for Ecological Sciences (CES), Indian Institute of Science (IISc)**, after extensive sampling across peninsular India, have **discovered new species of vine snakes in the region**.
- **Led by former IISc student Ashok Mallik**, working as part of his doctoral research, the team carried out field visits across India to collect morphological data, tissue samples and specimens to understand the patterns of distribution and diversification of vine snakes.
- Vine snakes are known to be among the most common snakes in peninsular India, **found even in many peri-urban areas wherever there is some greenery, and in the Western Ghats.**

Chandigarh PGIMER to get India's first dedicated animal house laboratory with advanced research facility

- **The department of radiodiagnosis and imaging** at the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research is installing the **country's first digital subtraction angiography (DSA) facility dedicated to basic research in animals**.
- **Professor MS Sandhu, head of the department of radiodiagnosis**, said the facility will aim at testing new drugs and hardware that can potentially be used for the treatment of human disorders.
- **The DSA machine is a sophisticated digital X-ray emitting machine**, which helps in the precise evaluation of vessels inside the human or animal body once an iodine-based contrast is injected into a specific vessel; it gives an exquisite display of the vascular system of that particular organ and the blood flow pattern.

Maharashtra's proposal to study distribution, population of Arabian Sea humpback whales

- **Maharashtra is the third state along the country's west coast**, which will **join the studies on the distribution and population of Arabian Sea humpback whales**. The initiative has already been undertaken by Karnataka and Goa, as part of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change's (MoEFCC) endangered species recovery programme.
- The MoEFCC said they had approved a proposal to support Maharashtra's plans to use a combination of acoustic and visual monitoring methods to **bridge the information gap for the whale species in the Indian waters**. **Maharashtra seeks to implement a community-based monitoring network to report sightings and strandings of such marine species.**

Nagpur's Gorewada zoo gets first tiger for Indian safari

- **The Gorewada International Zoo in Nagpur got its first tiger for the Indian safari**, work for which has almost been completed. **Rajkumar**, a 5.5-year-old male captured from Tumsar in Bhandara district last year, was transferred to the new zoo from Gorewada Rescue Centre, where it has been staying since its capture.
- **The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) has granted permission for two tigers**, seven leopards and six sloth bears initially for the Indian safari, which is likely to be inaugurated next month.

India's first child to have undergone liver transplant set to become doctor

- **Doctors at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital in the national capital** are eagerly waiting for the coming April, as **Kandasamy**, who had made history to undergo the **country's first paediatric liver transplant** as a 20-month child in 1998, will take the Hippocratic oath.
- **Kandasamy, who belongs to Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu, is full of beans about his feat.**

New Chinese submersible reaches Earth's deepest ocean trench

- **China livestreamed footage of its new manned submersible parked at the bottom of the Mariana Trench** part of a historic mission into the **deepest underwater valley on the planet.**
- **The "Fendouzhe", or "Striver", descended more than 10,000 metres (about 33,000 feet) into the submarine trench in the western Pacific Ocean with three researchers on board.**

Desert finch sighted for the first time in India

- **Birdwatchers photographed a desert finch in Sirsa district**, marking what is possibly the first sighting of this avian species in the country.
- As a passerine bird, native to southern Eurasia, the finch typically **resides at higher altitudes in south-west Pakistan, particularly Balochistan. However, it has not been previously reported from India.**

SPORTS



Sports Personalities in News

FIFA cancels Women's Under-17 football World Cup; India to host 2022 edition

- The Women's Under-17 football World Cup in India, which was initially postponed to next year due to COVID-19 pandemic, was cancelled by FIFA but India was handed the hosting rights of the 2022 edition.
- The FIFA cancelled both the women's U-17 World Cup and U-20 World Cup which were scheduled to be held in India and Costa Rica respectively but handed both the countries the hosting rights of the 2022 editions.
- All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Praful Patel said the local organising committee is ready to start afresh for hosting the 2022 edition.

ICC postpones women's T20 World Cup from 2022 to 2023

- The ICC had postponed the 50 over Women's World Cup slated in New Zealand from 2021 to 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and women's T20 cricket is also set to make its debut in the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

ATP Finals: Dominic Thiem defeats 20-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal

- In tennis, Dominic Thiem defeated 20-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal in straight sets at the ATP Finals in London.
- World number three Thiem of Austria clinched victory over world number two Spaniard Nadal.

India's first professional para badminton academy to open in Lucknow

- Dronacharya award winner Gaurav Khanna is credited with bringing para badminton into the spotlight in India. So, it's only fitting that the country's first professional academy for para badminton is named after him.
- Called Gaurav Khanna Excellia Badminton Academy (GKBA), this is India's first professional academy dedicated to para badminton and will formally open in December this year.

MISCELLANEOUS

Madhya Pradesh: Digital museum opens at Maharaj Bada in Gwalior

- In Madhya Pradesh, a digital museum has been opened at Maharaj Bada in Gwalior for the public. The museum is developed by Gwalior Smart City and entry for the public is being made free for a few days.
- It is the first center of its kind in Gwalior and Bundelkhand area and will play a role in educating school students. In the Digital Museum, the architectural styles, objects, costumes, lifestyle, musical instruments, jewelry, handicrafts, cultural tradition, painting and many genres of paintings have been digitally displayed in a modern way.

Operation 'Calypso': DRI busts international cocaine smuggling racket

- The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has busted an international drug smuggling racket with the seizure of over half a kg of cocaine couriered from Trinidad & Tobago to Mumbai. Codenamed 'Calypso', the operation spanning three days was carried out in Mumbai and Rajasthan's Udaipur.

BSF organizes Para-Cycling expedition 'Infinity Ride 2020'

- Border Security Force (BSF) is being organized a Para-Cycling expedition "Infinity Ride 2020", in association with Aditya Mehta Foundation. The expedition commenced from Srinagar and will culminate at Southern tip of India at Kanyakumari Tamil Nadu on 31st December this year. The expedition was flagged off by Rakesh Asthana, Director General of BSF at Nishat Bagh in Srinagar.
- The expedition is a part of national campaign to psychologically empower BSF's operational amputees and other Divyangjan (specially-abled). This venture is being conducted under the aegis of BSF's Divyang Skill Development Centre (DSDC), New Delhi.
- 28 participants are taking part in more than 3800 kms cycling, traversing the entire country. All the BSF Divyang riders underwent pre-expedition training at BSF Institute of Adventure & Advance Training (BIAAT), Dehradun. Aditya Mehta Foundation (AMF) has been a pioneer in raising awareness about para-sports in every nook and cranny of India.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveils two books

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled two books 'The Republican Ethic Volume III' and 'Loktantra Ke Swar' which are collections of selected speeches of President Ram Nath Kovind during the third year of his presidency. Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar unveiled the e-book versions of the two books.

Madhya Pradesh conducts 'Poshit Parivar-Suposhit Madhya Pradesh' campaign in all districts

- In Madhya Pradesh, a community-based nutrition management programme of very severely malnourished children is being conducted in all districts under the nurtured families - well nurtured Madhya Pradesh i.e. 'Poshit Parivar-Suposhit Madhya Pradesh' campaign.
- Under this campaign, very serious malnourished children are identified and after 12 weeks or 3 months of continuous effort after their registration, they are brought to normal nutrition level. Now, families, whose efforts have led to a change in the nutrition level of the severely malnourished children, will also be honoured under the campaign.

Supreme Court judge recuses himself in pleas against Andhra CM

- Supreme Court justice UU Lalit, 16 November recused himself from hearing pleas seeking to initiate proceedings of criminal contempt against Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jaganmohan Reddy for levelling allegations against a judge of the top court.
- "As a lawyer, I had represented these parties in litigation. I cannot take up this matter. Let this matter be listed at the earliest before any other judge decided by the CJI."
- CM Jagan in a letter to CJI SA Bobde on October 6, alleged that many judges of the Andhra Pradesh high court were biased against the state government and that Justice Ramana was influencing the HC roster and getting cases against the state government listed before such judges.

- **Attorney General KK Venugopal on November 2 refused to grant consent for initiating contempt against Jagan and his advisor over the issue, partly because the matter was already before CJI Bobde (in the form of the CM's letter).** However, he held that the conduct of the two to be "contumacious" and called the timing of the letter "suspect".

Amazon's Jeff Bezos names 16 beneficiaries to his \$10 bn climate fund

- **Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos has revealed the names of 16 environmental organisations that will receive a share of his \$10 billion fund for climate action.**
- **This is the first time the world's richest man has named the beneficiaries to the climate action fund since its announcement in February. The lists of grantees include international NGOs and climate justice groups, among others.**
- **They include: The Climate and Clean Energy Equity Fund, ClimateWorks Foundation, Dream Corps Green For All, Eden Reforestation Projects, Energy Foundation, Environmental Defense Fund, The Hive Fund for Climate and Gender Justice, Natural Resources Defense Council, The Nature Conservancy, NDN Collective, Rocky Mountain Institute, Salk Institute for Biological Studies, The Solutions Project, Union of Concerned Scientists, World Resources Institute and World Wildlife Fund. Collectively, these 16 organisations will receive \$791 million in donations.**

Himachal Pradesh CM flags off Medical Mobile Unit Jeevan Dhara

- **In order to provide complete range of health care services for people living in remote and inaccessible areas of Himachal Pradesh, the state government flagged off Medical Mobile Unit Jeevan Dhara, from the Ridge in Shimla.**
- **While flagging off this Mobile Health and Wellness Unit, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said the van would function as a Mobile Primary Health Centre.**

PM Narendra Modi lay foundation stone of rural drinking water supply projects in UP

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of rural drinking water supply projects in Mirzapur and Sonbhadra districts of Vindhyachal region of Uttar Pradesh on 22nd November through video conferencing.**
- **The total estimated cost of the projects is over five thousand 555 crore rupees. The projects are planned to be completed in 24 months. The projects will provide household tap water connections in all rural households of 2,995 villages and will benefit about 42 lakh population of these districts.**

First cow hospital of Northeast inaugurated in Assam's Dibrugarh

- **A cow shelter in Assam's Dibrugarh inaugurated Northeast's first-ever cow hospital on the occasion of Gopashtami. The hospital, Surbhi Aarogyashala, is set up by Shree Gopal Gaushala at a cost of Rs 17 lakh.**

Annual India International Cherry Blossom Festival in Shillong cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic

- **India International Cherry Blossom Festival, the calendar event of Meghalaya which attracts record number of tourists annually in Shillong, has been cancelled this year in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **The capital, Shillong hosts the only Cherry Blossoms festival in India. These beautiful flowers can be spotted across Meghalaya during this time of the year. It is expected that the flowers will continue to bloom till the end of November. But people of Meghalaya celebrate festivals through virtual mode.**

PERSONS IN NEWS

Election Commission names Sonu Sood as Punjab icon for ethical voting

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) has appointed actor Sonu Sood as the Punjab state icon to make people aware about ethical voting, an official statement in Chandigarh said.
- Punjab Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) S Karuna Raju said his office had sent a proposal to the ECI in this regard and they approved the same.
- Belonging to Punjab Moga's district, the actor became a national hero as he helped transport thousands of migrants stuck at various places to their homes during the Covid-19 induced lockdown.
- On September 30, he was honoured with the Special Humanitarian Action Award by the United Nations Development Programme for his efforts to help people in times of Covid-19.

CAG Girish Chandra Murmu elected to Geneva body

- The Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Girish Chandra Murmu, has been elected External Auditor of Inter Parliamentary Union, Geneva, for a three-year term. He will take charge of this position from the Supreme Audit Institution of Switzerland.

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

- The Centre has notified the Commission for Air Quality Management for the National Capital Region (NCR) to set up the new agency with sweeping powers to monitor and act against sources of air pollution across five north Indian states.
- The ordinance empowers the agency to make rules, set emission standards, and slap fines of up to Rs1 crore or imprison violators for up to five years. The Centre said former Delhi chief secretary MM Kutty will be the Commission's first chairperson. Kutty is also ex-secretary, ministry of petroleum and natural gas.

Rajat Sharma re-elected as president of News Broadcasters Association

- The News Broadcasters Association elected India TV Editor-in-Chief Rajat Sharma as the president for another term in 2020-21. At the NBA board meeting, the members unanimously asked Sharma, the chairman and editor-in-chief of India TV, to continue as the president.
- The board also elected Anuradha Prasad Shukla, chairperson-cum-managing director - News24 Broadcast India Ltd, as the vice president and M K Anand, managing director & chief executive officer - Times Network - Bennett, Coleman and Co. Ltd, Honorary Treasurer of the NBA for the year 2020-2021.

AWARDS

Scottish writer Douglas Stuart wins Booker prize for novel Shuggie Bain

- Scottish writer Douglas Stuart has won the 2020 Booker Prize for fiction with his debut novel **Shuggie Bain**, which described a boy growing up in Glasgow in the 1980s with a mother battling addiction.
- The awards ceremony saw six shortlisted authors joining virtually and included messages from former US President **Barack Obama**, the Duchess of Cornwall and former Booker winners Kazuo Ishiguro, Margaret Atwood and Bernardine Evaristo.
- Stuart, 44, won the prestigious 50,000 pound (\$66,000) award for his first published novel, the product of a decade of work. He was the only U.K.-born author on a U.S.-dominated list of six finalists for the prize, which is open to English-language novels from around the world.

Man Booker Prize for Fiction (formerly known as the Booker–McConnell Prize and commonly known simply as the Booker Prize) is a literary prize awarded each year for the best original novel written in the English language and published in the UK. The prize was originally known as the Booker–McConnell Prize, after the company Booker, McConnell Ltd began sponsoring the event in 1968; it became commonly known as the “Booker Prize” or simply “the Booker”. In 1970, Bernice Rubens became the first woman to win the Booker Prize, for *The Elected Member*.

NFDB confers four awards to Assam for success in fishery sector

- The National Fisheries Development Board has conferred four awards to Assam for the success in the fishery sector. Assam has got the best state award under the category of best hilly and North Eastern state.
- Assam Apex Cooperative Fish Marketing and Processing Federation Limited (FISHFED) has been selected under the category of best hilly and North eastern government organization.
- On the other hand, Nagaon district has been selected under best hilly and North Eastern district category while a Nalbari based farmer Amal Medhi is selected under hilly and North Eastern fish farmer category.

Karnataka Governor presents Doctor of Science honorary doctorate upon ISRO Chairman

- Karnataka Governor Vajubhai Vala presented Doctor of Science honorary doctorate upon ISRO Chairman K Sivan. In a simple ceremony in Bengaluru, the Doctorate was conferred on the ISRO chief. The Visvesvaraya Technological University has conferred the doctorate to him.
- The Governor highly praised the role of ISRO in defining our Space programme and the social role that it has played in the country.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Health Minister chairs an event to mark National New-born Week 2020

- **Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan chaired an event to mark the National Newborn Week 2020**, being observed from 15th to 21st November to reinforce the importance of newborn health as a key priority area of the health sector and to reiterate the commitment at the highest level.
- This year, the theme of National Newborn Week is ‘Quality, Equity, Dignity for every newborn at every health facility and everywhere’.
- Dr Vardhan said that the vision of the government is that **every child should survive, thrive, and reach their full potential**. He added that the Government is committed to work towards the health and development of all newborns.

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims

- **The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims takes place on the third Sunday (15 November, 2020) in November** every year as the appropriate acknowledgment of victims of road traffic crashes and their families.

World Toilet Day: 19 November

- **World Toilet Day (WTD) is an official United Nations international observance day on 19 November to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis**. It is about taking action to tackle the global sanitation crisis and achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030.
- This year the theme remarks the importance of “Sustainable sanitation and climate change”.

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Press Information Bureau of India

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Hindustan Times

QUESTIONS

1. According to a 2018 report on the 'vital statistics on India based on the Civil Registration System', which of the following states recorded the best sex ratio in the country with 1,085 females born per thousand males?
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Odisha (c) Nagaland (d) Arunachal Pradesh
2. Which of the following countries interim President Manuel Merino resigned recently as the nation plunged into its worst constitutional crisis in two decades following massive protests unleashed when Congress ousted the nation's popular leader?
(a) Mexico (b) Peru (c) Chile (d) Argentina
3. Recently, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, DIPAM signed an agreement with _____.
(a) Asian Development Bank (b) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
(c) Reserve Bank of India (d) World Bank
4. Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 12th BRICS Summit hosted by _____.
(a) South Africa (b) Russia (c) Brazil (d) China
5. Recently, The India Customs intercepted an 18-tonne shipment of red sandalwood destined for the United Arab Emirates, during a month-long _____ coordinated by the Interpol and the World Customs Organisation, which involved law enforcement agencies in 103 countries.
(a) "Operation Thunder 2020" (b) "Operation Thunderbolt 2020"
(c) "Operation Sandal 2020" (d) "Operation Bright 2020"
6. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the 'Statue of Peace' in _____ to mark the 151st Birth Anniversary celebrations of Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj.
(a) Rajasthan (b) Gujarat (c) Maharashtra (d) Madhya Pradesh
7. Tristan da Cunha is creating a marine protection zone to safeguard endangered rockhopper penguins, yellow-nosed albatross and other wildlife in an area of the _____ three times the size of the United Kingdom.
(a) South Atlantic (b) South Pacific (c) North Arctic (d) North Pacific
8. Who is the first chairperson of Air Quality Management for the National Capital Region (NCR) to set up the new agency with sweeping powers to monitor and act against sources of air pollution across five north Indian states?
(a) Paresh Sharma (b) Hitesh Niyamat (c) MM Kutty (d) C M Tejpuria
9. The 2020 Physics Nobel Laureate Prof. Andrea Ghez had worked closely with Indian astronomers on the design of back-end instruments and possible science prospects of the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) project being installed at _____ which can revolutionized the understanding of the universe and the enigmas in it.
(a) Maunakea in Hawaii (b) Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh
(c) Fertiut in Alaska (d) Leh in Ladakh
10. The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims takes place on the third _____ in November every year as the appropriate acknowledgment of victims of road traffic crashes and their families.
(a) Thursday (b) Saturday (c) Sunday (d) Monday
11. Nitish Kumar took oath as Bihar Chief Minister for the _____ time.
(a) Fifth (b) Sixth (c) Seventh (d) Eight
12. External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar has represented India at the 15th East Asia Summit (EAS). The virtual summit was chaired by _____.
(a) Indonesia (b) Vietnam (c) Singapore (d) Malaysia

13. The second phase of Exercise Malabar 2020 is held in the _____.
 (a) Northern Arabian Sea (b) Bay of Bengal
 (c) Indian Ocean (d) Pacific Ocean
14. The ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) has won a majority in the general elections of Myanmar which took place on November 8. According to the constitution, _____ percent seats in Myanmar parliament are reserved for candidates nominated by the army.
 (a) 25 (b) 35 (c) 40 (d) 45
15. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up an Innovation Hub for the financial sector and appointed _____ as the chairperson of the governing council for the entity.
 (a) M. Subramanyan (b) Sudhakar Rao (c) Kris Gopalakrishnan (d) K.R. Ramana
16. The Fifteenth Finance Commission presented a copy of its report to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The report titled 'Finance Commission in COVID Times' deals with the ratio in which the taxes are to be divided between the Centre and States in the upcoming next _____ years.
 (a) Two (b) Three (c) Four (d) Five
17. The International Space Station welcomed _____ additional crew members with the arrival and docking of the SpaceX Dragon capsule after a 27-hour voyage.
 (a) Two (b) Three (c) Four (d) Five
18. The fifth Scorpene conventional submarine, _____, being built by the Mazagon Docks Limited (MDL) with technology transfer from France was launched into water.
 (a) Kaveri (b) Kanderi (c) Vagir (d) Virat
19. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has appointed actor _____ as the Punjab state icon to make people aware about ethical voting.
 (a) Ranveer Singh (b) Sonu Sood (c) Salman Khan (d) Aamir Khan
20. Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos has revealed the names of _____ environmental organisations that will receive a share of his \$10 billion fund for climate action.
 (a) 10 (b) 12 (c) 16 (d) 20
21. The first solar power-enabled Textile Mill in Asia is coming up in _____.
 (a) Latur district (b) Parbhani district (c) Surat district (d) Darbhanga district
22. The Indian Navy is set to begin sea trials of its new aircraft carrier named after the erstwhile _____ which was decommissioned in January 1997.
 (a) INS Vikrant (b) INS Virat (c) INS Vishwanath (d) INS Vishant
23. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Bengaluru Tech Summit, 2020 this month via video conferencing. The theme of the summit is _____.
 (a) "Next is Now" (b) "Be What You Are" (c) "Next is Best" (d) "India at it's peak"
24. Recently, The ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) has won a majority in the general elections of _____.
 (a) Singapore (b) Maldives (c) Mauritius (d) Myanmar
25. In view of its weak financials, the Reserve Bank has placed the _____ under moratorium with immediate effect.
 (a) Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited (b) Utkash Small Finance Bank
 (c) Ujjivan Small Bank (d) Paytm Bank Pvt. Ltd.

26. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Bloomberg New Economy Forum. The inaugural forum was held in _____.
 (a) Beijing (b) Paris (c) Singapore (d) London
27. Name the supercomputer which was established under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) which has achieved 63rd rank in the list of 500 most powerful supercomputers in the world.
 (a) Param Siddhi (b) Sushmita (c) Param Shatra (d) Roshan
28. Recently, A team of researchers from the Centre for Ecological Sciences (CES), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), after extensive sampling across peninsular India, have discovered new species of vine snakes, most common in _____.
 (a) Western Ghats (b) Eastern Ghats (c) Eastern Himalayas (d) Ladakh
29. Which of the following companies has delivered the first hardware, a booster segment, for Gaganyaan Launch Vehicle to ISRO ahead of schedule?
 (a) Reliance Energy Limited (b) Larsen & Toubro Ltd.
 (c) RITES (d) Jindal Energy Limited
30. World Toilet Day is celebrated every year on:
 (a) 14th November (b) 16th November (c) 17th November (d) 19th November
31. Which of the following has launched the world's first hydrogen powered double-decker buses?
 (a) Scotland's Aberdeen (b) Spain's Madrid
 (c) Germany's Zurich (d) Ireland's Dublin
32. India's first project under the newly formed Convergence Energy Services Limited (Convergence) will be set up in:
 (a) Goa (b) Sikkim (c) Assam (d) Punjab
33. Recently, which of the following states has been conferred four awards for the success in the fishery sector by National Fisheries Development Board?
 (a) Nagaland (b) Bihar (c) Assam (d) Uttar Pradesh
34. Which of the following paramilitary forces is organized a Para-Cycling expedition "Infinity Ride 2020", in association with Aditya Mehta Foundation?
 (a) Border Security Force (BSF) (b) Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
 (c) Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) (d) Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
35. Recently, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison have signed a landmark defence deal in a bid to counter China's growing influence in the _____ and over the Pacific island nations.
 (a) South China Sea (b) Paracel Islands (c) Arctic Ocean (d) Indian Ocean
36. Recently, Reserve Bank of India has announced the names of two startups that have been selected as a part of its regulatory _____ programme.
 (a) Paperbox (b) Sandbox (c) Moneybox (d) Mudrabox
37. SCO Council of Heads of Government is to hold under the chairmanship of:
 (a) Russia (b) China (c) India (d) Turkmenistan
38. The department of radiodiagnosis and imaging at the _____ is installing the country's first digital subtraction angiography (DSA) facility dedicated to basic research in animals.
 (a) Puducherry PGIMER (b) Chandigarh PGIMER
 (c) AIIMS, Delhi (d) AFMC, Pune

39. Which of the following countries received the hosting rights of the 2022 edition of Women's Under-17 football World Cup by FIFA?
 (a) Malaysia (b) Japan (c) India (d) South Korea
40. Recently, In order to provide complete range of health care services for people living in remote and inaccessible areas of _____, the state government flagged off Medical Mobile Unit Jeevan Dhara.
 (a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Maharashtra (d) Haryana
41. The group of five countries is also known as 'Five Eyes' alliance. Which of the following countries is not part of this alliance?
 (a) Germany (b) New Zealand
 (c) United States of America (d) Canada
42. Recently, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled two books 'The Republican Ethic Volume III' and 'Loktantra Ke Swar' which are collections of selected speeches of:
 (a) President Ram Nath Kovind (b) Vice President Venkai Naidu
 (c) Prime Minister Narendra Modi (d) Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar
43. Who among the following inaugurated the virtual 3rd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo (RE-INVEST 2020), on 26th November?
 (a) Prime Minister Narendra Modi
 (b) President Ramnath Kovind
 (c) Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar
 (d) Power Minister R.K.Singh
44. In which of the following states, a community-based nutrition management programme of very severely malnourished children is being conducted in all districts in November 2020?
 (a) Assam (b) West Bengal (c) Bihar (d) Madhya Pradesh
45. Recently, The Green Climate Fund has approved dollar 256 million for _____ in grants and loans to meet its Green House Gas (GHG) emission reduction targets under the Paris agreement.
 (a) Bangladesh (b) Pakistan (c) Nepal (d) India
46. India is at _____ position in 2020 in a global list by TRACE, an anti-bribery standard setting organization that measures business bribery risk in 194 countries.
 (a) 32nd (b) 45th (c) 64th (d) 77th
47. The Prime Ministers of India and _____ virtually launched RuPay Card phase-2 in November 2020.
 (a) Nepal (b) Myanmar (c) Maldives (d) Bhutan
48. Recently, The ICC had postponed the 50 over Women's World Cup slated in _____ from 2021 to 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 (a) New Zealand (b) Australia (c) Canada (d) Bangladesh
49. In tennis, who defeated 20-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal in straight sets at the ATP Finals in London?
 (a) Andy Murray (b) Dominic Thiem (c) Novak Djokovic (d) Roger Federer
50. Who has been recently re-elected as president of News Broadcasters Association?
 (a) Anuradha Prasad (b) Rajat Sharma (c) Arnab Goswami (d) Deepak Chaurasiya
51. Who has been elected as External Auditor of Inter Parliamentary Union, Geneva, for a three-year term?
 (a) Girish Chandra Murmu (b) Rajiv Mahirishi
 (c) Rajeev Gauba (d) Deepak Luthra

52. Recently, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister launched the first State BioEconomy Report. According to the report, Karnataka's BioEconomy has grown by 14 to 17 percent in the previous two years, contributing _____ percent to the Gross State Domestic Product GSDP.
(a) 5.6 (b) 6.7 (c) 8.7 (d) 10.3
53. Recently, Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan chaired an event to mark the National Newborn Week 2020. This year, the theme of National Newborn Week is:
(a) 'Quality, Equity, Dignity for every newborn at every health facility and everywhere
(b) Equity and Quality monitoring
(c) Equity and Dignity for every new born
(d) Quality Everywhere and Every Possibility
54. Recently, _____ has released the backend code of Aarogya Setu App in open domain.
(a) Ministry of Education
(b) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
(c) Ministry of Home Affairs
(d) Ministry of Rural Development
55. As part of steps to deepen cooperation in civil space activities, the space agencies of India and were working together to position temporarily Indian tracking facilities.
(a) Australia (b) New Zealand (c) Indonesia (d) Malaysia
56. Which of the following banks has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Luxembourg Stock Exchange (LuxSe) recently?
(a) State Bank of India (b) Bank of Baroda
(c) Punjab National Bank (d) Canara Bank
57. Recently, Minister for Finance Nirmala Sitharaman virtually participated in the G20 Finance Ministers meeting in _____.
(a) Mumbai (b) Kolkata (c) New Delhi (d) Lucknow
58. India's first child to have undergone liver transplant and is set to become doctor is
(a) Kandasamy (b) Manish Chopra (c) Subendu Sarkar (d) Radharaman Iyer
59. The Gorewada International Zoo in _____ has recently got its first tiger for the Indian safari, work for which has almost been completed.
(a) Nagpur (b) Mysuru (c) Solapur (d) Panaji
60. Who won the 2020 Booker Prize for fiction with his debut novel Shuggie Bain, which described a boy growing up in Glasgow in the 1980s with a mother battling addiction?
(a) Michael Smith (b) Thomas Bun (c) Douglas Stuart (d) Albert Evaristo
61. Recently, Indian Navy is hosted the 27th edition of _____ Bilateral Maritime Exercise SIMBEX-20 in Andaman Sea.
(a) India – Singapore (b) India – Seychelles (c) India – Canada (d) India-Indonesia
62. Which of the following countries is to host G20 Summit in 2023?
(a) Italy (b) Indonesia (c) India (d) Canada
63. Recently, Karnataka Governor Vajubhai Vala presented Doctor of Science honorary doctorate by Visvesvaraya Technological University upon _____.
(a) Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation G. Satheesh Reddy
(b) Director General (Aeronautical Systems) Dr Tessy Thomas
(c) Minister of Science and Technology Dr. Harshvardhan
(d) ISRO Chairman K Sivan

64. Recently, the 15th G20 Summit was held in a virtual format. The two-day Summit is chaired by _____.
(a) Russia (b) France (c) Canada (d) Saudi Arabia
65. Recently, _____ livestreamed footage of its new manned submersible parked at the bottom of the Mariana Trench part of a historic mission into the deepest underwater valley on the planet.
(a) Japan (b) China (c) Australia (d) New Zealand
66. Recently, Birdwatchers photographed a desert finch in _____ district, marking what is possibly the first sighting of this avian species in the country.
(a) Sirsa (b) Rohtak (c) Bikaner (d) Jaisalmer
67. Dronacharya award winner _____ is credited with bringing the country's first professional academy for para badminton, named after him.
(a) Vikrant Thapar (b) Gaurav Khanna (c) Surendra Patil (d) Amit Panghal
68. A cow shelter in Assam's _____ inaugurated Northeast's first-ever cow hospital on the occasion of Gopashtami.
(a) Majuli (b) Dispur (c) Guwahati (d) Dibrugarh
69. Recently, Over 2,000 representatives from _____ countries attended the virtual 4th Global Conference on Criminal Finances and Cryptocurrencies organised by the Interpol, Europol and the Basel Institute on Governance.
(a) 77 (b) 89 (c) 112 (d) 132
70. India International Cherry Blossom Festival, the calendar event of _____ which attracts record number of tourists annually, has been cancelled this year in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic.
(a) Nagaland (b) Sikkim (c) Manipur (d) Meghalaya



ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. d According to a 2018 report on the 'vital statistics on India based on the Civil Registration System', Arunachal Pradesh recorded the best sex ratio in the country with 1,085 females born per thousand males
2. b Peru's interim President Manuel Merino resigned as the nation plunged into its worst constitutional crisis in two decades following massive protests unleashed when Congress ousted the nation's popular leader.
3. d Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, DIPAM signed an agreement with World Bank.
4. b Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 12th BRICS Summit hosted by Russia on November 17.
5. a The India Customs intercepted an 18-tonne shipment of red sandalwood destined for the United Arab Emirates, during a month-long "Operation Thunder 2020", coordinated by the Interpol and the World Customs Organisation, which involved law enforcement agencies in 103 countries.
6. a Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the 'Statue of Peace' in Rajasthan to mark the 151st Birth Anniversary celebrations of Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj.
7. a Tristan da Cunha, an island with 245 permanent residents, is creating a marine protection zone to safeguard endangered rockhopper penguins, yellow-nosed albatross and other wildlife in an area of the South Atlantic three times the size of the United Kingdom.
8. c The Centre said former Delhi chief secretary MM Kutty will be the Commission's first chairperson. Kutty is also ex-secretary, ministry of petroleum and natural gas.
9. a 2020 Physics Nobel Laureate Prof. Andrea Ghez had worked closely with Indian astronomers on the design of back-end instruments and possible science prospects of the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) project being installed at Maunakea in Hawaii, which can revolutionized the understanding of the universe and the enigmas in it.
10. c The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims takes place on the third Sunday in November every year as the appropriate acknowledgment of victims of road traffic crashes and their families.
11. c Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar made history after he took oath for the top post for the fourth consecutive term to become the longest serving chief minister of the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA). He took oath as Bihar Chief Minister for the seventh time with two Deputy Chief Ministers from the BJP — four-time Katihar MLA Tarkishore Prasad and four-time Bettiah MLA Renu Devi.
12. b External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar has represented India at the 15th East Asia Summit (EAS) which will discuss ways to strengthen the platform and to make it more responsive to emerging challenges on its 15th anniversary. The virtual summit was chaired by Vietnamese Prime Minister, Nguyen Xuan Phuc and will see the participation of all eighteen East Asian countries.
13. a The second phase of Exercise Malabar 2020 begins in the Northern Arabian Sea. Taking forward the synergy achieved in the recently concluded Phase One of Exercise Malabar 2020, which was conducted earlier this month, this phase will involve coordinated operations of increasing complexity between the navies of Australia, India, Japan and the United States.
14. a The ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) has won a majority in the general elections of Myanmar which took place on November 8. The Union Election Commission (UEC) of Myanmar made the formal announcement through its official list of winning candidates. According to the constitution, 25 percent seats in Myanmar parliament are reserved for candidates nominated by the army.

- 15. c** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up an Innovation Hub for the financial sector and appointed Senapathy (Kris) Gopalakrishnan, co-founder and former co-chairman of Infosys, as the chairperson of the governing council for the entity.
- 16. d** The Fifteenth Finance Commission presented a copy of its report to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The report titled 'Finance Commission in COVID Times' deals with the ratio in which the taxes are to be divided between the Centre and States in the upcoming next five years.
- 17. c** The International Space Station welcomed four additional crew members with the arrival and docking of the SpaceX Dragon capsule after a 27-hour voyage. The mission, which followed a successful test flight by SpaceX earlier this year with two astronauts, is the first in the history of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration with a full crew ferried by a commercial transporter.
- 18. c** The fifth Scorpene conventional submarine, Vagir, being built by the Mazagon Docks Limited (MDL) with technology transfer from France was launched into water.
- 19. b** The Election Commission of India (ECI) has appointed actor Sonu Sood as the Punjab state icon to make people aware about ethical voting, an official statement in Chandigarh said. Punjab Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) S Karuna Raju said his office had sent a proposal to the ECI in this regard and they approved the same.
- 20. c** Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos has revealed the names of 16 environmental organisations that will receive a share of his \$10 billion fund for climate action. This is the first time the world's richest man has named the beneficiaries to the climate action fund since its announcement in February.
- 21. b** In Maharashtra, the first solar power-enabled Textile Mill in Asia is coming up in Parbhani district.
- 22. a** The Indian Navy is set to begin sea trials of its new aircraft carrier named after the erstwhile INS Vikrant which was decommissioned in January 1997.
- 23. a** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Bengaluru Tech Summit, 2020 this month via video conferencing. The theme of the summit is "Next is Now".
- 24. d** The ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) has won a majority in the general elections of Myanmar which took place on November 8.
- 25. a** In view of its weak financials, the Reserve Bank has placed the Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited under moratorium with immediate effect.
- 26. c** The inaugural forum was held in Singapore, and the second annual forum was hosted in Beijing.
- 27. a** Param Siddhi, the supercomputer established under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM), has achieved 63rd rank in the list of 500 most powerful supercomputers in the world.
- 28. a** Vine snakes are known to be among the most common snakes in peninsular India, found even in many peri-urban areas wherever there is some greenery, and in the Western Ghats.
- 29. b** Larsen & Toubro Ltd. (L&T) has delivered the first hardware, a booster segment, for Gaganyaan Launch Vehicle to ISRO ahead of schedule.
- 30. d** World Toilet Day is celebrated every year on 19th November.
- 31. a** Scotland's Aberdeen has launched the world's first hydrogen powered double-decker buses.

- 32. a** Department of New & Renewable Energy (DNRE), Goa, together with Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture of PSUs under the Ministry of Power signed a memorandum of understanding to discuss rolling out of India's first project under the newly formed Convergence Energy Services Limited (Convergence) in the State.
- 33. c** The National Fisheries Development Board has conferred four awards to Assam for the success in the fishery sector.
- 34. a** Border Security Force (BSF) is organized a Para-Cycling expedition "Infinity Ride 2020", in association with Aditya Mehta Foundation.
- 35. a** Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison have signed a landmark defence deal in a bid to counter China's growing influence in the South China Sea and over the Pacific island nations.
- 36. b** Reserve Bank of India has announced the names of two startups that have been selected as a part of its regulatory sandbox programme.
- 37. c** SCO Secretary General Vladimir Norov has said that economic cooperation will be in focus at the upcoming SCO Council of Heads of Government under India's chairmanship on 30th November.
- 38. b** Chandigarh PGIMER to get India's first dedicated animal house laboratory with advanced research facility.
- 39. c** The Women's Under-17 football World Cup in India, which was initially postponed to next year due to COVID-19 pandemic, was cancelled by FIFA but India was handed the hosting rights of the 2022 edition.
- 40. a** In order to provide complete range of health care services for people living in remote and inaccessible areas of Himachal Pradesh, the state government flagged off Medical Mobile Unit Jeevan Dhara
- 41. a** Foreign ministers from the United States, Australia, Britain, Canada and New Zealand have urged China to reconsider its actions against Hong Kong's elected legislature and immediately reinstate the Legislative Council members.
- 42. a** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled two books 'The Republican Ethic Volume III' and 'Loktantra Ke Swar' which are collections of selected speeches of President Ram Nath Kovind during the third year of his presidency.
- 43. a** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the virtual 3rd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo (RE-INVEST 2020), on 26th of this month.
- 44. d** In Madhya Pradesh, a community-based nutrition management programme of very severely malnourished children is being conducted in all districts under the nurtured families - well nurtured Madhya Pradesh i.e. 'Poshit Parivar-Suposhit Madhya Pradesh' campaign.
- 45. a** The Green Climate Fund has approved dollar 256 million for Bangladesh in grants and loans to meet its Green House Gas (GHG) emission reduction targets under the Paris agreement.
- 46. d** India is at 77th position with a score of 45 in a global list that measures business bribery risks of 2020.
- 47. d** Prime Ministers of India and Bhutan virtually launched RuPay Card phase-2.
- 48. a** The ICC had postponed the 50 over Women's World Cup slated in New Zealand from 2021 to 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic

- 49. b** In tennis, Dominic Thiem defeated 20-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal in straight sets at the ATP Finals in London.
- 50. b** The News Broadcasters Association elected India TV Editor-in-Chief Rajat Sharma as the president for another term in 2020-21.
- 51. a** The Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Girish Chandra Murmu, has been elected External Auditor of Inter Parliamentary Union, Geneva, for a three-year term.
- 52. d** According to the report, Karnataka's BioEconomy has grown by 14 to 17 percent in the previous two years, contributing 10.3 percent to the Gross State Domestic Product GSDP.
- 53. a** This year, the theme of National Newborn Week is 'Quality, Equity, Dignity for every newborn at every health facility and everywhere.
- 54. b** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has released the backend code of Aarogya Setu App in open domain.
- 55. a** As part of steps to deepen cooperation in civil space activities, the space agencies of India and Australia were working together to position temporarily Indian tracking facilities in Australia.
- 56. a** State Bank of India (SBI) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Luxembourg Stock Exchange (LuxSe).
- 57. c** Minister for Finance Nirmala Sitharaman virtually participated in the G20 Finance Ministers meeting in New Delhi.
- 58. a** Doctors at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital in the national capital are eagerly waiting for the coming April, as Kandasamy, who had made history to undergo the country's first paediatric liver transplant as a 20-month child in 1998, will take the Hippocratic oath
- 59. a** The Gorewada International Zoo in Nagpur got its first tiger for the Indian safari, work for which has almost been completed.
- 60. c** Scottish writer Douglas Stuart has won the 2020 Booker Prize for fiction with his debut novel Shuggie Bain, which described a boy growing up in Glasgow in the 1980s with a mother battling addiction.
- 61. a** Indian Navy is hosted the 27th edition of India - Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise SIMBEX-20 in Andaman Sea.
- 62. c** G20 leaders announced that India will host the summit of the high-profile grouping in 2023 — a year later than what was decided earlier.
- 63. d** Karnataka Governor Vajubhai Vala presented Doctor of Science honorary doctorate upon ISRO Chairman K Sivan.
- 64. d** The 15th G20 Summit was held in a virtual format. The two-day Summit is chaired by Saudi Arabia.
- 65. b** China livestreamed footage of its new manned submersible parked at the bottom of the Mariana Trench part of a historic mission into the deepest underwater valley on the planet.
- 66. a** Birdwatchers photographed a desert finch in Sirsa district, marking what is possibly the first sighting of this avian species in the country.

- 67. b** Dronacharya award winner Gaurav Khanna is credited with bringing para badminton into the spotlight in India. So, it's only fitting that the country's first professional academy for para badminton is named after him.
- 68. d** A cow shelter in Assam's Dibrugarh inaugurated Northeast's first-ever cow hospital on the occasion of Gopashtami.
- 69. d** Over 2,000 representatives from 132 countries attended the virtual 4th Global Conference on Criminal Finances and Cryptocurrencies organised by the Interpol, Europol and the Basel Institute on Governance
- 70. d** India International Cherry Blossom Festival, the calendar event of Meghalaya which attracts record number of tourists annually in Shillong, has been cancelled this year in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic.



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