

# Weekly One-Liners

22-30 Nov 2020



## Weekly One Liners Updates 22-30<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear readers,

**Weekly One Liners Updates** is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **fourth week** (22-30th) of **November 2020**. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

### Banking & Financial Awareness

1. Which life insurance company has “ANANDA”, a digital application for agents for onboarding to get a life insurance policy \_\_\_\_\_ **Life Insurance Corporation of India**.  
**Note:**
  - The Digital Application is called “ANANDA”, which is an acronym for Atma Nirbhar Agents NewBusiness Digital Application.
  - The Digital application is a tool for the onboarding process to get the life insurance policy through a paperless module with the help of the agent or intermediary.
2. The Reserve Bank of India has rejected which NBFCs proposal to acquire IDBI Asset Management Company on the ground of synergy \_\_\_\_\_ **Muthoot Finance**.  
**Note:**
  - IDBI Bank, which was planning to sell its mutual fund business for Rs 215 crore to comply with regulations, will now have to find a new buyer for it.
  - IDBI Bank, which is a subsidiary of Life Insurance Corporation, has to divest its share in the AMC since LIC already has a mutual fund unit.
3. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on which public sector bank for unauthorised ATM operations \_\_\_\_\_ **Punjab National Bank**.  
**Note:**
  - RBI has observed that the Bank was operating a bilateral ATM sharing arrangement with Druk PNB Bank Ltd, Bhutan, (international subsidiary of the Bank), since April, 2010 without the prior approval / authorisation from RBI.
  - Meannwhile, in a statement the RBI said it has cancelled the Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) of five Payment System Operators (PSOs) engaged in issuance and operation of prepaid payment instruments.
4. Which bank has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Luxembourg Stock Exchange (LuxSe) to set up a long-term cooperation mechanism, and promote Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance and green finance \_\_\_\_\_ **State Bank of India**.  
**Note:**
  - The MoU will help SBI and LuxSE set up a long-term cooperation mechanism, and promote ESG (Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance) and green finance.
  - Through this MoU, the Luxembourg Stock Exchange would work towards creating a sustainable environment for issuers, asset managers, and investors in terms of ESG focused funds and bonds, according to an official release.
5. With which bank the Inventivepreneur Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ICCI) has signed an MoU to support Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Start-ups \_\_\_\_\_ **HDFC Bank**.  
**Note:**
  - Through this association ICCI engages, enrolls and supports various Startups /SMEs /MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) to facilitate financial and other facilities to/from HDFC Bank.
  - HDFC Bank may offer bank accounts to Startups that are supported by ‘Inventivepreneur’.
  - It will provide vital business support functions namely, shared workspaces, digital marketing, web services, Patent filing, content writing, tax, and legal advisory to ICCI recommended businesses.
6. Which payments bank has collaborated with PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited to launch Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) \_\_\_\_\_ **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)**.  
**Note:**
  - This scheme provides life cover of Rs 2 Lakh on death of the insured member due to any reason. It is optional for all the savings account holders with IPPB.

- The Scheme was launched in 2015. It is a low cost insurance scheme that seeks to bring large sections of the underserved and unserved population into the financial mainstream.
7. The PK Mohanty constituted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recommended raising the cap on promoter shareholding in private sector banks to what per cent of the paid-up equity capital \_\_\_\_\_ **26 per cent.**  
**Note:**
- The panel has also proposed that large corporates may be permitted to promote banks after necessary amendments to the Banking Regulations Act.
  - The committee, led by PK Mohanty, has also proposed converting of payments banks into a small finance bank. For this, the track record of 3 years of experience as payments bank may be considered as sufficient.
8. Reserve Bank of India imposed restrictions on withdrawals from which Urban Cooperative Bank for six months \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mantha Urban Cooperative Bank.**  
**Note:**
- The RBI, in a release, said it has issued certain directions to Mantha Urban Cooperative Bank, Mantha District Jalna, Maharashtra, from the close of business on November 17, 2020.
  - As per the directions, the bank will not, without prior approval of RBI in writing, grant or renew any loans and advances, make any investment, incur any liability including borrowal of funds and acceptance of fresh deposits, disburse or agree to disburse any payment, among others.
9. Luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz has partnered with which bank to offer attractive financial benefits, on owning a Mercedes-Benz \_\_\_\_\_ **State Bank of India.**  
**Note:**
- The collaboration will give Mercedes-Benz access to the unparalleled market penetration of SBI's HNI customer base, while the bank's customers will enjoy exclusive benefits while booking a marque luxury product like Mercedes-Benz.
  - The collaboration guarantees a host of financial benefits including an attractive rate of interest, additional benefits worth INR 25,000 exclusively for YONO customers who book a Mercedes-Benz vehicle through its Icon displayed on SBI's digital platform YONO.
10. Union Cabinet has approved the merger of crisis-ridden Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited (LVB) with which of these banks \_\_\_\_\_ **DBS Bank India.**  
**Note:**
- The merger takes effect November 27, when the bar on withdrawals by LVB depositors will be lifted.
  - LVB will be amalgamated with DBIL from the appointed date, and with this there will be no further restrictions on the depositors regarding withdrawal of their deposits.
11. The report titled "FDI in India: Now, Next and Beyond" has been prepared by which organization along with Ernst & Young Global Limited (EY), according to which India may foreign direct investment (FDI) of \$120-160 billion per year by 2025 \_\_\_\_\_ **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).**  
**Note:**
- This is on the condition to increase the FDI to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio between 3-4% from less than 2% now.
  - Notably, India's GDP grew 6.8% in the past 10 years with FDI to GDP at 1.8%.
  - India's GDP growth could also improve to 7-8% growth if the investments come in.
  - The investors ranked India third in terms of attractiveness and 80% of them have planned for investment in India in the next two to three years. Out of them 25% investments are worth over \$500 million.
12. Muthoot Finance in partnership with which company launched a gold jewellery insurance scheme called 'Gold Shield' \_\_\_\_\_ **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance.**  
**Note:**
- The new product known as 'Muthoot Gold Shield' is the gold jewellery insurance scheme launched by Muthoot Finance for its customers.
  - The policy provides insurance coverage for gold jewellery of individual customers.
  - This product is exclusively designed to provide insurance coverage of gold jewellery articles for customers of the company at the time of closure of the gold loan and release of gold ornaments.
13. Which bank has launched an SMS Pay functionality on POS terminals, which enables merchants to accept contactless payments from customers \_\_\_\_\_ **Yes Bank.**  
**Note:**
- The facility was launched in collaboration with French payment services company Worldline

- Local merchants and department stores could request payments from customers by entering their contact details.
  - An SMS would be triggered with a generated link, through which payments can be processed by credit and debit cards.
14. Which Fintech company has Corporate Cards, in collaboration with VISA to provide relief and stabilise the financial operations of COVID-19-affected startups and SMEs \_\_\_\_\_ **Razorpay**.
- Note:**
- The new cards will enable founders to free up working capital expenses with zero personal risks and liability and a repayment offering of up to 45 days of interest-free credit.
  - They can be used to make online payments as well as purchases at a PoS in a brick-and-mortar.
15. As per the data released by the Union ministry of statistics and programme implementation (Mospi), India's GDP contracted by what per the cent in the quarter ending September 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ **7.5%**.
- Note:**
- India's GDP fell by 23.9% in April-June period quarter, worst in decades, amid the coronavirus pandemic-induced which hit businesses and livelihoods across the country.
  - The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) internal model expected a GDP contraction of 8.6% in the September quarter.

### Obituaries

1. Veteran politician Tarun Gogoi passed away recently, he was former chief minister of which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Assam**.
- Note:**
- Mr Gogoi was diagnosed with COVID-19 in August 2020.
  - Tarun Gogoi served as the Chief minister of Assam between 2001 and 2015. He was a member of the Congress party.
  - Till date he was the longest serving chief minister of Assam
2. Renowned personality Ahmed Patel passed away recently; he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Politician**.
- Note:**
- Patel, 71, was suffering from complications related to Covid-19.
  - Ahmed Patel was the go-to man in the Congress who kept a low profile but quietly wielded power and meticulously executed decisions of the leadership.
3. Legendary footballer, Diego Maradona passed away recently, for which country did he played \_\_\_\_\_ **Argentina**.
- Note:**
- Maradona had begun his professional career with Argentinos Juniors at the age of 16 and he went on to become one of the greatest players to ever play the game of football.
  - The ace footballer represented Boca Juniors, Barcelona, Napoli, Sevilla, and Newell's Old Boys as a player.
  - Diego was considered the main player in taking Argentina to their second World Cup title in 1986.
4. Sahitya Academy award winner Shaik Khaja Hussain was a noted poet, journalist, scriptwriter of which language who passed away recently \_\_\_\_\_ **Telugu**.
- Note:**
- Devi Priya bagged the Sahitya Akademi Award 2017, for his book Gaali Rangu. His "Running Commentary" on contemporary politics in Udayam Telugu daily was very popular and thought-provoking.
  - Later, he continued the Running Commentary even for a couple of vernacular news channels. He is known for his political satirical cartoons and poetry.
5. Renowned personality Faqir Chand Kohli passed away recently, he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Industrialist**.
- Note:**
- FC Kohli is known to have led the inception of the global tech behemoth TCS, thereby sowing the seed of India's IT industry.
  - Kohli's pioneering journey in the IT sector began when he joined Tata Electric, which is now Tata Power in 1951.
  - Kohli is also known to have played an important role in the advancement of technical education in the country.
6. Renowned personality Sadiq al-Mahdi passed away recently, he was an elected prime minister of which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Sudan**.
- Note:**
- He was the head of the National Umma Party. He was born on December 25, 1935 in Al-Abasya, Omdurman, Sudan.

- Sadiq al-Mahdi served as the PM twice, one in 1966–67 and another from 1986 until 1989 Sudanese coup d'état, a military coup, headed by Omar al-Bashir.
  - He was the leader of Ansar or followers of the Mahdi, a Sufi religious movement in the Sudan whose followers are disciples of Muhammad Ahmad, who claimed to be the Mahdi, the messianic saviour of Islam.
7. Renowned personality James Wolfensohn passed away recently, he was former president of \_\_\_\_\_ **World Bank**.
- Note:**
- He served World Bank for 10 years and he was a guiding force for a couple of the most well-known cultural institutions in the US viz Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center in Washington.
  - He was born in Australia, worked on Wall Street for many years before taking over as the head of the World Bank, a loan-offering global development organization, in 1995.

### Important Days

1. The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is celebrated worldwide on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **25th November**.
- Note:**
- The day is celebrated to raise awareness of the fact that women around the world are subject to various forms of violence and the true nature of the issue is often hidden.
  - This year's theme for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is "Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!".
2. The National Law Day is observed on which date to commemorates the adoption of the Constitution in India \_\_\_\_\_ **26th November**.
- Note:**
- On 26 November 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, and it came into effect on 26 January 1950.
  - The Government of India declared 26 November as Constitution Day on 19 November 2015 by a gazette notification.
  - The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi made the declaration on 11 October 2015 while laying the foundation stone of the B. R. Ambedkar's Statue of Equality memorial in Mumbai.
3. In India the National Milk Day is observed every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **26th November**.
- Note:**
- The day was fixed by all the dairy majors of the country including the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), the Indian Dairy Association (IDA), along with 22 state-level milk federations.
4. The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is observed every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **29th November**.
- Note:**
- The day marks the adoption of resolution on the partition of Palestine in 1947 and was adopted by UN General Assembly in 1977 as the as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.
  - Palestine: It is recognized officially as State of Palestine by UN and other entities. It is a sovereign state in Western Asia with administrative centre located in Ramallah.
  - It will be observed on 1 December with special meetings in 2020 due to COVID-19.
5. The United Nations Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare is observed every year on \_\_\_\_\_ **30th November**.
- Note:**
- The day marks a tribute to the victims of chemical warfare, as well as to reaffirm the commitment of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to the elimination of the threat of chemical weapons, thereby promoting the goals of peace, security, and multilateralism.

### New Appointments

1. Greg Barclay, who appointed as the new Chairman of International Cricket Council (ICC) belongs to which country \_\_\_\_\_ **New Zealand**.
- Note:**

- Barclay succeeds India's Shashank Manohar who stepped down in July 2020 and will replace Imran Khwaja, who is currently the interim chairman.
  - He was serving as NZC's representative on the board of the International Cricket Council and had also served as the director of ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2015.
2. Who has been appointed as the new Engineer-in-Chief of Indian Army \_\_\_\_\_ **Lt Gen Harpal Singh.**
- Note:**
- He is presently the Director-General of Border Roads Organisation and would take over his new appointment on 1 December.
  - Lt Gen Harpal Singh, an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers on 24 December 1982.
  - He later commanded a Border Roads, Task Force, in Jammu and Kashmir valley.
3. Who is going to be nominated as the as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget by the U.S. President-elect Joe Biden Joe Biden \_\_\_\_\_ **Neera Tanden.**
- Note:**
- It is a top position inside the White House responsible for managing the administration's budget.
  - Ms. Tanden (50) would be the first woman of colour to head the influential Office of Management and Budget at the White House.
  - Ms. Tanden is currently chief executive of the left-leaning Center for American Progress.

### Important News - India

1. The Union Information Technology Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad launched the International version of which mobile application \_\_\_\_\_ **UMANG.**
- Note:**
- UMANG is Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance.
  - It was launched in UK, US, Australia, Canada, Netherlands, UAE, Australia, Singapore and New Zealand.
  - The International version was launched on the completion of three years of UMANG.
2. What is the name of the cyclone that hit the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry recently \_\_\_\_\_ **Nivar.**
- Note:**
- It is to hit the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry.
  - The National Crisis Management Committee recently reviewed the status of cyclone held through video conferencing.
  - The committee was set up by Government of India in the wake of natural calamity.
3. What is the theme of the 23rd Edition of Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ **Next is Now.**
- Note:**
- The Summit is being held completely in Virtual Platform due to Pandemic.
  - Theme of BTS 2020 is 'Next is Now'.
  - The BTS 2020 Summit focused on technologies and innovations in the field of 'Information Technology & Electronics' and 'Biotechnology'
4. According to Global Employability Ranking and Survey (GEURS) 2020, which Indian Institutions has been ranked as the best institute in terms of employability of its students \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi.**
- Note:**
- The GEURS 2020 was released by the Times Higher Education and French HR Consultancy group 'Emerging'.
  - Globally, India has been ranked among the 15 best-performing countries in employability, improving from its 23rd rank in 2010.
5. Food Processing minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated a mega food park (MFP) in which state recently \_\_\_\_\_ **Punjab.**
- Note:**
- This MFP built at project cost of Rs 107.83 crores and spread over 55 acres of land is expected to benefit about 25000 farmers.
  - Till date, 37 MFPs have been sanctioned and 20 have already started functioning
6. Who will chair the Expert Committee constituted by the NITI Aayog to explore the technological and commercial viability of the Virgin Hyperloop technology for ultrahigh speed travel in India \_\_\_\_\_ **VK Saraswat.**

**Note:**

- The Virgin Hyperloop test run was conducted on a 500-meter track in Las Vegas in the USA with a pod, as the hyperloop vehicles are called, travelling with passengers, including an Indian, inside an enclosed tube at more than 100 mph or 161 kmph.

7. Two-days '80th All India Presiding Officers Conference' was held in which place that was inaugurated by President Ramnath Kovind and concluding session addressed by PM Narendra Modi \_\_\_\_\_ **Kevadia, Gujarat.**

**Note:**

- The two-day conference was held at Kevadia in Gujarat.
- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurates the conference which is being attended by Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat, the state's Chief Minister Vijay Rupani among others. Speaker Om Birla is also the chairperson of the conference.

8. Who has inaugurated the 3rd Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST 2020) virtually \_\_\_\_\_ **Narendra Modi.**

**Note:**

- During the three-day virtual conference, all the leading companies displayed their latest technological development in the field of renewable energy and discuss various options available for energy transition.
- Several world leaders, Energy Ministers of 75 countries and 200 eminent speakers attended the event.
- The summit is organised by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- The theme for RE-Invest 2020 is 'Innovations for Sustainable Energy Transition'.

9. Indian Railways collaborated with which business school for a study on 'An Integrated Coal-Freight Optimization Model' to increase network throughput and optimize freight transportation over Indian Railways \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian School of Business, Hyderabad.**

**Note:**

- In this regard, Letter of Agreement (LoA) was exchanged between Shiva Prasad, Principal Chief Operations Manager, South Central Railway (SCR) and Milind Sohoni, Deputy Dean, Indian School of Business.
- Exchange was done in the presence of Gajanan Mallya, General Manager, SCR and other senior officials of Railways & ISB at Rail Nilayam, Hyderabad, the zonal headquarters of the South Central Railway zone of the Indian Railway.

10. FLO, the women wing of the FICCI has signed an agreement with which IIM and Incubation and Enterprise Support Centre (IESC) to mentor entrepreneurs \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Shillong.**

**Note:**

- Under this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), FICCI FLO, IESC and IIM Shillong will jointly provide guidance and mentor entrepreneurs by facilitating a nurturing, instructive and supportive environment during the initial and critical stages of starting a business, thus enabling them to reduce the initial startup costs and establish themselves in a shorter timeframe.

11. What is the theme of the 3rd Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST 2020) \_\_\_\_\_ **'Innovations for Sustainable Energy Transition'.**

**Note:**

- During the three-day virtual conference, all the leading companies displayed their latest technological development in the field of renewable energy and discuss various options available for energy transition.
- Several world leaders, Energy Ministers of 75 countries and 200 eminent speakers attended the event. The summit is organised by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- The theme for RE-Invest 2020 is 'Innovations for Sustainable Energy Transition'.

12. PM Narendra Modi unveiled which University's centennial commemorative coin of Rs.100 over a virtual platform \_\_\_\_\_ **University of Lucknow.**

**Note:**

- He also released the commemorative stamp issued by the India Post and its cover at the event organised for the celebration of the 100th Foundation day of the University of Lucknow.
- Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh(UP), Anandiben Patel, Governor of UP and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who is also a Lok Sabha member from Lucknow Constituency participated in the event.

13. Union Minister of Education, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' chaired the virtual national conference on 'Empowering Through Zero (Shunya Se Sashaktikaran)', the conference was organized by which NGO \_\_\_\_\_ **Sri Aurobindo Society.**

**Note:**

- It was organised by Sri Aurobindo Society.
- Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' honoured over 40 education officers and 26 teachers for their leadership role and innovative practices respectively during COVID-19 pandemic.
- He launched an e-book, 'Innovation and Leadership Casebook – Covid Edition'. It comprises the innovative efforts and work of the education officers and teachers.

14. Who has inaugurated Honey Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) Programme in 5 states for producing honey \_\_\_\_\_  
**Narendra Singh Tomar.**

**Note:**

- Aim: To address the issues faced by beekeeping industry and also promote honey production in the country increasing farmer's income.
- These 5 FPOs will be set up by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED).
- It will be set up at East Champaran (Bihar), Morena (Madhya Pradesh), Bharatpur (Rajasthan), Mathura (Uttar Pradesh) and Sunderbans (West Bengal).

15. Who launched the India Climate Change Knowledge Portal \_\_\_\_\_ **Prakash Javadekar.**

**Note:**

- The portal will have all the major steps the Government is taking at both national and international levels to address the climate change issues.
- It will be a single-point information resource that provides information on the different climate initiatives taken by various Line Ministries enabling users to access d status on these initiatives.

16. The Government of India has approved the construction of Song Dam Drinking Water Project worth Rs 1100 crore in \_\_\_\_\_ **Dehradun.**

**Note:**

- This scheme will provide 24-hour drinking water to the city of Dehradun and will give a rebirth to River Rispana.
- It one of the most important projects of our government.
- Originally built on the Song River, the dam is about 148 meters high and aims to generate power up to six megawatts.

### Important News – State

1. The International Cherry Blossom Festival hosted every year by which state/UT that has been cancelled this year due to COVID-19 pandemic \_\_\_\_\_ **Meghalaya.**

**Note:**

- It is the only Cherry festival being conducted in India.
- The India International Cherry blossom festival is organised by the Government of Meghalaya every year.

2. India's First Moss Garden was inaugurated in which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Uttarakhand.**

**Note:**

- The Garden has been set up for the purpose of conservation of different species of moss.
- It will also serve the purpose of generating awareness among people regarding the importance of Moss in the environment

3. First cow hospital of North East inaugurated in which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Assam.**

**Note:**

- A cow shelter in Assam's Dibrugarh inaugurated Northeast's first-ever cow hospital, on the occasion of Gopashtami.
- The hospital, Surbhi Aarogyashala, is set up by Shree Gopal Gaushala at a cost of Rs 17 lakh. The hospital will provide services in 30 km radius. There are 368 cows in the shelter.

4. In which state Prime minister Narendra Modi launched 'Har Ghar Nal Yojna' to provide tap water for every household \_\_\_\_\_ **Uttar Pradesh.**

**Note:**



- Government was committed to solving the water scarcity problem and hence the scheme of worth ₹5,555 crores was launched in the state.
  - The scheme will benefit 21,87,980 villagers in Mirzapur. In Sonbhadra, 19,53,458 families will be benefitted by the scheme. Rs 3212.18 crore and Rs 2343.20 crore will be spent under the scheme. The total cost of the scheme is Rs 5555.38 crore.
5. Which state has set a target to become a USD 50 billion biotechnology market by 2025 \_\_\_\_\_ **Karnataka**.
- Note:**
- The government released its first draft of the Bio-economy Report 2020 at the Bengaluru Tech Summit, highlighting achievements and earmarking targets for the next five years.
  - The report also claims that the same has grown by 14-17 per cent in the previous two years and that the state contributes 10.3 per cent to the gross state domestic product (GSDP) of USD 221.82 billion.
6. Which state/UTs has launched the 'Him Suraksha Abhiyan' to collect real-time data on the health profile of entire state \_\_\_\_\_ **Himachal Pradesh**.
- Note:**
- Under this Abhiyan about 8000 teams comprising of Health, Ayurveda, Women and Child Development, Panchayati Raj Departments, District Administration and NGOs would be involved in this campaign.
  - It would ensure door to door data collection of health parameters of the people.
7. The 10th edition of prestigious National science film festival was organized by Vigyan Prasar, Department of Science and Technology (GoI) and Council of Science and Technology of which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Tripura**.
- Note:**
- The science film festival offers a unique platform to showcase the science films made by professionals, amateur and student filmmakers under various themes, to promote science films in India.
  - A total of 372 films in different languages were received for participation, of which 115 films have been shortlisted by the ten-member jury to be screened during the festival.
  - These films are in Hindi, English, Urdu, Malayalam, Kashmiri, Bengali, Marathi, Punjabi and Tamil languages.
8. Which state government has launched "Government At Doorstep" scheme \_\_\_\_\_ **West Bengal**.
- Note:**
- To run until Gandhi Jayanti on January 30, the initiative will attempt to ship pending companies to folks.
  - From 11 am to 3 pm every day from December 1, government camps will be held in every block in the state where people can come and demand any service they have not received yet.
9. Which state government has launched 'Thee', a mobile phone-based application for the benefit of the general public to reach out to the Fire and Rescue Services when in need \_\_\_\_\_ **Tamil Nadu**.
- Note:**
- The application has been designed to help the general public in case of fire accidents, floods, mishaps in deep wells, rescue of wildlife, chemical or gas leaks, among other accidents.
  - Arrangements have been made to facilitate people in need getting help within 10 seconds of their using the app.
10. Which state government has signed a Letter of Understanding (LoU) with United Nation's World Food Programme (WFP) for proposed participation to achieve food and nutritional security goals \_\_\_\_\_ **Rajasthan**.
- Note:**
- On the basis of the signed MoU, WFP authorities have signed the LoU with various government departments to develop a partnership with them.
  - The Civil Supplies Department of Rajasthan had signed an MoU with the UN to achieve sustainable goal development.

### Important News – World

1. The Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit was recently hosted by which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Malaysia**.
- Note:**
- The Summit was attended by the US President Donald Trump as well.
  - The next APEC meeting is to be hosted by New Zealand.
  - The APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 was adopted during the Summit. It envisions and open, resilient peaceful Asia Pacific community by 2040.
2. According to the Worldwide Cost of Living (WCOL) annual report from the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) which group of cities emerged as the most expensive cities of the world \_\_\_\_\_ **Hong Kong, Paris and Zurich**.

**Note:**

- According to the Worldwide Cost of Living (WCOL) annual report from the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) revealed that Singapore and Osaka, which were joint first in 2019, have slid down the rankings to fourth and fifth place respectively.
- Cities in the Americas, Africa and eastern Europe have become less expensive since 2019, whilst western European cities have become pricier.

3. With which country India signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of biodiversity conservation and environment protection \_\_\_\_\_ **Finland**.

**Note:**

- The agreement was signed by the Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar and his counterpart Krista Mikkonen of Finland.
- According to the Memorandum of Understanding, the countries will exchange their best practices in areas such as prevention of air and water pollution, waste management, low carbon solutions, sustainable management of natural resources and promotion of circular economy.
- Also, it will help the countries to develop technological, scientific and management capabilities.

4. Which country is all set to become the first Arab Gulf country, and probably the last, to generate electricity from coal \_\_\_\_\_ **United Arab Emirates**.

**Note:**

- In this regard, the company has already inked a long time agreement with Japan's Jera Co under which the latter will supply coal.
- The capacity of the plant will be 600 megawatts (MW) initially which will be increased to 2,400 MW by 2023.

5. India has revived the Indian Ocean troika with which two countries to promote the "meaningful cooperation" in the Indian Ocean region on maritime security \_\_\_\_\_ **Maldives and Sri Lanka**.

**Note:**

- Mauritius and Seychelles joined as observers through virtual mode.
- In a shift from the past, the National Security Advisors of India, Sri Lanka and Maldives decided — after their in-person trilateral meeting in Colombo — to broad-base the maritime security dialogue and include "terrorism", "radicalisation", "extremism", "drugs", "arms and human trafficking", "money laundering" and "cybersecurity" as they decided to cooperate in these areas of common concern.
- This is the first time that NSA Ajit Doval participated in the trilateral dialogue as the group has not met since March 2014.

6. The Hualong One is a first domestically made nuclear reactor of which country that goes online recently \_\_\_\_\_ **China**.

**Note:**

- It is a significant step in Beijing's attempts to become less dependent on Western allies for energy security and critical technology.
- The reactor, which was connected to the national grid, can generate 10 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity each year and cut carbon emissions by 8.16 million tons.

7. Which country has hosted the Heads of Government (HoG) council meeting of the eight-nation Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ **India**.

**Note:**

- The Summit was chaired by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu
- This is the first time that a Summit-level Meeting will be held under India's Chairmanship since it gained full membership of the organisation in 2017.
- The Prime Ministers from the SCO Member States of Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan will attend the SCO meeting.

**Honor & Awards**

1. Who has been bestowed with the 2020 Aditya Vikram Birla Kalashikhar Puraskar at annual Sangit Kala Kendra Awards \_\_\_\_\_ **Nasiruddin Shah**.

**Note:**

- Alongside, two emerging stars, in the firmament of theatrics – Neel Choudhary and Irawati Karnik were awarded the Aditya Vikram Birla Kalakiran Puraskars. "Theatre" is the central theme, for this year's awards.

- The Aditya Vikram Birla Kalashikhar and Kalakiran Puraskar awards, were instituted in 1996 by the Sangeet Kala Kendra (SKK), which was founded in 1973 by Aditya Vikram Birla (former Chairman of Aditya Birla Group), to honor excellence in theatre and performing arts.
2. Who has received the Vatayan Lifetime Achievement Award 2020 for his contribution to the literary works of India \_\_\_\_\_ **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'**.

**Note:**

- The award was presented to him by the Vatayan-UK organization in London, England.
- The Vatayan-UK felicitation ceremony organised as a virtual event by the British Institution Group in England.
- Along with Minister of Education, Manoj Muntashir, famous poet and lyricist won the International Vatayan Literary award 2020 at the Vatayan-UK felicitation ceremony.
3. Which web series has won the best drama series honour at the 48th International Emmy Awards \_\_\_\_\_ **Delhi Crime**.
- Note:**
- Told from the perspective of the Delhi Police team investigating the crime that made global headlines, the series deconstructs the case of the 23-year-old physiotherapy intern who was abducted and gangraped in a moving bus on the night of December 16, 2012 before she was abandoned on a Delhi road.
- Actor Shefali Shah played Vartika Chaturvedi, whose character on "Delhi Crime" was based on former Delhi Police DCP Chaya Sharma who cracked the case of the brutal gangrape within 72 hours.
4. Which Tiger Reserve received the first-ever international award, TX2, for doubling the number of tigers in four years against a target of 10 years \_\_\_\_\_ **Pilibhit Tiger Reserve**.

**Note:**

- In this regard, the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR) of Uttar Pradesh (UP) under the UP Forest department has bagged the first-ever international award, TX2, for doubling the number of tigers in four years against a target of 10 years. The PTR had 25 tigers in 2014 which went up to 65 in 2018.
- The award was virtually presented to the principal chief conservator of forest (wildlife) of the state, Sunil Pandey, by UNDP's (United Nations Development Program) head of ecosystems and biodiversity, Mindori Paxton.
5. Name the 14 year old Indian student who won the prestigious 5th Children's Climate Prize 2020 for designing a mobile ironing cart using solar panels to power a steam iron box rather than conventional charcoal \_\_\_\_\_ **Vinisha Umashankar**.

**Note:**

- Vinisha will receive the prize of 100,000 Swedish krona (Rs 8.64 lakh approximately), diploma, and medal from the Sweden-based Children's Climate Foundation at a digital event.
- This is the fifth edition of the Children's Climate Prize — one of the world's largest international climate awards for young innovators.
6. Name the person who recently bagged a Grammy Awards nomination in the Best Latin Pop or Urban Album category \_\_\_\_\_ **Neha Mahajan and Ricky Martin**.
- Note:**
- Ricky Martin's album Pausa recently received a Grammy nomination in the Best Latin Pop or Urban Album category.
- Sitar player Neha Mahajan collaborated with the singer on the song Mi Sangre.
- The singer's album, Pausa was nominated by the Recording Academy.

### Sports News

1. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports granted the annual recognition as a National Sports Federation (NSF) to which sports association \_\_\_\_\_ **Archery Association of India**.
- Note:**
- AAI's recognition was withdrawn by the ministry on December 7, 2012 on account of its failure to conduct elections in accordance with the sports code despite the directions of the High Court.
- This comes after AAI's independent elections and revocation of suspension by the World Archery and Indian Olympic Association. The recognition will be valid for one year.

2. Who has set a new national record in winning the 16th Airtel Delhi Half Marathon (ADHM) \_\_\_\_\_ **Avinash Sable**.
- Note:**

- He specialises in 3000m steeplechase
  - He completed his win in 1:00:30sec to become the only Indian to finish half a marathon in less than 61 minutes.
  - In the 2019 World Athletics Championships, Sable had clocked 8 minutes 21.37 seconds in the men's 3000m steeplechase final to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics.
3. Which country topped the FIFA Ranking in Nov 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ **Belgium**.
- Note:**
- Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), has released the international rankings for November 2020.
  - Nonetheless, the top six spots remain unchanged in the rankings. Belgium has kept their place on the top, followed by France, Brazil, England, and Portugal.
  - Mexico and Italy back in top 10 after nine and four years respectively.
4. What is India's rank in the recently released FIFA ranking \_\_\_\_\_ **104<sup>th</sup>**.
- Note:**
- Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), has released the international rankings for November 2020.
  - Nonetheless, the top six spots remain unchanged in the rankings. Belgium has kept their place on the top, followed by France, Brazil, England, and Portugal.
  - Mexico and Italy back in top 10 after nine and four years respectively.

### Books and Authors

1. Who has authored the book on the life and ideals of Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism and first of its 10 gurus, released by the PM Narendra Modi \_\_\_\_\_ **Kirpal Singh**.
- Note:**
- Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi was also present during the book release.
  - The book has been penned by Kirpal Singh Ji, who is based in Chandigarh.

### Science and Defence

1. India successfully test fired the land attack version of which supersonic missile \_\_\_\_\_ **Brahmos**.
- Note:**
- The range of the missile has been extended to 400 km from 290 km. Its speed has been increased to 2.8 Mach which is almost three times the speed of sound.
  - The missile can be launched from ships, submarines, aircraft and from land platforms. Brahmos was a joint venture of DRDO and Russia.
  - It was developed based on the Russian P-800 Oniks Cruise missile.
2. The Defence Research Development Organization recently flagged off the first Varunastra, designed and developed by the Bharat Dynamics Limited, it is a \_\_\_\_\_ **Torpedo**.
- Note:**
- The torpedo was designed and developed by the BDL, Vishakhapatnam Unit of Indian Navy.
  - It is a ship launched electrically propelled heavyweight anti-submarine torpedo that is capable of targeting quiet submarines. It can be deployed in both shallow and deep-water environment. Varunastra is the first heavy weight torpedo of India.
  - It was first inducted into Indian Navy in 2016. The weight of the torpedo is 1500 kilograms. Operational range is 40 kilometres.
3. Change-5 Lunar Mission has been launched by which country, the first probe in four decades to bring back rock samples from the moon from its previously unexplored portions \_\_\_\_\_ **China**.
- Note:**
- Change-5 is the first probe to land on the far side of the moon.

- As the rotation and revolution time period of the moon is same, only one side of the moon is constantly visible to the earth.
- The other side of the moon till date remains unexplored and is called the far side of the moon.
- The mission is named after the Chinese moon goddess.

4. From which country the Indian Navy has taken two Sea Guardian drones on lease to enhance surveillance over the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) \_\_\_\_\_ **USA**.

**Note:**

- The Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 introduced an option for leasing military platforms.
- The unmanned aerial vehicles can be deployed in the Ladakh region if the need arises.
- The hi-tech drones, manufactured by US firm General Atomics, arrived at the naval air station INS Rajali in Tamil Nadu earlier this month.

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