

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

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with his Bhutanese counterpart Lotay Tshering virtually launched RuPay card Phase-II on 20th November.
- The phase-2 will now allow Bhutanese cardholders to access RuPay network in India.
- **Note:** 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. Phase-1 of RuPay cards in Bhutan has enabled Indian visitors in Bhutan to access ATMs and points of sale terminals across Bhutan.
- The **RuPay card** is an Indian debit and credit card payment network, with acceptance at ATMs, POS devices and e-commerce websites.

2. EESL Signs MoU with DNRE Goa to implement the country's first Convergence Project

- Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) and Department of New & Renewable Energy (DNRE), Goa, have signed a memorandum of understanding to discuss rolling out of India's first Convergence Project in the State.
- The project will carry-out the feasibility studies and subsequent implementation of decentralized solar energy projects. It will accelerate the usage of renewable energy sources, especially for agricultural and rural power consumption in the State.
- EESL shall implement the solar energy projects, establishment of 100 MW of decentralized ground mounted Solar Power projects on government lands to be used for agricultural pumping, replace approximately 6,300 agricultural pumps with BEE (Bureau of Energy Efficiency) star rated energy efficient pumps and distribute approximately 16 Lakh LED bulbs for rural domestic households.
- **About EESL:** A joint venture of NTPC Limited, Power Finance Corporation, Rural Electrification Corporation and POWERGRID, Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) was set up under the Ministry of Power to facilitate implementation of energy efficiency projects.
- EESL is a Super Energy Service Company (ESCO) that seeks to unlock the energy efficiency market in India, estimated at Rs. 74,000 crore that can potentially result in energy savings of up to 20 percent of current consumption, by way of innovative business and implementation models.

3. Indo-Thai Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT)

The 30th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy was conducted from 18 – 20 November 2020.

- Indian Naval Ship (INS) *Karmuk*, an indigenously built Missile Corvette and His Majesty's Thailand Ship (HTMS) *Kraburi*, a Chao Phraya Class Frigate along with Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both the navies participated in the CORPAT.

- **Note:** To reinforce maritime links, the two navies have been carrying out CORPAT along their International Maritime Boundary Line twice a year since 2005, with the aim of keeping this vital part of the Indian Ocean safe and secure for commercial shipping and international trade.

4. **India – Luxembourg Virtual Summit 2020**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a Bilateral Summit with Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister of Luxembourg on November 19, 2020.

- This is the first stand-alone summit between India and Luxembourg in the past two decades.
- The two Prime Ministers agreed to strengthen cooperation on realizing effective multilateralism and combating global challenges like the Covid-19 pandemic, especially in the areas of financial technology, green financing, space applications, digital innovations and start-ups, terrorism and climate change.
- **Note:** ISRO recently launched Luxembourg's four satellites and Prime Minister welcomed Luxembourg's announcement to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA), an global initiative led by India.

5. **Department of Fisheries celebrated 'World Fisheries Day' on 21st November**

- The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India celebrated the 'World Fisheries Day'.
- World Fisheries Day started in 1997 where "World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers" met at New Delhi leading to formation of "World Fisheries Forum" with representatives from 18 countries and signed a declaration advocating for a global mandate of sustainable fishing practices and policies.
- India is the leading fish producing country and second major producer of fish through aquaculture in the world.
- Centrally Sponsored Scheme "**Blue Revolution**" was launched in December, 2015.
- This year, on 10th September, 2020, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the "**Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana**" (**PMMSY**) at an estimated investment of Rs. 20,050 crores for a period of five years, i.e., from 2020-21 to 2024-25. It aims to achieve fish production to 22 million metric tonnes (MMT) by 2024-25.
- **Note:** During the event, for the first time in the Fisheries Sector the Government of India will **award best performing States** for 2019-20 namely, Odisha (amongst Marine states), Uttar Pradesh (amongst Inland states) and Assam (amongst Hilly and NE states).

6. **Dr. Harsh Vardhan launches the National Newborn Week 2020**

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare chaired an event to mark the National Newborn Week 2020, observed from 15th through

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.

- The theme of National Newborn Week this year is '**Quality, Equity, Dignity for every newborn at every health facility and everywhere**'.
- **Note:** In 2014, India became the first country to launch the India Newborn Action Plan (INAP), in alignment with the Global Every Newborn Action Plan towards eliminating preventable deaths of new-borns and stillbirths.

7. Scottish writer Douglas Stuart wins Booker prize 2020 for novel Shuggie Bain

- Scottish writer Douglas Stuart, 44, 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. He won the 50,000 Pound prize.
- The Booker Prize shortlist also included Indian-origin writer Avni Doshi's novel 'Burnt Sugar'.
- **Note:** The **Booker Prize for Fiction**, formerly known as the **Booker–McConnell Prize** (1969–2001) and the **Man Booker Prize** (2002–2019), is a literary prize awarded each year for the best original novel written in the English language and published in the United Kingdom.

8. November 21, World Television Day

- The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21 November as World Television Day in December 1996.
- On 21 and 22 November 1996, the first World Television Forum was held by the United Nations to discuss the increasing importance of television in today's changing world and its ability to enhance their mutual cooperation.
- **Television History in India:** Television programming has created a huge impact on Indian culture ever since its introduction in 1959. Television was launched in India with the assistance of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation. During the initial thirty years, government-owned Doordarshan stayed the only national channel.