

Top Current Affairs of the Week (15 – 21 Nov 2020)

Govt rolls out Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana

- Union Finance Minister has announced new scheme named as **Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana** to incentivize job creation during COVID-19 recovery
- **Beneficiaries:** Any new employee joining employment in EPFO registered establishments on monthly wages less than Rs.15,000
- Centre will provide subsidy for **2 years** in respect of new eligible employees engaged on or after 01.10.2020
- The scheme will be effective from **October 1, 2020** and will be operational till **30th June 2021**.

China successfully launches world's first 6G communications test satellite

- **China** has successfully launched **world's first 6G experiment satellite**, along with 12 other satellites into the orbit
- Satellites were launched from the **Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center, Shanxi Province** from **Long March-6 carrier rocket**
- With this, China has become the world's first country to test **6G technology**.
- 6G technology is expected to be over 100 times faster than 5G.
- The satellite can even be used for crop disaster monitoring and forest fire prevention.

Indian Navy Ship Vagir launched at Mazgaon Dock in Mumbai.

- Indian Navy's fifth Kalvari-class Diesel Electric attack submarine INS Vagir has been launched.
- It is being constructed by Mazagon Dock Ltd (MDL) in Mumbai.
- The other vessels in the class are INS Kalvari, INS Khanderi, INS Karanj, INS Vela and INS Vagsheer.
- Vagir has been named after a Sand Fish, a predatory marine species.
- Kalvari class of submarines design is based on Scorpene class of submarines of French defence major Naval Group and Spanish counterpart

Lonar Lake in Maharashtra selected under 'Ramsar site'

- **Lonar Lake** in Buldhana district of Maharashtra has been chosen as wetland site of international importance under Ramsar conservation treaty.
- Ramsar Site is a wetland site designated to be of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. whose name comes from Ramsar City of Iran, where this treaty was signed.
- **Ramsar Convention:** It is an intergovernmental environmental treaty established in 1971 by UNESCO and came into force in 1975.

Lewis Hamilton wins F1 Turkish Grand Prix 2020

- Mercedes racer **Lewis Hamilton** (Great Britain) has won **2020 Turkish Grand Prix** at the Istanbul Park Circuit.
- This was his **10th victory of the season**, and 94th F1 victory of his career.
- It was the **14th F1 race of the 2020 season**.
- With this victory, he claimed the seventh Formula One championships title of his career to equal the record of Michael Schumacher.

- **Sergio Perez** (Racing Point-BWT- Mexico) secured second position and **Sebastian Vettel** of Ferrari finished third.

Tristan da Cunha declared fully protected marine reserves in Atlantic Ocean

- **Tristan da Cunha** has been declared the **largest fully protected marine reserves in the Atlantic Ocean** at 687,000 square km
- **Tristan da Cunha:** Remote group of volcanic islands in south Atlantic Ocean. It is the most remote human settlement archipelago in the world
- It is home to 10 millions of seabirds and unique land birds
- After joining UK's Blue Belt, it will become the largest no-take zone in Atlantic
- This will close over 90% of their waters to harmful activities

Asia-Pacific countries sign world's biggest free trade deal

- **15 Asia Pacific countries** have signed world's biggest free trade deal led by China on sidelines of **37th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit**.
- Deal titled as '**Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)**', is the world's largest trading bloc comprising of 10 Southeast Asian countries as well as South Korea, China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand.
- RCEP members accounts for 1/3rd of world's population and 29% of GDP
- India has joined RCEP as an observer

World's first Tram library for children launched in Kolkata

- World's first library on tram for children, 'Kolkata Young Reader's Tramcar' was launched in Kolkata on the occasion of children's day (14 November 2020).
- **Tram:** Rail vehicle that runs on tramway tracks along public streets
- It will run on **Shyambazar-Esplanade and Esplanade-Gariahat routes**, spanning across north and south Kolkata, every day from morning to evening.
- It has been jointly developed by **West Bengal Transport Corporation (WBTC)** and **Apeejay Anand Children's Library**

Union Labour Ministry Notifies Draft Rules under Code on Social Security

- **Union Ministry of Labour and Employment** has notified draft rules under **Code on Social Security, 2020** inviting objections and suggestions from the stakeholders.
- Duration for suggestions: 45 days
- Draft rules provide for operationalization of provisions in the Code on Social Security, 2020 relating to EPF, ESIC, Gratuity, Maternity Benefit, Social Security and Cess, Social Security for Unorganised Workers, Gig Workers and Platform Workers.

Keetham lake in Uttar Pradesh added to Ramsar sites

- **Keetham lake**, which is also known as Sur Sarovar, in Agra, Uttar Pradesh has been added to Ramsar sites list.
- The site was declared as **National Bird Sanctuary** in 1991 by **U.P. Forest Department**
- Recently, Lonar lake of Maharashtra and Kabartal of Bihar have also been given Ramsar status

- **Ramsar Site:** Wetland site designated to be of international importance under Ramsar Convention.
- Wetlands declared as Ramsar sites are protected under strict guidelines of the convention.

CSIR-SERC develops indigenous Emergency Retrieval System (ERS) for Power

- **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) lab Structural Engineering Research Centre (SERC), Chennai** has developed indigenous technology named as **Emergency Retrieval System (ERS)**, for quick retrieval of power transmission in the event of failure of transmission line towers.
- **CSIR-SERC** has signed an agreement for licensing with M/s **Advait Infratech, Ahmedabad** for this
- Currently, ERS systems are imported.
- It will reduce the cost enhancing Indian power sector.

Nitish Kumar takes oath as Chief minister of Bihar

- **Nitish Kumar** (NDA) took oath as the **Chief Minister of Bihar** at Patna's Raj Bhavan, administered by Bihar Governor Phagu Chauhan
- He has been sworn in as Bihar's CM for the seventh time.
- **Tarkishore Prasad** and **Renu Devi** from BJP were sworn in as deputy Chief Ministers
- 14 other ministers took oath, 5 from Janata Dal (United), 7 from BJP, and 1 each from Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) and Vikasheel Insaan Party (VIP).
- NDA won 125 seats in the 243-member assembly.

PM Modi unveils 'Statue of Peace' on Jainacharya Vallabh birth anniversary

- PM Narendra Modi has unveiled '**Statue of Peace**' to mark **151st Birth Anniversary celebrations of Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj**.
- It is **151 inch tall statue** and has been made from **Ashtadhatu** (8 metals with Copper being the major constituent)
- It is being installed at **Vijay Vallabh Sadhana Kendra, Pali, Rajasthan**.
- **Shree Vijay Vallabh:** Jain Saint working selflessly to spread the message of Lord Mahavira, education, eradication of social evils, etc

International Crops Research Institute permitted to use drones

- **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)** and **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** have granted permission to **International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)**, Hyderabad, Telangana for the deployment of drones for agricultural research activities.
- This conditional exemption is valid for **6 months** or until full operationalization of Digital Sky platform
- ICRISAT will have to obtain clearances from **local administration, and concerned Ministries, AAI**.

DIPAM signs agreement with World Bank for asset monetization services

- **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)** has signed an agreement with **World Bank** for getting advisory services related to asset monetization
- DIPAM is mandated to **facilitate monetization of non-core assets of government CPSEs** under strategic disinvestment or closure and enemy property of value of INR 100 crores and above.

- It will analyse asset monetization, benchmarking its institutional and business models against international best practices.

Second phase of Malabar Exercise begins today in Northern Arabian Sea

- The second phase of **Malabar 2020 Exercise** has begun today in the **Northern Arabian Sea**.
- This phase will involve coordinated operations of increasing complexity between Navies of Australia, India, Japan and United States
- It includes **cross-deck flying operations and advanced air defence exercises by Vikramaditya MIG 29K fighters and F-18 fighters and E2C Hawkeye from Nimitz**.
- Advanced surface and anti-submarine warfare, seamanship evolutions will also be undertaken

PM Modi to attend 12th BRICS Summit today

- PM Narendra Modi will attend **12th BRICS Summit** today that will be held in virtual format.
- 12th BRICS Summit is being hosted by **Russia**
- Theme: **Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth**.
- The summit will witness leaders discussing intra-BRICS cooperation and key issues in the global context, including multilateral system reform, COVID-19 measures, Counter Terrorism, trade, health, energy exchanges.
- India will host the **13th BRICS Summit next year**.

MIB requests compliance of policy on FDI in digital media within a month

- **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB)** has requested **compliance of policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in digital media** within a month.
- MIB has also issued a public notice to facilitate eligible entities involved in uploading and streaming of news through digital media, to comply Govt decision of **26% FDI** in this sector
- Entities having foreign investment below 26% may furnish intimation to MIB within a month with details of company, shareholding pattern

EPFO facilitates multiple options for Digital Life Certificate submission

- **Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)** has facilitated multiple options for EPS pensioners to submit their **Jeevan Pramaan Patra (JPP) / Digital Life certificate (DLC)** through any mode
- All pensioners of EPS 1995 are required to submit **Jeevan Pramaan Patra (JPP) / Digital Life certificate (DLC)** each year to continue drawing pension
- In addition to 135 RC and 117 DC EPFO, EPS pensioners can now submit DLC at pension disbursing bank branch, post offices or CSC.

Harsh Vardhan chairs 147th session of WHO Executive Board

- Union Health Minister **Harsh Vardhan** chairs **147th session of WHO Executive Board**, that was held virtually due to COVID-19

- Main functions of WHO executive board are to give effect to the decisions and policies of the Health Assembly, to advise it and generally to facilitate its work.
- It consist of **34 technically qualified members** elected for three-year terms.
- Harsh Vardhan will hand over the chairmanship of WHO executive board in May 2021

Rajasthan Minister Bhanwar Lal Meghwal passes away

- Rajasthan cabinet minister **Bhanwar Lal Meghwal (72 years)** passed away at Medanta hospital in Haryana's Gurugram due to prolonged illness
- He was the **Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment** in the Congress government under Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot in Rajasthan.
- He also served as the **Education Minister of Rajasthan from 2009 to 2013**
- BL Meghwal was a member of the state Legislative Assembly from Sujangarh constituency, Churu district of Rajasthan

IIT Guwahati formulates efficient "pincer" catalytic systems

- **IIT Guwahati** research team has formulated efficient '**pincer**' **catalytic systems** that will transform biomass wastes into valuable chemicals.
- Small amounts of developed pincer catalysts repeatedly convert large amounts of industrial waste such as glycerol into lactic acid and hydrogen.
- It will also efficiently convert bioethanol, a low-energy density fuel, into high-energy density butanol.
- It has elicited interest worldwide and will be beneficial energy conversion method

Sonu Sood appointed as state icon of Punjab by Election Commission of India

- Actor **Sonu Sood** has been appointed as **state icon of Punjab** by the Election Commission of India (ECI).
- Decision of honouring Sonu Sood with this title comes after he earned laurels for his humanitarian work during the lockdown.
- Sonu Sood has been helping migrant workers reach their hometowns amid COVID-19, along with giving them face masks, food, mobile phones and more.
- CM of Punjab: **Amarinder Singh**

Education Minister virtually launched Lilavati Award 2020

- Union Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** has virtually launched **Lilavati Award-2020**: AICTE's Innovative education program to empower women.
- **Aim**: To create awareness about issues like sanitation, hygiene, health, nutrition, literacy, and employment among women.
- Established by: **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)**
- The program will ensure the participation of women enabling them to hold higher positions in educational institutions.

RBI to set up Reserve Bank Innovation Hub under S. Gopalakrishnan

- **RBI** announced setting up of **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)** to promote innovation across the financial sector by leveraging on technology and fostering innovation.
- RBIH will be guided and managed by **Governing Council (GC)** led by a Chairperson. GC consist of:
 - **Chairperson: Senapathy Gopalakrishnan**
 - **CEO**: To be appointed

- Ashok Jhunjhunwala
- Krishnamurthy
- Gopal Srinivasan
- P. Hota
- Mrutyunjay Mahapatra, etc
- It will develop internal infrastructure and fintech research

Asia's first solar power textile mill to come in Maharashtra

- **First solar power-enabled Textile Mill in Asia** is coming up in Parbhani district of Maharashtra
- **Jai Bhawani women's cooperative textile mill** will be the first in Asia to operate on solar power.
- It is spread across thirty acres of land and will process cotton to cloth providing jobs to women in the parbhani district
- Chairman of solar textile mill: **Sampriya Rahul Patil**
- Parbhani is the leading cotton producing district in Maharashtra.
- Total cost of project: **Rs 100 crore**

Digital museum inaugurates Maharaj Bada in Gwalior

- **Digital museum** has been opened at **Maharaj Bada in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh** for the public.
- This digital museum is developed by **Gwalior Smart City** and entry for the public is being made free for a few days.
- Digital Museum will have **16 galleries** to showcase the architectural styles, objects, costumes, lifestyle, musical instruments, jewelry, handicrafts, cultural tradition, painting and many genres of paintings in a modern way.
- It covers 3500 square feet area.

PM Modi virtually addresses 3rd Annual Bloomberg New Economy Forum

- PM **Narendra Modi** addressed **Third Annual Bloomberg New Economy Forum** through video-conferencing
- **Other speakers of the forum:**
 - Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (D-G of WHO)
 - Tony Blair (UK's PM)
 - Bill Clinton (Former US President)
 - Bill Gates
 - Antonio Guterres
- Forum discussed refuelling the economy and charting a course for the future as the global economy is grappling with COVID-19
- Established: **2018 by Michael Bloomberg**
- It was first conducted in **Singapore** and then in **Beijing**

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

- **RBI** has announced the names of **two startups** that have been selected under its regulatory sandbox programme. They are:
 - Jaipur based **Natural Support Consultancy Services Private Limited** with its product '**eRupaya**'
 - New Delhi based **Nucleus Software Exports Limited** with product '**PaySe**'
- The programme shortlisted 6 companies out of 32 entities that had applied

- **Regulatory sandbox** is a protected environment within which the selected companies will show their system preparedness

Dominic Thiem defeats 20-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal

- **Dominic Thiem** defeated 20-time Tennis Grand Slam champion **Rafael Nadal (Spain)** in straight sets at the ATP Finals in London by 7-6, 7-6.
- Dominic Thiem is from Austria and is World number three Tennis player
- Earlier, Thiem had beaten reigning champion Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece in his opening round-robin match and will qualify for the semi-finals if Tsitsipas beats Andrey Rublev later.
- Nadal defeated Rublev in their opener and will play next will Tsitsipas

Haryana's first woman MP Chandrawati passes away

- Haryana's first woman MP and former Puducherry Lt.-Governor **Chandrawati (92 years)** passed away at Rohtak's PGIMS hospital
- She became the **first-ever woman MP from Haryana in 1977** after defeating Chaudhary Bansi Lal from Bhiwani constituency
- She served as the Lt.-Governor of Puducherry from 19 February 1990 to 13 December 1990.
- She was residing in Charkhi Dadri district and was a native of Dalawas village.

Japanese Nobel laureate physicist Masatoshi Koshiba passes away

- Japanese physicist **Masatoshi Koshiba (94 years)** passed away at the Edogawa Hospital in Tokyo
- He jointly won the **Nobel Prize in Physics in 2002** along with Raymond Davis Jr for his pioneering work in astrophysics and detection of cosmic neutrinos
- Honours:
 - Asahi Prize in 1987
 - Nishina Memorial Prize in 1987
 - Humboldt Prize in 1997
 - Wolf Prize in Physics in 2000
 - Panofsky Prize in 2002
 - Benjamin Franklin Medal in Physics in 2003

Madhya Pradesh CM announces 'Gau Cabinet' for protection of cows

- Madhya Pradesh CM **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has announced the setting up of '**Gau Cabinet**' for protection, conservation and promotion of cows in the state.
- Gau Cabinet will comprise of the **departments of animal husbandry, forests, panchayat and rural development, revenue, home and farmers welfare.**
- Its first meeting will be held on '**Gopashtami**' on **November 22** at Kamdhenu Gau Abhyaranya Cow Sanctuary in Agar-Malwa district, which is India's first cow sanctuary

Japan & Australia signs Defence Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA)

- Japanese PM Yoshihide Suga and his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison have signed a landmark defence deal named as Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA)
- The deal is signed in a bid to counter China's growing influence in the South China Sea and over the Pacific island nations.

- RAA allows Japanese and Australian troops to visit each other's countries and conduct training and joint operations/exercises, strengthening security ties and cooperation between defence forces.

Indian supercomputer Param siddhi ranked 63rd most powerful computer system

- High performance computing-artificial intelligence (HPC-AI) supercomputer **Param Sidhi** has achieved global ranking of 63 in TOP 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in the world
- **Param Siddhi supercomputer** is established under **National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)** at C-DAC and developed jointly by **Dept of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**
- It is built on **NVIDIA DGX Super POD architecture networking**

World Toilet Day being observed today

- **World Toilet Day** is observed every year on **19 November** to create awareness about sanitation and encourage people to use toilets.
- **Ministry of Jal Shakti's Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation** celebrate 'World Toilet Day' under '**Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen** for promoting awareness on access to safe sanitation.
- Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat will felicitate '**Swachhata Puraskar**' on this occasion
- Theme: **Sustainable sanitation and climate change.**

Harsh Vardhan addresses Global Prevention Coalition for HIV Prevention

- Union Health and Family Welfare Minister **Harsh Vardhan** has addressed Ministerial meeting of the **Global HIV Prevention Coalition (GPC)**.
- The meet was hosted by **UNAIDS** and **UNFPA** on behalf of GPC
- It holds significance in achieving 2016 UNGA commitment to end AIDS by 2030 and its Member States had agreed to reduce new adult HIV infections by 75% by 2020
- GPC: Global coalition of UN Member States, donors, civil society organizations and implementers was established in 2017

BRICS nations adopted new counter-terrorism strategy

- **BRICS** has adopted **new counter-terrorism strategy** to effectively deal with terrorism.
- BRICS counter-terrorism cooperation is to complement and strengthen the existing bilateral and multilateral ties among BRICS countries, and to make contribution to global efforts of preventing and combating terrorism
- BRICS countries reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms is a crime and has no justification.
- BRICS: **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.**
- HQs: **Shanghai**

Narendra Singh inaugurates capacity building component of PM-FME Scheme

- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries **Narendra Singh** has inaugurated capacity building component of **Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises scheme (PM-FME Scheme)**.
- **GIS One District One Product (ODOP) digital map of India** has also been launched

- **PM-FME Scheme:** It is a centrally sponsored scheme, launched under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- **Aim:** To enhance the competitiveness in unorganized segment of food processing industry

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EESL & DNRE signs MoU to implement India's first convergence project in Goa

- **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)** and **Department of New & Renewable Energy (DNRE)**, Goa have signed MOU to implement **India's first Convergence Project in the State**.
- Under this MoU, EESL and DNRE will conduct feasibility studies with implementation of decentralized solar energy projects.
- It will accelerate the usage of renewable energy sources
- It will be provide 100 MW of decentralized ground mounted Solar Power on government lands.

NFDB confers four awards to Assam for success in fishery sector

- **National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB)** has conferred four awards to Assam for fishery sector.
- **Assam Apex Cooperative Fish Marketing and Processing Federation Ltd** has been selected under the category of **best hilly and North eastern govt organization**.
- **Nagaon** has been selected under best hilly and North Eastern district while **Nalbari based farmer Amal Medhi** is selected under hilly and North Eastern fish farmer category.
- Awards will be given on 21st Nov in Delhi.

Maia Sandu elected as First-Ever Woman President of Moldova

- Former World Bank economist **Maia Sandu** (48 years) from Party of Action and Solidarity (PAS) has been elected **President of Moldova**.
- She won Moldova's 2020 Presidential election with **57.72%** of the vote.
- She is the **first women to be elected as the President of Moldova** and will assume office on 23rd December 2020.
- Incumbent President of Moldova, **Igor Dodon** received 42.28% of the vote.
- She was the **former Prime Minister of Moldova** from 8 June 2019 until 14 November 2019.

Moody's projects India GDP at -10.6% for FY21

- **Moody's Investors Service** has projected revised **India's GDP growth forecast to (-) 10.6% for the current fiscal 2020-21 (FY21)**, in its November 2020 update
- It has projected India's GDP to be (-) 11.5% in September 2020 in FY21.
- Further, Moody has projected **India's GDP at 10.8% for next fiscal 2021-22** as against the previous estimate of 10.6%.

- **World Bank** projected India's economy to grow (-) **9.6%** this fiscal, while **IMF** projected it at (-) 10.3% in 2020.

Vijayanagara to become 31st district of Karnataka

- **Karnataka Government** has approved carving out of **Vijayanagara** as new district of state.
- After this, Vijayanagara will be the 31st district of Karnataka state.
- This new district would be carved out of **Ballari** and will be named after the Vijayanagara empire that ruled this region.
- Vijayanagara is famous for **world heritage site of Hampi**
- Vijayanagar empire was founded by Harihara and Bukka in 1336 and was the greatest south Indian empire
- Karnataka CM: **B. S. Yediyurappa**

Harsh Vardhan addresses 33rd Stop TB Partnership Board meet virtually

- Union Health Minister **Harsh Vardhan** has addressed the **33rd Stop TB Partnership Board meet** in New Delhi through Video Conference
- The meet stressed on the need to create a mass movement for elimination of TB with strategized advocacy, thought leadership, disruptive social entrepreneurship, powerful, societal and political commitment.
- India is running '**TB Harega, Desh Jeetega**' campaign to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal target related to TB by 2025

First India-Luxembourg Virtual Summit held

- Prime Minister of India, **Narendra Modi**, and Prime Minister of Luxembourg, **Xavier Bettel** held the **first-ever India-Luxembourg Virtual Summit**
- India and Luxembourg have friendly relation of over more than 7 decades since the establishment of 1948 diplomatic relations
- During the Summit, both parties agreed for enhanced cooperation in trade, finance, steel, space, ICT, innovation, including renewable energy, and climate change.
- **3 MoUs** were signed as a part of the Summit.

India placed 77 in TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix 2020

- **India** is placed at **77th position** in the **TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix 2020** with a score of 45 in the global list.
- India was at 78th position in 2019
- Highest commercial bribery risk: **North Korea, Turkmenistan, South Sudan, Venezuela and Eritrea**
- Lowest bribery risk: **Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden and New Zealand**
- **TRACE Matrix list** is released by **TRACE International**, an anti-bribery standard setting organisation, which measures business bribery risk in 194 countries.

Defence Minister releases two books on President's speeches

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** has released two books named as '**The Republican Ethic Volume III**' and '**Loktantra Ke Swar**'
- The books are collection of selected speeches of President Ram Nath Kovind during the third year of his presidency along with speeches on COVID-19.
- Ministry of Information and Broadcasting **Prakash Javadekar** unveiled the **e-book versions** of the two books.

- It is divided into **eight sections with 57 speeches**.

Union Minister lays foundation stone for the first 50 LNG fuelling stations

- Union Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** has laid the foundation stone for **first 50 LNG fuelling stations**, across golden quadrilateral and major National Highways.
- Govt has identified LNG as a transport fuel as a priority area for reducing vehicular pollution, saving import bill.
- **Liquefied natural gas (LNG):** Natural gas (predominantly methane, CH₄, with ethane, C₂H₆) that has been cooled down to liquid form for ease and safety. It is 40% cheaper than diesel

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

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, **National Capital Region Transport Corporation Limited** and **New Development Bank** has signed **\$500 loan agreement** for '**Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System Project**'.
- **Rapid Transit System** will provide a fast, reliable, safe and comfortable public transport system in National Capital Region.
- The project will support in achieving the goal of sustainable urban development in NCR enabling socio-economic development

Hardeep Singh Puri launches Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge across 243 Cities

- Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs **Hardeep Singh Puri** has launched **Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge** across 243 Cities on the occasion of World Toilet Day
- **Aim:** Preventing 'hazardous cleaning' of sewers and septic tanks and promote their mechanized cleaning.
- Actual on-ground assessment of participating cities will be conducted in May 2021 by an independent agency and results will be declared on 15 August 2021.
- Cities will be awarded in 3 sub-categories as per population

World Children's Day is being observed today

- **World Children's Day** is being observed every year on **20 November** to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.
- **World Children's Day** is UNICEF's annual day of action for children, by children.
- It is first established in 1954
- **November 20th, 1959** is the date when UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of Child Right
- It is also the date in 1989 when the UN General Assembly adopted Convention on Child Rights

Ramesh Pokhriyal conferred with Vatayan Lifetime Achievement Award

- Union Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has been conferred with **Vatayan Lifetime Achievement Award**
- **Vatayan International Awards:** Given by Vatayan-UK organization in London to honour poets, writers and artists for their exemplary work in their respective fields.

- Ramesh Pokhriyal has penned more than 75 books on issues, translated into national and foreign languages.
- He has received several awards including **Sahitya Bharati Award, Sahitya Gaurav Samman**, etc.

India becomes 4th nation to get IMO nod for navigation satellite system

- **India** has become 4th nation in the world to have its **independent Regional Navigation Satellite System**
- **Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)** has been recognised by **International Maritime Organisation (IMO)** as a part of **Worldwide Radio Navigation System (WWRNS)**
- 3 countries with IMO recognised navigation system: **US, Russia and China**
- **IRNSS**: Designed to provide accurate position information services to assist in the navigation of ships in Indian Ocean waters.

National Newborn Week concluded today

- **National Newborn Week** is being observed every year from **15th to 21st November**
- Union Health Minister **Harsh Vardhan** chaired event to mark the National Newborn Week 2020
- **Aim**: 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.
- Theme for 2020: '**Quality, Equity, Dignity for every newborn at every health facility and everywhere**'.

30th India-Thai Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) held

- **Indian Navy** and **Royal Thai Navy** has conducted **30th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT)** from 18 to 20 November 2020.
- **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karmuk**, an indigenously built Missile Corvette and **Thailand Ship (HTMS) Kraburi**, a Chao Phraya Class Frigate along with Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft participated in Indo-Thai CORPAT.
- CORPAT along their International Maritime Boundary Line is held twice a year since 2005.

Mastercard ties-up with USAID to launch Project Kirana to empower women

- **Mastercard** collaborated with **US Agency for International Development (USAID)** to launch '**Project Kirana**' to help women entrepreneurs grow and thrive.
- It is a 2-year programme, launched under **Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative (W-GDP)**
- It will be initially rolled out in select cities of **UP, including Lucknow, Kanpur and Varanasi**.
- It will be implemented by **DAI Digital Frontiers and ACCESS Development Services**.
- It will build financial literacy skills.

Douglas Stuart won 2020 Booker Prize for his novel Shuggie Bain

- Scottish writer **Douglas Stuart** has won **2020 Booker Prize for Fiction** for his autobiographical debut novel **Shuggie Bain**, that described a boy growing up in Glasgow in the 1980s with a mother battling alcohol addiction.
- **Booker Prize for Fiction** (Booker-McConnell Prize and Man Booker Prize): It is a literary prize established in 1969.
- The prize promote the finest in fiction by rewarding the best novel of the year written in English

- The winner receives £50,000

LIC launches New Business digital application named ANANDA

- **LIC of India** has launched New Business digital application named **ANANDA** to facilitate the process of proposal completion which is totally paperless and completely digital.
- It will enable an agent to complete a policy even without physically meeting the customer.
- Process of new business completion has been re-engineered by converting physical formats into digital ones.
- For availing the service, mobile number of the customer should be mapped with his Aadhar.

PM Modi & Bhutanese PM Jointly launch RuPay Card Phase-II

- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and Bhutan's Prime Minister Lotay Tshering has virtually launched RuPay card Phase-II allowing Bhutanese card holders to access RuPay network in India.
- Phase 1 of RuPay Card project was launched by PM Modi and his Bhutanese counterpart in August 2019
- Implementation of Phase-I of RuPay cards in Bhutan has enabled the visitors from India to access ATMs and Point of Sale (PoS) terminals across Bhutan

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