

Important News: State

“HunarHaat” to be organised at Rampur and Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)

- Union Minister for Minority Affairs Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi announced that the next “HunarHaat” will be organised at Numaish Ground, Rampur (UP) from 18th to 27th December, 2020 and Shilp Gram, Lucknow(UP) from 23rd to 31st January 2021.
- **Note: Shri Naqvi announced that in the coming days, “HunarHaat” will be organized at Jaipur, Chandigarh, Indore, Mumbai, Hyderabad, India Gate-New Delhi, Ranchi, Kota, Surat/Ahmedabad, Kochi and other places.**

Lakshadweep declared first UT (Union Territory) to become 100% organic

- Lakshadweep has been declared as an organic agricultural area under the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) of India.
- **Organic farming** is the technique of crop and livestock production which involves choosing not to use pesticides, fertilizers, genetically modified organisms, antibiotics and growth hormones to grow crops.
- **Participatory Guarantee System (PGS):** It is a process that certifies organic products. The certification is a documented logo or a statement issued by the authorities implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
- **Note:** Sikkim became India's first 100 percent organic state in 2016.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi lays foundation stone for three ambitious projects in Kutch, Gujarat

- Projects include the world's biggest renewable energy park, sea water desalination plant and milk processing dairy plant.
- The **Hybrid Renewable Energy Park** project is one of its kind and world class, green energy project situated near Vighakot village of Kutch district. It will produce 30 Giga watt solar and wind energy on a vast expanse of wasteland.
- The **sea water desalination plant** at Mandvi in Kutch, will convert sea water for potable purposes for nearly 8 lakh people of 300 villages.
- The 130 crore rupee **milk processing dairy plant** of Sarhad dairy will process 2 lakh liter of milk per day along with packaging facility.

Important News: India

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addresses International Bharathi Festival 2020

- This festival was organised by Vanavil Cultural Centre to celebrate the 138th birth anniversary of Tamil poet and writer, Mahakavi Subramanya Bharathi.
- Scholar Shri Seeni Viswanathan received the Bharathi Award 2020.

Note: Bharathi Award was instituted in 1994 by Vanavil Cultural Centre. Every year it is being conferred on eminent persons who have done laudable service in any field of social relevance and thus worked towards the fulfilment of Bharathi's dreams.



Norwegian Institute signs agreement with cGanga for development of sludge management framework in India

- 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.
- **Note:** The agreement was signed during the **5th India Water Impact 2020 summit**. The five-day summit is held to discuss and debate issues related to water conservation, water security and river rejuvenation.
- The event is co-organised by National Mission for Clean Ganga and Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies.

Important News: World

Indian Embassy in Beijing launched a movie series "cinemaSCOpe"

- Indian Embassy in Beijing launched a movie series "cinemaSCOpe" exclusively for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in which more than two dozen Indian films dubbed in Russian language, will be screened on a monthly basis.
- The movie screening began with 'Three Idiots' and will continue till India's chairmanship of the SCO 'Council of Heads of State' meeting in 2023.

Forbes 2020 list of world's 100 most powerful women

- 1st rank- German Chancellor Angela Merkel
- 2nd rank- President, European Central Bank Christine Lagarde
- 3rd rank- US Vice President-elect Kamala Harris
- 41st rank- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman
- 55th rank- HCL Enterprise CEO Roshni Nadar Malhotra
- 68th rank- Biocon Founder Kiran Mazumdar Shaw
- **Note:** Forbes is an American business magazine owned by Integrated Whale Media Investments and the Forbes family. Editor-in-chief is Steve Forbes.

Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX)

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has launched a 9 billion dollar vaccine initiative- the Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX)- offering rapid and equitable support to its developing members as they procure and deliver effective and safe coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccines.
- **Note:** The financing of vaccines by ADB will also be in close coordination with other development partners including World Health Organisation, World Bank Group, GAVI, COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access Facility- COVAX and bilateral and multilateral partners.

UNESCO to launch international prize in the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman



- 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.
- **Sheikh Mujibur** was a Bangladeshi politician. He is called the “Father of the Nation”. He served as the first President of Bangladesh and later as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh.
- **Note:** UNESCO has declared 2021 as ‘International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development’.
- Currently, there are 23 UNESCO International Awards in the name of international celebrities and organisations.

Economy

Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) launches E-agricultural spot market platform

- BSE has launched an electronic spot platform for agricultural commodities - "BSE E-Agricultural Markets Ltd. (BEAM)" - through its subsidiary BSE Investments.
- The platform facilitates spot agricultural commodities transactions across value chain consisting of producers, intermediaries, ancillary services and consumers.
- **Note: BSE Limited**, formerly known as the Bombay Stock Exchange Ltd., is an Indian stock exchange located at Dalal Street, Mumbai. Established in 1875, it is Asia's oldest stock exchange.

RBI to set up Automated Banknote Processing Centre in Jaipur

- With a view to effectively deal with increasing circulation of banknotes, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to set up an Automated Banknote Processing Centre (ABPC) in Jaipur for receipt, storage and dispatch of currency notes.
- **Note:** The volume of banknotes in circulation has increased three-fold from March 2001 to March 2019, and is expected to rise further in the years to come.

Re-appointment of Uday Kotak as MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India approved re-appointment of Kotak Mahindra Bank's founder Uday Kotak as managing director and chief executive officer of the bank for a period of three years with effect from January 1, 2021.
- The central bank has also approved re-appointment of Prakash Apte as part - time chairman and Dipak Gupta as joint managing director.
- **About Kotak Mahindra Bank:** Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited is an Indian private sector bank headquartered in Mumbai. It was founded in 2003.

Award and Honor

SAIL gets Golden Peacock Environment Management Award

- Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has been awarded with the prestigious Golden Peacock Environment Management Award for the year 2020 in the Steel Sector by the Institute of Directors.
- The company has been the winner of this award for successive two years and this bears testimony to the efforts made by it for sustainable and environmentally responsible steel making.
- **About SAIL:** It is one of the largest steel-making companies in India and one of the Maharatna's of the country's Central Public Sector Enterprises.

Raj Kamal Jha wins Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2020

- Indian journalist-author Raj Kamal Jha has been honored with the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2020 for his novel 'The City and The Sea'.
- Jha's book is based on the December 2012 Nirbhaya rape and murder case.
- **Note: Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize** was founded in 2018 by a US-based publisher Bundalo. The prize serves as a platform for world peace, literature, art, education and human rights.

Bajrang Punia (Wrestler) and Elavenil Valarivan (Shooter) awarded "Sportsperson of the year" at FICCI India Sports Awards 2020

- The sports awards are an attempt by industry body, FICCI to acknowledge and recognise the contribution of sportspersons and various stakeholders who deliver excellent results throughout the year.
- **Note:** Madhya Pradesh received the Best State Promoting Sports Award and Cricket legend Anil Kumble received the Best Company Promoting Sports (Private Sector).

Social Entrepreneur of the year 2020 awarded to Ashraf Patel

- Ashraf Patel is one such person who has recently won the Social Entrepreneur of the Year award instituted by the Schwab Foundation and Jubilant Bhartia Foundation.
- **Note:** Ashraf Patel is the co-founder of Pravah and ComMutiny Youth Collective. In partnership with UNICEF ROSA, they developed an appreciative enquiry tool to assess the impact of COVID 19 on the lives of adolescents in 8 South Asian countries.

Joe Biden & Kamala Harris named Time magazine's Person of the Year 2020

- U.S. President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris were jointly named Time magazine's 2020 Person of the Year.
- **Note:** The Person of the Year is usually an individual, but multiple people have been named in the past. Time began its tradition for declaring person of the year in 1927.



Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians 2020 awarded to Dr. Carolina Araujo

- Dr. Carolina Araujo is a mathematician from the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics (IMPA), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- Dr. Araujo, who is Vice President of the Committee for Women in Mathematics at the International Mathematical Union, is the first non-Indian to receive this prize for her outstanding work in algebraic geometry.
- **Note:** The prize awarded annually to a researcher from a developing country funded by the Department of Science and Technology of the Government of India in collaboration with ICTP (International Centre for Theoretical Physics) and the International Mathematical Union.

2020 United Nations Population Award

- This year's winners are HelpAge India, in the institutional category, and Gyalum Sangay Choden Wangchuck, Queen Mother of Bhutan, in the individual category.
- **HelpAge India** has been working with and for disadvantaged elderly people in India for nearly four decades, enabling them to live active, dignified and healthier lives.
- **Gyalum Sangay Choden Wangchuck** is a longtime champion of sexual and reproductive health and rights and said that there is need to end violence against women, girls and children in Bhutan. She founded a volunteer organization called "Respect, Educate, Nurture and Empower Women" (RENEW) in 2004.

Defense

Launch of 2nd Project 17A Ship 'Himgiri'

- '**Himgiri**', the first of the three Project 17A ships being built at M/s Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata was launched.
- **P17A ships are the first gas turbine propulsion and largest combat platforms ever built at GRSE.**
- **Note:** 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.

New Appointment

1. **Shashi Shekhar Vempati, CEO Prasar Bharati elected Vice President of ABU**
 - Shri Shashi Shekhar Vempati has been elected to the office of the Vice President, ABU (Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union), one of the largest broadcasting associations in the world for three years.



- **Note:** Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union, formed in 1964, is a non-profit, professional association of broadcasting organisations. Its headquarters is in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Science & Technology

Cabinet approves setting up of public Wi-Fi networks

- The Cabinet approved setting up of public Wi-Fi networks under '**PM-WANI**' (**Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface**) to provide public Wi-Fi service through Public Data Offices without levy of any License Fee.
- "The scheme would enable small shopkeepers to provide Wi-Fi service. This will boost incomes as well as ensure youth gets seamless internet connectivity. It will also strengthen our Digital India mission.

Co-WIN mobile app announced for COVID-19 vaccine delivery

- The Union Health Ministry has announced a digital platform called 'Co-WIN' to monitor the entire vaccination process and enable people to register themselves for the vaccination.
- **Note:** This Co-WIN app will have 5 modules that will help vaccinators, administrators and people who will get these vaccine shots. These modules would include administrator module, registration module, vaccination module, beneficiary acknowledgement module and report module.

Quantum Communication between two DRDO Laboratories

- DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organization) developed Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) technology underwent trials in Hyderabad between two DRDO labs, DRDL (Defence Research and Development Laboratory) and RCI (The Research Centre Imarat), to show secure communication.
- **Note:** The technology is developed by CAIR, Bengaluru and DYSL-QT, Mumbai. Quantum Communication using the time-bin Quantum Key Distribution scheme was performed under realistic conditions.

Health

Indian Railways launches Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) trial project

- The trial project has been launched over South Central Railway.
- **About HMIS:** The HMIS in Railways has been developed by Indian Railways in coordination with RailTel Corporation Limited.
- Its objective is to provide a single window of clearance of hospital administration activity such as clinical, diagnostics, pharmacy, examinations, industrial health etc.

National Centre for Divyang Empowerment (NCDE) inaugurated in Hyderabad



Gradeup Bihar State Exams Green Card Subscription
(BPSC, Bihar SI, Bihar SSC etc.)
Get unlimited access to all 40+ mock tests

- Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy has inaugurated the National Centre for Divyang Empowerment at the CRPF Group Centre in Hakimpet near Hyderabad.
- This is the first of its kind establishment to re-skill and rehabilitates the Divyang Warriors of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) who suffered life threatening injuries in line of duty.

NITI Aayog releases a white paper " Vision 2035 - Public Health Surveillance in India"

- The white paper lays out India's vision 2035 for public health surveillance through the integration of the three-tiered public health system into Ayushman Bharat.
- Citizen-friendly public health surveillance system will ensure individual privacy, enabled with a client feedback mechanism. India aims to provide regional and global leadership in managing events that constitute a public health emergency of international concern.

India's first mRNA vaccine for Covid-19

- India's first indigenous mRNA vaccine has received approval from the Drug Controller General of India to initiate Phase I/II human clinical trial.
- The mRNA vaccine, HGCO19 has been developed by Gennova, a company based in Pune and supported with seed grant under the Ind-CEPI mission of Department of Biotechnology of Science and Technology Ministry.
- **Note:** The mRNA vaccines do not use the conventional model to produce immune response. Instead, mRNA vaccine carries the molecular instructions to make the protein in the body through a synthetic RNA of the virus.

Environment & Ecology

Summits & Conference

First Trilateral Working Group Meeting between India, Iran and Uzbekistan on joint use of Chabahar Port

- The Ministry of External Affairs said, this will open up economic opportunities for the traders and business community of the region.
- **Note:** All the countries welcomed India's proposal to hold a "Chabahar Day" on the margins of the International Maritime Summit to be hosted by New Delhi in January next year.
- **Chabahar Port** is a seaport in Chabahar located in southeastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman.
- The port is being developed by India, Iran and Afghanistan to boost trade ties among the three countries.



PM Narendra Modi addresses Climate Ambition Summit 2020

- The summit was co-hosted by the United Nations, the United Kingdom and France in partnership with Chile and Italy to mark the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Paris Agreement on December 12, 2020.
- The prime minister added that India has reduced its emission intensity by 21 percent over 2005 levels. Our solar capacity has grown from 2.63 GigaWatts in 2014 to 36 GigaWatts in 2020. Our renewable energy capacity is the fourth largest in the world.
- **Note:** The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) recently released the **Emissions Gap Report, 2020**.
- The report finds that, despite a brief dip in carbon dioxide emissions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the world is still heading for a temperature rise in excess of 3°C this century – far beyond the Paris Agreement goals of limiting global warming.

‘Swadhinata Sarak’ between Bangladesh and India to be opened on March 26, 2021

- Swadhinata Sarak remains functional on the Indian side while it will be connected through Mujibnagar, Meherpur district in Bangladesh.
- **Note:** During the summit meeting between the Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh on December 17, Chilahati-Haldirbari rail link which was active till 1965 will be inaugurated.

Ranking & Index

Urban Quality of Life Index 2020

- IIT-Bombay, recently released Urban Quality of Life Index, wherein the institution compared the life quality in various cities all over India on the basis of some common denominations.
- **Some important ranks are:** Mumbai provides the highest quality of life in the country, closely followed by Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata. Bihar's capital city Patna, on the other hand has been ranked at the lowest position.
- For the gender parity index, Chennai got the top rank and has shown the least gender discrimination and differences and Patna remains the worst performing city.

2. India got 131st place in Human Development Index (HDI) 2020

- India dropped two spots to 131 among 189 countries in the 2020 human development index, according to a report released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- Norway topped the index, followed by Ireland and Switzerland.
- The life expectancy of Indians at birth in 2019 was 69.7 years.
- **Note:** India had ranked 129th in the index of 2019.



- Human Development Index is the measure of a nation's health, education, and standards of living.

Important Days

December 14, National Energy conservation day

- Energy conservation day is celebrated on December 14 every year since 1991 to focus on making people aware of global warming and climate change and promotes efforts towards saving energy resources.
- **Note:** In India Energy Conservation Act was implemented by the Energy Efficiency Bureau (BEE) under the Ministry of Power in 2001. BEE is a constitutional body which works under the Government of India and helps in the development of policies and strategies to reduce the use of energy.

December 16, Vijay Diwas

- Vijay Diwas is commemorated every 16th December in India, to remember Indian military's victory over Pakistan in Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 for the liberation of Bangladesh from Pakistan.
- **Note:** Same day is commemorated in Bangladesh as Bijoy Dibos.

December 18, International Migrants Day

- The International Migrants Day 2020 theme is Reimagining Human Mobility.
- According to the United Nations, an estimated number of migrants globally reached 272 million in 2019.
- **Note:** On 18 December 1990, the General Assembly adopted a resolution on the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

Obituaries

Karnataka's renowned Sanskrit scholar and Kannada poet Bannanje Govindacharya passes away

- Conferred with the Padma Shri in 2009, Govindacharya was widely known for his translation of and commentaries on the complete texts of Sri Madhvacharya, a philosopher and theologian of the 13th century.
- Apart from translating several literary works from Sanskrit to Kannada, Bannanje Govindacharya penned nearly 150 books. His works are popular among Tuluvas and Kannadigas across the world.

Aerospace scientist Roddam Narasimha passes away

- Eminent aerospace scientist and Padma Vibhushan awardee Roddam Narasimha who served at the prestigious Indian Institute of Science (IISc) died at 87.



Books and Authors

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla released book titled 'The Shaurya Unbound' on the 19th anniversary of the Parliament attack

- The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has launched this book commemorating the valor of its brave soldiers, including Constable Kamlesh Kumari, who was martyred in the 2001 Parliament attack.
- Neetu, DIG CRPF, and BM Dinakaran, DIG CRPF are the authors of this book.

Sports

Yash Vardhan wins Gold in Air Rifle at 6th IOSC

- 17-year-old Junior Asian champion, Yash Vardhan of India won the 10m air rifle event at the 6th edition of the International Online Shooting Championship (IOSC).
- **Note:** The IOSC organised by former Indian shooter Shimon Sharif saw participation of shooters from around 20 different countries.

Doha to host 2030 Asian Games, Riyadh in 2034

- The Olympic Council of Asia announced that Doha, Qatar will host the 2030 Asian Games while Riyadh, Saudi Arabia will host the 2034 edition.
- **Note:** Qatar will also host the 2022 FIFA World Cup.
- China will host the 2022 Asian Games.

Government to start 1000 Khelo India small centres to encourage sports culture in country

- Addressing the 10th Global Sports Summit, TURF 2020, The Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju, announced that the government will be starting 1000 Khelo India centres all over the country to help retired sportspersons get employment and to encourage the sports culture in the country.
- **Note:** FICCI in association with Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS), Government of India, organized International Conference on Business of Sports & Fitness 10th TURF 2020, the virtual edition on 8-9 December.

Breakdancing gets Olympic status to debut at Paris in 2024

- **Note:** Three sports (skateboarding, sport climbing and surfing) will make their Olympic debuts at the Tokyo Games which were postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic by one year to open on July 23, 2021.

F1 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2020

- **Max Verstappen (Red Bull) won the F1 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2020.**



- **Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes)** got second position and **Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes)** got third position.

Ankita Raina wins ITF doubles title in Dubai

- Indian tennis player Ankita Raina won her third doubles title, clinching the Al Habtoor challenge with Ekaterine Gorgodze.
- The unseeded Indo-Georgian pair won against Aliona Bolsova Zadoinov from Spain and Slovakian Kaja Juvan in the final event.

gradeup



Gradeup Bihar State Exams Green Card Subscription
(BPSC, Bihar SI, Bihar SSC etc.)

Get unlimited access to all 40+ mock tests