

Weekly Current Affairs December 3rd Week



Weekly Current Affairs: 3rd Week of December 2020

1. Max Verstappen wins 2020 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix

- Red Bull's racer **Max Verstappen (Netherlands)** won Formula 1 season-ending **Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2020**, which was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.
- This was his **second victory of the Formula 1 season** and **10th victory of his international racing career**.
- The race was the 17th and final round of the 2020 Formula One World Championship.
- **Valtteri Bottas** (Mercedes-Finland) bagged 2nd place, followed by **Lewis Hamilton** (Mercedes-Great Britain).

2. UNESCO to launch international prize in name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib

- **UNESCO** has decided to roll out international prize in 'creative economy' after the name of **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**.
- This award will start from **Nov 2021** and will carry **\$50,000**
- It will be given away once in **2 years** for global economic initiatives of the youth capturing, celebrating and communicating best practice in creative entrepreneurship.
- **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**: He was Bangladeshi politician and statesman and is the father of Bangladesh.

3. NITI Aayog releases 'Vision 2035 - Public Health Surveillance in India'

- NITI Aayog Vice Chairman **Rajiv Kumar** has released white paper, '**Vision 2035 - Public Health Surveillance in India**'
- It lays out India's vision for public health surveillance through the integration of **3-tiered public health system** into Ayushman Bharat, along with the need for expanded referral networks and capacity.
- Through this, India aims to provide regional and global leadership in managing events that constitute a public health emergency of international concern.

4. National Energy Conservation Day being observed Dec. 14th

- **National Energy Conservation Day** is being observed every year on **14 December by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**, under Ministry of Power.
- **Aim**: To raise awareness among people about the importance of energy conservation and energy efficiency with effort towards climate change mitigation.
- BEE executed **Energy Conservation Act in India** in 2001.
- **BEE**: Constitutional body that comes under Govt and helps in the development of policies and strategies to reduce the energy use

5. IFSCA has notified IFSCA (Bullion Exchange) Regulations, 2020

- **IFSCA** has notified **International Financial Services Centres Authority (Bullion Exchange) Regulations, 2020**.
- Finance Minister in Union Budget 2020 had made announcement for setting up an International Bullion Exchange at International Financial Services Centre in GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- Govt had notified bullion spot delivery contract and bullion depository receipt as Financial Products and related services as Financial Services under **IFSCA Act, 2019**.

6. Climate Ambition Summit 2020 held virtually



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- **United Nations, United Kingdom and France** virtually co-hosted **Climate Ambition Summit 2020**
- The Summit marked 5 years of the adoption of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
- Summit is a major step to the next **UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26)**, which will be hosted by UK in 2021.
- Summit will hear from about **70 world leaders** highlighting new announcements and steps they are taking to reach the goal of net-zero emissions.

7. Govt exempts handicraft and GI Toys from Quality Control Order

- Govt has **exempted handicraft and GI Toys from Quality Control Order** for sale and export of toys
- **Quality Control order:** Issued by Dept for standardization and quality adherence of Toys.
- The order will come to effect from 1st January 2021
- DPIIT has released **Toys (Quality Control) Second Amendment Order, 2020** to exempts goods manufactured and sold by artisans registered with Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), from use of Standard Mark under licence from BIS.

8. Renowned Sanskrit Scholar Vidyavachaspati Govindacharya passes away

- Renowned Sanskrit scholar **Vidyavachaspati Bannanje Govindacharya (85 years)** passed away due to age-related illness.
- He was well known with Veda Bhashya, Upanishad Bhashya, Mahabharata, Ramayana and Puranas and had written commentaries on Veda Suktas, Upanishads, Shata Rudriya, Brahma Sutra Bhashya, and Gita Bhashya.
- He authored around **150 books** and translated several texts from Sanskrit to Kannada
- He was conferred the **Padma Shri in 2009**.

9. Health Minister releases 5th National Family Health Survey

- Health minister **Harsh Vardhan** has released **5th National Family Health Survey (NFHS)** comprising of detailed information on population, health and nutrition for India
- Phase 1 results show the status of **17 States and 5 UTs**
- Phase II will cover the remaining 12 States and 2 UTs and is expected to come by May 2021.
- This survey recorded improvement in maternal, fertility rate and child health indicators
- **Malnutrition indicators** have worsened in 11 out of 18 states

10. Programme of socio-economic profiling of PM SVANidhi beneficiaries launched

- **Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary** has launched programme of Socio-Economic Profiling of PM SVANidhi beneficiaries and their families, as an additional component of PM SVANidhi Scheme
- Under this, **complete profile of each PM SVANidhi beneficiary** and their family members will be prepared to include them under various central schemes
- 125 cities have been selected in 1st phase for the programme.
- **PM SVANidhi:** Provide affordable working capital to Street Vendors

11. Marathi Music Composer Narendra Bhide passes away

- Veteran Marathi music composer **Narendra Bhide (47 years)** passed away in Pune due to heart attack.
- He was popularly known as Babdya.
- He had composed music for several award winning Marathi films as well as TV shows.
- Some of the films for which he composed music include A Paying Ghost, Bioscope, Harishchandrachi Factory, Sane Guruji, Sarivar Sari and Chi Va Chi Sau Ka among others.



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12. ISRO sets up SSA control centre titled as 'NETRA'

- **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** has set up dedicated **Space Situational Awareness (SSA) Control Centre**, titled as 'NETRA' at its ISTRAC campus at Peenya, Bangalore.
- **SSA:** Science of tracking objects (man-made and natural) in orbit. Only US, Russia and Europe have similar facility
- **NETRA:** NEtwork for space object TRacking and Analysis will monitor, track and protect India's space assets.
- It will have a **radar**, an **optical telescope facility**, and a **control centre**.

13. India ranks 131 in 2020 Human Development Index

- **India** has been ranked **131** among 189 countries on the **Human Development Index (HDI)** in Human Development Report 2020, released by **United Nations Development Program (UNDP)**
- India has been ranked low due to HDI value of 0.645 and purchasing power parity of \$6,681 in 2019
- **Norway** topped HDI, followed by **Ireland, Switzerland, Hong Kong** and **Iceland**.
- HDI measures average achievement on 3 basic aspects: **life expectancy, education, and per capita income**.

14. AICTE to release Rs. 20,000/- as maintenance allowance under PMSSS for J&K

- **AICTE** has decided to release instalment of **Rs. 20,000/-** as maintenance allowance under **Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS)**
- **Aim:** To support & empower students for completing their online studies
- **PMSSS:**
 - It is implemented by **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)**
 - It aims to build youths capacity of J&K and Ladakh by Educating, Enabling and Empowering them to compete by way of scholarship in academic fee, maintenance allowance.

15. PM Modi inaugurates world's largest renewable energy park in Kutch

- **PM Narendra Modi** has laid the foundation stone of **30,000 megawatt (MW) capacity hybrid renewable energy park in Kutch, Gujarat**
- Once constructed, it will be the **largest renewable energy park of its kind in the world**.
- It will fulfill India's vision of generating 450 GW (4,50,000 mw) of power by 2030
- It is being constructed between **Khawda and Vighakhhot villages near India-Pakistan border** and will have wind energy and solar energy zones over 72,600 hectares area.

16. Shashi Shekhar Vempati elected as VP of Asia Pacific Broadcasting

- Prasar Bharati's CEO, **Shashi Shekhar Vempati** has been elected as the **Vice President of Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU)** for 3 years with immediate effect.
- VP election was held during virtual ABU General Assembly
- **About ABU:**



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- It is one of the largest broadcasting associations in the world.
- **Founded: 1964.**
- It act as a professional association of broadcasting organisations with over 286 members in 57 countries and regions.
- **HQs: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.**

17. India, World Bank signs agreement to protect India's poor from COVID impact

- **Govt of India and World Bank** has signed **\$400 million project** to support India's social assistance effort to the poor and vulnerable households severely impacted by COVID-19
- This is the 2nd operation in a programmatic series of two, where first operation of \$750 million was approved in May 2020.
- It will expand and deepen the coverage of India's social protection systems in urban and peri-urban areas
- This credit is from **International Development Association of World Bank**

18. QCI launches recognition scheme for hygiene rating audit agencies

- **Quality Council of India (QCI)** on behest of **FSSAI** has come out with **Food Hygiene Rating Scheme** for approval of Hygiene Rating Audit Agencies to allow consumers to make informed choices/decisions pertaining to the food outlets
- Recognised agencies will have to follow food hygiene and safety procedures laid down by **FSSAI**.
- **Hygiene rating will be in the form of smileys (1 to 5)** and the certificate should be displayed in the consumer facing area.

19. Cabinet approves revised cost of Rs 6.7k crore for NERPSIP

- Union Cabinet has approved **Rs. 6,700 crore Revised Cost Estimate (RCE)** of **North Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project (NERPSIP)**.
- **NERPSIP**
 - It is being implemented through **POWERGRID** in association with 6 beneficiary North Eastern States of **Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura**
 - It is targeted to be commissioned by **December 2021**
 - **Aim:** Economic development of NE Region through strengthening of Intra-State Transmission and Distribution systems

20. RBI re-appoints Uday Kotak as MD of Kotak Mahindra Bank

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved re-appointment of **Uday Kotak** as **Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank** for a further tenure of **3 years**, with effect from **January 1, 2021**
- Along with this, RBI has approved appointment of part-time chairman **Prakash Apte** and **Dipak Gupta** as Joint MD of Kotak Mahindra Bank for three years.
- Uday Kotak is the founder Managing Director and promoter of the Kotak Mahindra bank.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank's Headquarters: **Mumbai.**

21. UNEP announces 2020 Champions of the Earth Award



- **United Nation Environment Program (UNEP)** has announced **2020 Champions of the Earth award**
- **Winners:**
 - Frank Bainimarama (Fiji PM)
 - Fabian Leendertz (Germany)
 - Mindy Lubber (USA)
 - Nemonte Nenquimo (Ecuador)
 - Yacouba Sawadogo (Burkina Faso)
 - Robert D. Bullard (US-Lifetime award category)

22. First 'Hind Kesari' Wrestler Sripati Khanchanale passes away

- Renowned Indian wrestler **Sripati Khanchanale (86 years)** passed away at a private hospital in Kolhapur in western Maharashtra.
- He won the prestigious '**Hind Kesari**' title in **1959**, which was the maiden edition of the award.
- The prestigious 'Hind Kesari' title is the highest honour given in the Indian wrestling world.
- He was also recipient of **Shiv Chhatrapati award**, presented by Maharashtra government.
- **Native: Eksamba, Belgaum.**

23. India signs \$1 billion agreement with NDB for Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

- **Govt of India** has signed \$1 billion loan agreement with **New Development Bank** to **support Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan through MGNREGA Scheme.**
- It will support Govt in mitigating the adverse economic impact of COVID-19, enabling economic recovery in rural areas through Natural Resource Management (NRM) works.
- It will also facilitate economic activity and employment generation to stimulate rural demand.
- **NDB HQs: Shanghai, China**
- **President: Marcos Prado Troyjo**

24. Virtual Summit: India, Bangladesh sign 7 MoUs, agreements

- **India and Bangladesh** signed **seven MoUs and agreements** during the virtual summit between **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** that took place on Thursday.
- The agreements include a framework of understanding in Hydrocarbon sector, framework agreement on **High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP)**, protocol on transborder elephant conservation, an MoU on the supply of equipment and improvement of Garbage and solid waste disposal, MoU in the field of agriculture, an MoU between **National Museum Delhi and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial museum, Dhaka and terms of reference for India Bangladesh CEO forum.**
- **The Framework agreement on HICDP is a ten year agreement allowing for projects amounting to 500 million Taka.** It is double the amount of what was previously admitted. Projects in the field of education, health and sanitation, water-treatment, cultural heritage aimed at increased socio-economic development of local communities are taken up under this agreement.

Source:- DDNEWS



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25. Indian Railways issues draft National Rail Plan to create capacity by 2030

- In an endeavour to address the inadequacies of capacity constraints and improve its modal share in the total freight ecosystem of the country, **Indian Railways has come up with a Draft National Rail Plan.**
- A long term strategic plan called the **National Rail Plan** has been developed to plan infrastructural capacity enhancement along with strategies to increase modal share of the Railways. It will be a common platform for all future infrastructural, business and financial planning of the Railways. This plan is being circulated among various Ministries for their views now. **Railways aims to finalise the final plan by January 2021.**
- The Ministry of Railways in a statement said that to create **capacity ahead of demand by 2030**, which in turn would cater to **growth in demand right up to 2050**. It will also increase the modal share of Railways from 27 per cent currently to 45 per cent in freight by 2030 as part of a **national commitment to reduce Carbon emission** and to continue to sustain it and net Zero Carbon emission by 2030.
- The Ministry said that as part of the National Rail Plan, Vision 2024 has been launched for accelerated implementation of certain critical projects by 2024 such as 100 per cent electrification, multitracking of congested routes and upgradation of speed to 160 kilometer per hour on Delhi-Howrah and Delhi-Mumbai routes.

Source:- NEWSONAIR

26. ISRO successfully launches new communication satellite 'CMS-01'

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has successfully launched India's new communication satellite **CMS-01** into geo-synchronous transfer orbit
- CMS-01 was launched by **PSLV-C50** from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**
- It will take over the mantle from the ageing telecommunication satellite **GSAT-12** that was rendering seamless service for 11 years.
- It will provide services in extended-C Band covering **Indian mainland, Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep Islands.**

27. Doha to host Asian Games 2030

- Capital of Qatar, **Doha** has won the hosting rights for conducting **2030 Asian Games** after beating **Riyadh** in the election conducted at the general assembly of **Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) in Muscat.**
- **2030 Asian Games** will be the **21st edition of the multi-sports event**, which is held after every four years.
- It is also known as **Asiad.**
- Prior to this, Doha organised the Asian Games in 2006
- Saudi Arabia's capital city **Riyadh** will host the **2034 edition of the Asian Games.**

28. UP govt to launch 'Kisan Kalyan Mission' to double the income of farmers

- **UP government** will launch special program titled as '**Kisan Kalyan Mission**' to double the income of farmers across the state.



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- Under **Kisan Kalyan mission**, various programs will be organised across the state including exhibitions of agriculture and associate sectors
- It will also include the products of **MSME sector units** and **livelihood missions**.
- Farmer meetings will also be organised for explaining scientific farming, providing information about the schemes of government.

29. International Migrants Day: 18 December

- **International Migrants Day** is being observed every year on **18 December** to recognise the importance of protecting the rights and dignity of migrants
- This day marks the anniversary of adoption of International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, that was adopted on **18 Dec 1990** by UN
- Theme 2020: **'Reimagining Human Mobility'**
- Theme assumes special significance owing to the impact of COVID-19 on the life of migrants

30. AIFF announces candidature to host AFC Asian Cup 2027

- **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** has formally announced its **host for the AFC Asian Cup 2027** that will be held in India
- India hosted **FIFA U-17 World Cup in 2017** and is due to host the **FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup** and **AFC Women's Asian Cup in 2022**.
- India 2027 campaign's powerful logo, revealed at the launch, represents the ambition, commitment, focus and spirit of the bid, epitomized by the royal tiger.
- Slogan: **Brighter Future Together**.

31. Centre to dedicate a Museum on Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in Kolkata

- **Central Govt** has proposed to set up a **museum dedicated to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, in Kolkata** on his 125th birth anniversary celebrations (23rd January)
- Govt has also decided to expand current museum of Netaji at Red Fort, Delhi.
- Centre is also considering **reprinting books written by Subhash Chandra Bose**, along with fellowships for students.
- Historical documents, clippings, photos, videos, memorabilia and other material will be brought together for display

32. Minorities Rights Day: 18 December

- **Minorities Rights Day** is observed every year in India on **December 18** to protect the rights of minority communities.
- **Aim:** To ensure that persons belonging to a national minority enjoy effective equality with those persons belonging to the majority. It empowers communities and promotes the exercise of individual freedoms.
- **United Nation** introduced this day on **18 December 1992**.
- However, It was first observed on **December 18, 2013** in India.



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33. Music maestro Ustad Iqbal Ahmed Khan passes away

- Classical music maestro **Ustad Iqbal Ahmed Khan (66 years)** passed away in Delhi
- He was raised in **Dilli Gharana of music** and began his career under **Ustad Chand Khan**
- He had actively promoted **Amir Khusro's musical works**
- He also founded **Dilli Durbar** that was aimed towards renaissance of Indian Classical Music and held its 1st classical event in 2019
- **Awards:**
 - Gaayan Acharya in 1993
 - Sangeet Rattan and Sangeet Saurabh in 1998
 - **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award** for Hindustani Music.

34. India contributes \$1 million to WADA to support Clean Sport

- **India** has pledged to contribute **\$1 million** to the **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)**, for its scientific research budget, to ensure an **atmosphere of Clean Sport** globally.
- With this, WADA will develop innovative anti-doping testing and detection methods, strengthening WADA's independent Investigations and Intelligence Department.
- It is the highest contributions made by any governments of the world, including China, Saudi Arabia and Egypt
- **WADA Headquarters: Montreal, Canada**

35. Senior BJP leader and former Gonda MP Satyadev Singh passes away

- Senior-most leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party and former Gonda MP **Satya Dev Singh (75 years)** passed away due to complications post COVID-19.
- He contested elections from Gonda Lok Sabha constituency on the ticket of Bharatiya Lok Dal for the first time in 1977.
- Later, he was elected to Lok Sabha from Balrampur constituency, MP as Bharatiya Janata Party in 1991 and 1996.
- He also served as **National President of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha** from 1980 to 1985.

36. Govt finalises GPS based technology toll collection across India

- **Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways** has made announcement about the Government finalisation of **GPS-based (Global Positioning System) technology toll collection** to ensure seamless movement of vehicles across the country.
- This will ensure India becomes **'toll booth free'** in next 2 years.
- Under this, toll amount will be deducted directly from the bank account based on the movement of vehicles.
- GPS technology will be installed in old vehicles.

37. Nation pays homage to Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel on his death anniversary



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- **Nation pays homage to Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel on his 70th death anniversary today.** He was **first Deputy Prime Minister of India and also held the Home portfolio.** Fondly known as Iron Man of India, he brought together more than 500 princely States with India.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi has paid tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his death anniversary** today who laid the foundation of an empowered, strong and prosperous India. In a tweet, Mr Modi said that the path shown by him will always inspire us to protect the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the country.

38. GRSE Kolkata launches 'Himgiri', its 1st Ship of Project 17A

- **Himgiri, which is the first of the three Project 17A ships** being built at **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata** was launched today.
- She made her first contact with the waters of **Hoogly River** at 1:35 PM at the launch ceremony where **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat was the Chief Guest.**
- In keeping with Naval traditions, **Madhulika Rawat, spouse of the CDS launched the ship to the chanting of invocations from the Atharva Veda.**
- **Under the Project 17A program, a total of seven ships, four at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and three ships at GRSE are being built with enhanced stealth features, advanced indigenous weapon and sensor fit along with several other improvements.**
- Ministry of Defence in a statement said that the launch of '**Himgiri**' has showcased **GRSE's commitment towards the building of three state-of-the-art warships of P17A for Indian Navy.**

39. UNESCO to launch international prize in the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib

- The **UNESCO has decided to launch an international prize in the field of 'creative economy' in the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.** Starting **November 2021**, the dollar 50 thousand award will be given away once in two years for global economic initiatives of the youth.
- According to **UNESCO, the international award will create a knowledge-sharing mechanism by capturing, celebrating and communicating best practice in the development of creative entrepreneurship.**
- The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of Bangladesh in a Facebook release quoted UNESCO that the award will recognise exceptional initiatives taken by cultural workers and organizations in the development of the creative economy.**

40. Ladakh celebrates New Year 'Losar'

- People in Ladakh region are celebrating **Ladakhi New Year, Losar today.** Due to considerable Covid19 cases in Leh and strict SOPs in place, this year Losar is observed in a low key. Following strict Covid guidelines, people of Ladakh have observed Ladakhi New Year Losar today. **Symbolic Losar celebrations and special prayers are held at Chokanga Vihara in Leh.**
- Celebrations began with a puja for freedom from covid pandemic, world peace and brotherhood. Ladakh Buddhist Association's Youth Wing and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh jointly organized symbolic events at Chokanga Vihara.
- While greeting Ladakhi people for safe and happy Losar, **Lieutenant Governor RK Mathur** appreciated the public for limiting the celebrations to their homes and with their families given the COVID pandemic situation.



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41. Centre issues guidelines for COVID-19 vaccination drive

- The Centre has issued guidelines for the COVID-19 vaccination drive.
- **Vaccinating 100-200 people in each session per day, monitoring them for 30 minutes after administering the shots** for any adverse event and allowing only one beneficiary at a time are among the guidelines.
- The ministry has marked **thirty crore population for the phase one of the large-scale immunisation.**
- The virus vaccine will be offered first to healthcare workers, frontline workers and to persons above 50 years of age, followed by persons younger than 50 years of age with associated comorbidities based on the evolving pandemic situation.
- **Healthcare workers include doctors, nurses, paramedics working both in govt as well as private hospitals.**
- While, **frontline workers include personnel belonging to three services, paramilitary forces, municipal workers and state police force will be vaccinated in the first phase.**
- Immunisation will be undertaken by a team of five members. Registration for the vaccination will be done only on the **Co-WIN website.** Besides, 12 photo-identity documents, including Voter ID, Aadhaar card, driving license, passport and pension document will be required for self-registration on digital platform.
- Vaccine can be administered by doctors, nurses and **ANM i.e. Auxiliary Nursing Midwifery.** Assistance will be taken from NCC students as well as Gram Panchayat members.

Source:- DDNEWS

42. RBI to set up Automated Banknote Processing Centre in Jaipur

- **RBI** has made announcement to set up an **Automated Banknote Processing Centre (ABPC) in Jaipur** for receipt, storage and dispatch of currency notes.
- ABPC will automate the handling of banknotes for receipt, storage, retrieval, processing and destruction.
- It will also handle **storage of fresh banknotes received from printing presses, processing of banknotes received from currency chests (CCs) and bank branches and destruction of soiled banknotes in an automated manner.**

43. UNESCO Delhi releases State of the Education Report for India 2020: TVET

- **UNESCO New Delhi** has released 'State of the Education Report for India 2020: Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)' virtually
- 400 attendees, including representatives from govt, civil society, academia, partners and youth were at the launch
- It was the **2nd edition of State of Education Report**
- Report outlines ten recommendations to be adopted for TVET including learning, research and skill
- It was developed by **Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai**

44. First TWG Meeting between India, Iran and Uzbekistan on Chabahar Port



- **First Trilateral Working Group (TWG) Meeting** between **India, Iran and Uzbekistan** held virtually on the joint use of Chabahar Port
- TWG meet was jointly chaired by **Secretary (Shipping), India, Deputy Minister of Transport, Uzbekistan and Deputy Transport Minister of Iran.**
- **Focus:** Joint use of Chabahar Port for trade and transit purposes along with enhancing regional connectivity.
- **Chabahar Port:** seaport in south-eastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman.

45. CRISIL revises India's GDP forecast to -7.7% for fiscal 2021

- Rating agency **CRISIL** has lowered the contraction rate of **India's GDP** and forecasted growth rate of Indian economy to contract 7.7% in the **ongoing fiscal 2020-21** due to '**faster-than-expected**' recovery in the second quarter
- CRISIL in its September release, estimated India's GDP to be around 9% forecast in September 2020.
- CRISIL expects the growth to bounce back to 10% for the **fiscal 2021-22 (FY22).**
- CRISIL HQs: **Mumbai.**

46. Ola to set up world's largest scooter factory in Tamil Nadu

- **Ola** has signed **Rs 2,400 crore** investment MoU with Tamil Nadu govt, to set up its **first factory in the state**
- After completion, Ola factory in Tamil Nadu will be the largest scooter manufacturing facility in the world.
- Initially, it will have an annual manufacturing capacity of 2 million units
- It will make India a manufacturing hub for two-wheeler electric vehicles
- It will also reduce dependence of India on import of electric vehicles, boosting manufacturing, employment

47. Odisha to host 2023 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup

- **International Hockey Federation (FIH)** had announced Odisha to be the host for **2023 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup** for a second consecutive time.
- The 2023 tournament will be held at **Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar** and **Biju Patnaik Hockey Stadium in Rourkela.**
- FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2018 was also hosted by Odisha.
- FIH 2023 tournament will be 15th edition of the Men's FIH Hockey World Cup.
- FIH Hockey World Cup is held after every four years.

48. Eswatini's Prime Minister, Ambrose Dlamini passes away

- Prime Minister of Eswatini, **Ambrose Dlamini (52 years)** passed away due to COVID-10 complications in South Africa.
- He served as the **10th Prime Minister of Eswatini** from October 2018 until his death on 13 Dec 2020.
- Prior to this, he worked in the banking and telecommunications sectors, including as managing director of Nedbank and as CEO of MTN Eswatini.
- Eswatini is a country in **Southern Africa.**



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- Eswatini Capitals: **Mbabane, Lobamba.**
- Currency: **Swazi lilangeni.**

49. West Bengal Veteran Politician, Radhika Ranjan Pramanik passes away

- Veteran politician from West Bengal, Radhika **Ranjan Pramanik (88 years)** passed away due to age-related ailments in Nalkora.
- He was elected to Lok Sabha five times from Mathurapur constituency on a CPI(M) ticket, beginning 1989.
- Before that, he was contesting from **Magrahat (East) constituency.**
- He was expelled from **Communist Party of India (Marxist).**
- He joined **Trinamool Congress in 2003.**

50. Ankita Raina wins ITF doubles title in Dubai alongside Ekaterine Gorgodze

- Indian Tennis player **Ankita Raina** won the **2020 Al Habtoor Tennis Challenge** jointly with her Georgian tennis partner **Ekaterine Gorgodze** in Dubai.
- This Indo-Georgian pair defeated Spain's **Aliona Bolsova Zadoinov** and Slovakian **Kaja Juvan** by 6-4, 3-6, 10-6 to win the final of the USD 1,00,000 event.
- This was Ankita's her third doubles title of the tennis season
- **Al Habtoor Tennis Challenge:** Professional female tennis tournament and part of ITF Women's World Tennis Tour.

51. First Pilot to fly faster than speed of sound, Chuck Yeager passes away

- US Air Force officer and test pilot **Chuck Yeager (97 years)** passed away
- He became the 1st person to fly faster than the speed of sound on October 14, 1947 aboard the rocket-powered **Bell X-1 aircraft** at Mach 1 (speed of sound) at an altitude of 45,000 ft (13,700 m).
- Throughout his life, he flew more than 360 different types of aircraft
- He was associated with **World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War** and his three-war active-duty flying career spanned more than 30 years

52. Aerospace scientist Roddam Narasimha passes away

- Well-known aerospace scientist and Padma Vibhushan awardee **Roddam Narasimha (87 years)** passed away.
- He was a distinguished scientist and held various positions at Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.
- He was also the **Director of National Aerospace Laboratories.**
- He was a member of Space Commission and Chairman of Engineering Mechanics Unit at JNCASR, Bangalore
- He was awarded **Padma Vibhushan in 2013.**



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53. Nation celebrates Vijay Diwas

- The **50th Vijay Diwas** has been celebrated all across the country today.
- **Vijay Diwas** is observed every year on **December 16** as a mark of victory over **Pakistan in the 1971** war that also led to the creation of Bangladesh.
- On the occasion, PM **Narendra Modi** paid tribute at National War Memorial by lighting the '**Swarnim Vijay Mashal**'.
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** unveils the logo for '**Swarnim Vijay Varsh**' to mark **Vijay Diwas**.

54. British PM Boris Johnson to be Chief Guest at Republic Day Parade in 2021

- Britain's Prime Minister **Boris Johnson** will be the chief guest at **Republic Day Parade in January 2021**.
- After Independence, he will be the 2nd British leader to attend the **RD Parade** as the guest of honour.
- **John Major** was the first British leader to become a chief guest in **1993**.
- This will be Boris Johnson's "first major bilateral visit".
- It was announced by the UK foreign secretary Dominic Raab.
- UK Capital: **London**
- Currency: **Pound Sterling**

55. Dept of Posts & IPPB unveil new digital payment app 'DakPay'

- **Department of Posts** and **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** unveiled a new digital payment app "**DakPay**".
- The App is launched as part of its ongoing efforts to provide **Digital Financial inclusion** at the last mile across **India**.
- Along with digital payment, the DakPay will also work as a suite of digital financial and assisted banking services provided by **India Post** and **IPPB**.
- MD and CEO of IPPB: **J Venkatramu**
- Headquarters: **New Delhi**

56. Indian Coast Guard Interceptor Boat commissioned at Hazira

- **Indian Coast Guard** Interceptor Boat got commissioned at **Hazira in Gujarat**.
- This Interceptor boat is built indigenously by **M/s L&T Jetty**, Hazira.
- It is capable of a high speed of 45 knots having the capability to operate in shallow waters.
- The vessel is fitted with the latest state-of-the-art navigation and communication equipment.
- This **Interceptor Boat** will operate from Gujarat under the administrative and operational control of the **Commander Coast Guard Region**.

57. NIBIO Signs MoU with cGanga for Development of Sludge Management Framework.



- **Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO)** has signed an agreement with cGanga, a think-tank of the National Mission for Clean Ganga, for development of sludge management framework in India.
- This was announced during the **5th India Water Impact Summit 2020**.
- The event is co-organised by National Mission for Clean Ganga and Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies.

58. Edelweiss General Insurance launches new API gateway

- **Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI)** has recently launched an open **API (Application Programming Interface) gateway**.
- It is a first of its kind, to facilitate complete digital collaboration with its business partners.
- With this gateway, EGI's authorised partners can integrate their systems with the company's robust technology platform.
- It will help further reinforce EGI's linkages with both customers and partners.
- CEO and ED of EGI: **Shanai Ghosh**

59. Malayalam Writer U A Khader passes away

- Celebrated **Malayalam** writer **U A Khader** passed away recently.
- He published more than **70 novels**, short stories and travelogues that are considered among the finest works in **Malayalam**.
- Khader was known for a progressive and secular outlook to his life and his literature.
- His most acclaimed work of fiction, **Thrikkottoor Peruma** (Thrikkottoor Lore), won him the **Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award in 1984**.

60. Canara Bank Launches 'FX 4 U', a Tech product for Forex Remittance through

- **Canara Bank** has launched a new technology product **FX4U**.
- The new product will enable internet banking users to handle forex transactions seamlessly.
- Currently, the outward remittance module is being activated, the remaining modules will be activated shortly.
- This facility enables all the eligible individual customers to undertake remittance facilities as per the **Foreign Exchange Management Act(FEMA), 1999**.
- **MD and CEO: Lingam Venkat Prabhakar**
- **Headquarter: Bengaluru**

61. Andhra Pradesh rolls out free crop insurance scheme

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** has launched '**YSR Free Crop Insurance**' scheme.
- He credited **₹1,252 crores** into the bank accounts of **9.48 lakh farmers** in insurance claims for the agricultural season **2019**.
- The previous government spent an average Rs 393 crore per annum for three years towards payment of insurance premium.
- The compensation for the crop losses during 2020 will be paid in April next.
- **Governor of AP: Biswabhusan Harichandan**



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62. PM unveils key projects in Gujarat

- PM **Narendra Modi** unveiled various developmental projects in **Gujarat**.
- These projects include a desalination plant, a hybrid renewable energy park, and a fully automated milk processing and packing plant.
- He lauded the **Gujarat Government** for introducing many farmer-friendly schemes in the last twenty years.
- **Gujarat** was a pioneer to work on strengthening solar energy capacities.
- The PM remarked that Energy security and water security are vital in the **21st century**.

63. Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Sujeet' commissioned

- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) ship '**Sujeet**' was commissioned at Goa.
- It is the second in the series of five Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) built by **Goa Shipyard Limited**.
- This vessel has been made in line with **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's** vision of '**Make in India**'.
- The indigenously built ship will be commissioned by Secretary of **Defence Production Raj Kumar**.

64. 23rd meeting of Financial Stability and Development Council chaired by FM

- The FM **Nirmala Sitharaman** chaired the 23rd meeting of the **Financial Stability and Development Council**
- The FCDC took stock of macroeconomic developments and financial stability issues, both global and domestic
- The council also stressed the need for the govt and all regulators to maintain continuous vigil on the financial conditions.
- FSDC is an apex level forum created by the **Centre**
- It includes officials from the Finance Ministry and heads of **RBI, SEBI, PFRDA, IRDAI**.

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