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BAZOOKA

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

DECEMBER-2020 COVERAGE



CONTENTS

CONTENTS.....	2
NATIONAL AFFAIRS.....	2
STATES AFFAIRS.....	7
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.....	9
REPORTS & INDEXES.....	12
GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES.....	14
ECONOMY & BUSINESS.....	15
FINANCE & BANKING.....	16
AWARDS & RECOGNITION.....	19
PERSON IN NEWS.....	22
OBITUARIES.....	23
IMPORTANT DAYS.....	23
SPORTS.....	25

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Supreme Court asked the committee monitoring the **Char Dham Highway project** to consider the applications from Defence Ministry. The Defence Ministry in its application is seeking to widen roads up to seven metres in the Indo China border area within 2 weeks.
2. The **7th WASH** (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) Conclave was organized in virtual mode from 2 to 4 December 2020. It is being organized by **UNICEF** and National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (**NIRDPR**).
3. The Defence Research Development Organization recently launched a new laboratory **Defence Geo Informatics Research Establishment**. The new lab was established by merging existing labs – the Manali-based Snow and Avalanche Studies Establishment (SASE) and the Delhi-based Defence Terrain Research Establishment.
4. The cyclone **Burevi**, named by Maldives, hit the **Karaikal** coast of **Tamil Nadu** 7 days after cyclone Nivar. This is the third cyclone formed within the last 10 days in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea put together.
5. Ninth edition of **International Sand Art Festival (ISAF)** and 31st edition of Konark Festival has begun in Odisha and will conducted from 1 to 5 Dec 2020.
6. Ministry of Home Affairs releases list of best performing Police Stations across India every year, to incentivize more effective functioning of police stations. First Rank: **Nongpok Sekmai**, Manipur
7. The Election Commission recently proposed the use of postal ballot to enable NRIs (Non-Resident Indians) to cast their votes. This could be done using the ETPBS or Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System. The NRIs got voting rights only in 2011 by an amendment to the Representation of Peoples Act, 1950.
8. The Defence Ministry has approved the creation of a new post in the Army- Deputy Chief for Military Operations and Strategic Planning. The Deputy Chief will deal with strategic planning, military operations, intelligence and operational logistics. This is the 3rd post of deputy chief in the Army.
9. The Indian Railways is to use **LiDAR** technique to conduct ground survey for the Delhi Varanasi High Speed Rail corridor. LiDAR is **Light Detection and Ranging technique**.
10. Harsh Vardhan has virtually inaugurated the 2nd **Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA 2020)** conference in New Delhi. It brings together scientists and clinicians of the globe to build Indian Cancer Genome Atlas (ICGA).
11. India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2020 is organized by **Dept of Telecommunications and Cellular Operators Association of India**. It will be held from 8th to 10th December. Theme for IMC 2020: **'Inclusive Innovation - Smart, Secure, Sustainable'**.

12. Historical fort cities of **Gwalior** and **Orchha** of **MP** have been included in the **list of World Heritage Cities by UNESCO**. **Orchha** is in Bundelkhand region and was **16th century capital of the erstwhile Bundela dynasty**. **Gwalior** was the capital of Gurjar Pratihar, Tomar, Baghel Kachhwahs and Scindia Rajvansh.
13. Govt has introduced new digital platform as well as mobile app titled '**CO-WIN**' for COVID-19 vaccine delivery. It will allow people to register for the vaccine. Platform will be used for recording **vaccine data and database of healthcare workers**, along with **COVID-19 related data**.
14. **Ministry of AYUSH** and **AIIMS** have decided to set up **Department of Integrative Medicine** at AIIMS.
15. **BSNL** partnered with **Skylotech India** to launch breakthrough satellite-based **NB-IoT (Narrow Band-Internet of Things)**. This is the **world's first satellite-based NB-IoT network**, whose coverage speed will not leave any dark patch within India
16. Union Minister **G Kishan Reddy** has inaugurated **National Centre for Divyang Empowerment (NCDE)** at CRPF Centre in Hyderabad, Telangana. It is first of its kind establishment to re-skill and rehabilitate the Divyang Warriors of the **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)**.
17. The **5th India Water Impact Summit (IWIS)** has been inaugurated virtually by **Ratan Lal Kataria**, Minister of State for Jal Shakti. It is organized by **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** and **Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies** for issues and measures related to rivers and water resources. Theme 2020: **Arth Ganga: River Conservation Synchronised Development**.
18. The **9th edition of Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS)** has begun in Dehradun. It is a **4-day summit** to deliberate on issues like migration, water security, climate resilience and disaster risk reduction in Indian Himalayas. It has been organized by **Indian Mountain Initiative (IMI)**.
19. **Indian Railways** has rolled out major IT initiative titled as '**Hospital Management Information System (HMIS)**' for the well-being of its work force. It has been developed by **Indian Railways** in coordination with **RailTel Corporation Ltd**.
20. 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.
21. **Ola** has signed **Rs 2,400 crore** investment MoU with Tamil Nadu govt, to set up its **first factory in the state**. Ola factory in Tamil Nadu will be the largest scooter manufacturing facility in the world.

22. Britain 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 **Parade**. **John Major** was the first British leader to become a chief guest in **1993**.
23. **Indian Coast Guard** Interceptor Boat got commissioned at **Hazira** in **Gujarat**. This Interceptor boat is built indigenously by **M/s L&T Jetty**, Hazira.
24. 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**.
25. 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.
26. PM **Narendra Modi** has laid the foundation stone of **30,000-megawatt capacity hybrid renewable energy park in Kutch**, Gujarat. Once constructed, it will be the **largest renewable energy park of its kind in the world**.
27. **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. **NETRA** (NETwork for space object TRacking and Analysis) will monitor, track and protect India's space assets.
28. **AICTE** has decided to release instalment of **Rs. 20,000/-** as maintenance allowance under **Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS)** to support & empower students for completing their online studies.

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29. **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
30. **Indian Space Research Organization (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**

31. **Union Govt** has proposed to set up a **museum dedicated to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, in Kolkata** on his 125th birth anniversary celebrations (23rd January).
32. Defence minister **Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated advanced **Hypersonic Wind Tunnel test facility in Hyderabad**.
33. The **6th edition of India International Science Festival (IISF)** has been inaugurated on the virtual platform marking the birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan. It is jointly organized by **CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources, Ministry of Earth Sciences** and **Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA)**. Theme 2020: **Science for Self-Reliant India and Global Welfare**.
34. **Union Govt** has decided to constitute **High-Level Committee (HLC)** to commemorate **125th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** on 23rd December 2020. The Committee will be headed by **Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah**.
35. **Ministry of Environment** along with **Wildlife Conservation Society, India**, has launched a unique initiative '**firefly bird diverter**' for overhead power lines in areas where **Great Indian Bustard (GIB)** populations are found in the wild.
36. India has successfully test-fired medium range surface-to-air missile '**MRSAM**' from Integrated Test Range (ITR), **Chandipur** off the Odisha coast. MRSAM hit the target named '**Banshee**', which was an unmanned air vehicle (UAV).
37. Union Minister **Harsh Vardhan** has inaugurated **Global Indian Scientists & Technocrats (GIST) meet** as a part of the **Indian International Science Festival (IISF) 2020**.
38. Cabinet has approved to merger of 4 film media units namely **Films Division, Directorate of Film-Festivals, National Film Archives of India, and Children's Film Society** with **National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)**.
39. Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment **Thaawar Chand Gehlot** has rolled out mobile app '**Swachhata Abhiyan**' to identify and geotag insanitary latrines and manual scavengers.
40. **Tso Kar Wetland Complex** situated in the Changthang region of Ladakh is 42nd Ramsar site of the country.
41. Housing and Urban Affairs Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** has launched **E-Sampada**, a new web portal and mobile app. The new application provides a single window for all the services including an allotment for **residential accommodations** and office space allotment.

42. India's first hot air balloon wildlife safari in a tiger reserve was launched in the world-famous **Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve** by Madhya Pradesh. The activity will be restricted to the buffer area.
43. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has flagged off **India's first** fully-automated **driverless train** service on the **Magenta Line of Delhi Metro**. National Common Mobility Card (**NCMC**) services has also been introduced that will allow to pay for bus travel, toll taxes, etc.
44. Health Minister **Harsh Vardhan** has inaugurated India's first pneumococcal conjugate vaccine named as '**Pneumosil**'. It has been developed by **Serum Institute of India Private Limited (SIPL)** in collaboration with **PATH** and **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**.
45. Space-tech startup, **Skyroot Aerospace** has successfully test fired solid propulsion rocket named as **Kalam-5**. This is the first time that a private company has successfully designed, developed, and tested a full solid propulsion rocket stage in India.
46. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has flagged off **100th run of Kisan Rail**. Train will run from **Sangola in Maharashtra to in Shalimar in West Bengal**. First 'Kisan Rail' train was inaugurated from Deolali in Nashik to Danapur in Bihar in August 2020.
47. PM **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated **New Bhaupur-New Khurja** section of **Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor** of UP through video conferencing.
48. Govt has approved the export of **Akash Missile System** and has created **Committee for faster Approval of Defence Exports**.

STATES AFFAIRS

49. Every year the **Hornbill festival** which is called 'Festivals of Festivals' is celebrated between December 1 and December 10 in the northeast region and in the state of **Nagaland**. The festival is named after the Indian Hornbill Bird.
50. The Learning Management System (LMS) was launched by the **Karnataka** government in digital mode, will be implemented in government colleges within the state. This digital platform will have multilingual e-content in the form of PPTs, videos, quizzes, assignment and e-study materials developed as per the University syllabus.
51. **Bihar** is planning its first ever migratory bird festival this year. This is a three-day festival to be organised in **Bhagalpur** District. It is to be jointly organised by Bhagalpur forest division, Bombay Natural History Society and the local Mandar Nature Club.
52. **Swasthya Sathi** scheme, a health insurance scheme, is being implemented by the West Bengal government. It was launched in 2016 and it has now been expanded to cover the state's entire

population. It provides basic health cover for secondary and tertiary care up to 5 lakh INR per annum per family.

53. The **Azad Pattan** project is a hydropower project that is to be constructed in Pakistan occupied Kashmir is to be built on the Jhelum River and will have the capacity to generate 700 MW of hydroelectricity.
54. Govt has launched **AI & Robotics Technologies Park (ARTPARK)** in Bengaluru to promote technology innovations in AI (Artificial Intelligence) & Robotics leading to societal impact. It is a unique not-for-profit foundation established by Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru with support from AI Foundry in a public-private model.
55. **Nainital district of Uttarakhand** has built its **first Eco-bridge/ Eco-ducts for reptiles and smaller mammals** to enhance wildlife connectivity that can be disrupted because of highways or logging.
56. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** has launched '**YSR Free Crop Insurance**' scheme.
57. **UP government** will launch special program titled as '**Kisan Kalyan Mission**' to double the income of farmers across the state.
58. **Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad** has received **ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Standards Certificate** from **Accreditation Service for Certifying Bodies (ASCB), UK**. With this, it has also become the 1st zoo in the country to get this certificate.
59. Odisha CM **Naveen Patnaik** has launched '**PAReSHRAM**' web portal along with **22 other online services of Labour and Employees' State Insurance (ESI) dept.** It will help in '**ease of doing business**' contributing significantly to industrial development of the State.
60. **Uttar Pradesh govt** has launched special campaign '**Varasat**' (**natural succession**) to curb property & land-related disputes in rural areas.
61. Union Petroleum & Natural Gas Minister, **Dharmendra Pradhan** has dedicated West Bengal's first oil and gas reserve, titled as '**Bengal Basin**' to the nation. Bengal Basin is explored and owned by **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)**.
62. **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has announced to provide **Rs 2,100 crore** loan to **Tripura govt** for the development of urban areas and tourism in the northeastern state.
63. **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has signed **\$300 million loan agreement** with **India** to upgrade **rural power distribution networks in Uttar Pradesh**, providing reliable electricity supply to

consumers. It is the first tranche of the loan for **UP Power Distribution Network Rehabilitation Project**.

64. **Himachal Pradesh** govt has decided to frame an **integrated Drug Prevention Policy** that comprises of Drug Prevention, Treatment, Management and Rehabilitation Programme.
65. Punjab CM **Captain Amarinder Singh** has launched **Mobile application** and web portal called '**PR Insight**', to improve the delivery of citizen-centric services, based upon the feedback of its citizens on government policies.
66. India's first **Lithium refinery** which will process Lithium ore to produce battery-grade material will be set up in **Gujarat**.
67. **Karnataka** Govt has unveiled an e-governance portal named 'Farmer Registration and Unified beneficiary Information System (**FRUITS**)', for the benefit of the farmers of the state.
68. **Madhya Pradesh govt** approved **Dharma Swatanrya (Religious Freedom) Bill 2020**. Under this, forced conversion of a woman will be punishable for a term up to **10 years** and minimum fine of **Rs 50,000**.
69. Union Minister Harsh Vardhan has inaugurated **Ladakh's Meteorological Centre**. **Indian Meteorological Department** will have **four Automatic Weather Stations (AWS)** operating in Leh, Kargil, Drass and Stakna.
70. Assam Assembly has passed '**The Assam Repealing Bill 2020**' to abolish all state-run Madrasas by converting them to general schools. The bill will convert all madrasas being run under govt into regular educational institute with effect from **1st April, 2021**.
71. Bihar CM Secretariat, Disaster Management Dept, and Bihar National Informatics Centre (NIC) have jointly conferred as winners in 'pandemic category' of Digital India Awards 2020. Bihar has bagged the award for its departments initiative to transfer financial assistance directly to the accounts of beneficiaries during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

72. On Indian Navy Day (December 4), **India and Russia** held a two-day Passage Exercise in the Eastern **Indian Ocean**. The exercise aimed to enhance interoperability, imbibing best practices and improving understandabilities between the navies.
73. **Argentina** parliament has imposed '**millionaire tax**' on about 12,000 of the country's richest people to fund coronavirus countermeasures. Under this scheme, people with declared assets worth more than 200 million pesos will pay a progressive rate of up to 3.5% on wealth in Argentina and up to 5.25% on wealth outside the country.
74. The United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs recently removed **Cannabis** from Schedule IV category of the 1961 Single convention on Narcotics. This was done to recognise the medicinal values of the plant. Though cannabis has been removed from Schedule IV, the non-medicinal Cannabis is still under Schedule I.
75. The sixth **India-CLMV Business Conclave 2020** was recently held. During the conclave, India invited the CLMV countries to join International Solar Alliance and the Resilient Supply Chain Initiative. The Conclave was held under the theme "**Building Bridges for Constructive Development yesterday**".
76. **Britain** became **first** nation to approve '**Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine**' for use, which will be rolled out from early next week. British regulator Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has declared that this vaccine offers protection of up to 95% and is safe to be used for immunization against Covid-19. American pharmaceutical giant Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech concluded phase 3 of Covid-19 vaccine meeting all primary efficacy endpoints.
77. Facebook-backed cryptocurrency **Libra** has been rebranded as "**Diem**" to gain regulatory approval by emphasising that the project has "organisational independence". The independent organisation, Libra Association, which runs the Libra project will also be renamed as the Diem Association. Diem is a Latin term meaning "day".
78. **Oman** recently announced to establish Friendship association with India. This will be the first of such initiative in West Asia. It was announced during a bilateral discussion held between the foreign ministers of the country.
79. **India and the United States** recently signed the Memorandum of Understanding on **Intellectual Property Cooperation**. The agreement was signed between the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). The agreement will increase the Intellectual Property Cooperation between the countries.
80. The **National Academy of Sciences** has recently found that the microwave radiation is the major cause of the mysterious neurological illness called Havana syndrome. The **Havana syndrome** started to infect

the American diplomats and intelligence officials located in China, Cuba and other countries for more than four years now.

81. **China** recently declared victory in its 8 years drive to **eradicate extreme poverty**. In 2012, the Chinese leadership had sought to achieve a 'moderately prosperous' society by focusing on its rural areas. It has maintained a 'national list of impoverished counties'.
82. **China** has become 2nd nation in the world to **unfurl its national flag on moon's** surface. Prior to this, only US has unfurled its flag on the Moon during Apollo mission in 1969.
83. **United Kingdom (UK)** has become **first country to roll out the Covid-19 vaccine**. The approved vaccine has been developed by Pfizer and BioNTech.
84. World's highest mountain peak '**Mount Everest**' has become taller by **0.86m**, as per a **survey conducted jointly by Nepal and China**. Its new height has been calculated at **8,848.86 metres**.
85. **World Economic Forum (WEF)** has decided to host its 2021 annual meeting in **Singapore** due to COVID-19 from 13-16 May 2021. It was earlier scheduled to take place in **Lucerne-Burgenstock, Switzerland**.
86. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and President of Uzbekistan **Shavkat Mirziyoyev** participated in virtual summit. This was the **first bilateral 'Virtual Summit'** meeting between India and a central Asian country.
87. US President **Joe Biden** and Vice President **Kamala Harris** have been jointly named as **Time magazine's 2020 Person of the Year**. Korean pop group **BTS** has been named as **Entertainer of the Year** and basketball star **LeBron James** as **Athlete of the Year**.
88. **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has launched **Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX)** for ADB's developing member countries. Through this, ADB will offer rapid and equitable financial support to its developing members to procure vaccines. Total cost for allocation of APVAX is **\$ 9 Billion**.

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89. **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** has signed MoU with **Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology of Austria** on Technology Cooperation in Road Infrastructure Sector. MoU will create bilateral cooperation in the field

of Road Transportation, Road/Highways infrastructure development, management and administration, Road safety and Intelligent Transport Systems.

90. Indian PM **Narendra Modi** and Uzbekistan President **Shavkat Mirziyoyev** jointly co-chaired **India-Uzbekistan virtual Summit** to strengthen strategic partnership. India approved US \$448 million Line of Credit for 4 developmental projects in Uzbekistan. India signs **9 MoU** with Uzbekistan in the field of:
- Solar Energy
 - Digital Technologies
 - Trade, Economic and Investment Cooperation, etc
91. **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.
92. **India** and **Bangladesh** signed **7 MoUs during bilateral summit on** Hydrocarbon Sector and Agriculture and some other sector.
93. The 35th edition of **India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT)** between the **Indian** Navy and the **Indonesian** Navy was conducted from 17-18 Dec in the Indian Ocean Region.
94. **Singapore's** tradition of communal dining at hawker centres has been recognized by **UNESCO** for its cultural significance. The **UNESCO** added the city-state's "**hawker culture**" to its **Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**.
95. PM Narendra Modi has addressed **6th edition of India-Japan SAMVAD conference** via virtual conferencing.
96. **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** virtually hosted **20th IORA Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting** with the theme: **Promoting a Shared Destiny and Path to Prosperity in the Indian Ocean**.
97. **UN Women** has signed MoU with **Kerala Govt** to establish **India's first Gender Data Hub** at the Gender Park at **Kozhikode** campus, where International Institute for Gender and Development is also present.
98. **Indian Navy** and **Vietnamese Navy** has undertaken naval passage exercise '**PASSEX-2020**' in **South China Sea**.
99. Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, **Harsh Vardhan** has been nominated as the board member of Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI).

100. **IIT-Bombay** researchers have rolled out urban **quality of life index** to show the reality of life in India. Mumbai bagged the 1st place in index, followed by Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai.
101. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the 63rd Founding Day Celebrations of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI). She released the Smuggling in India Report 2019-20 which analyses organized smuggling trends on Gold and Foreign Currency, Narcotic Drugs, Security, Environment and Commercial Frauds. *The DRI Utkrisht Seva Samman, 2020 was awarded to B. Sankaran, an officer of the 1961 batch of the Indian Revenue Service.*
102. World Health Organization (WHO) has released **World Malaria Report (WMR) 2020** giving estimated cases for malaria across world. As per the report, India is the only high endemic nation which has reported decline of 17.6% in 2019 as compared to 2018. South-East Asia made strong progress with case and death reductions of 73% and 74%, respectively. India showed largest drop in cases from 20 to 6 million. Globally, cases declined in 238 million (2000) to 229 million in 2019.
103. **India** is ranked **10th** for 2nd year in a row in **global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)** from among 58 economies. No top 3 positions were filled due to non-fulfillment of criteria. **Sweden** bagged 4th place, followed by **UK(5th), Denmark (6th), Morocco (7th)**. China bagged 33rd rank and USA, appears at the bottom. CCPI is developed by **Germanwatch** and **NewClimate Institute (Germany)** together with the **Climate Action Network (CAN International)**.
104. 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.
105. **UNSECO New Delhi** has released '**State of the Education Report for India 2020: Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)**' virtually. 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**.
106. **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)**. **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**.
107. India ranked at **111th** in the '**Human Freedom Index 2020: A Global Measurement of Personal, Civil, and Economic Freedom**'. It is the sixth **Annual Report** released by **Cato Institute of United States & Fraser Institute in Canada**. **New Zealand** topped the index followed by **Switzerland**.
108. The **World Bank** has come out with a corrected **Doing Business** ranking following review of data irregularities. As per the '**Doing Business**' 2020 report, **India** had jumped 14 places to the **63rd position**.

109. Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar has released '**Status of Leopards in India 2018**' report. The report shows an **increase of 60% leopards in 4 years** using camera trapping method. Highest concentration of leopard in India: **Madhya Pradesh (3,421)** followed by **Karnataka (1,783)** and **Maharashtra (1,690)**.
110. UK based non-profit organization **Christian Aid** has released '**Counting the cost 2020: A year of climate breakdown**'. It analyses 15 most destructive climate disasters of 2020 and found 9 of extreme events, including two in India causing \$5 billion damage. **It includes:**
- **Cyclone Amphan (India)**
 - Bushfires (Australia)
 - West Coast Fire (US)

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GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

111. Centre has rolled out '**Quarterly Return filing & Monthly Payment of Taxes (QRMP)**' scheme for small taxpayers under GST system. Taxpayers with **Rs 5 crore annual turnover** in the preceding financial year are eligible.
112. **Union Education Ministry** releases new '**Policy on School Bag 2020**' and recommends that School bags should **not be more than 10% of the body weight of students** across classes I-X and there should be no homework till class II. Bag should be light weight with 2 padded and adjustable straps. Weight of each textbook may come printed on them by publishers, along with mid-day meal and water.
113. Union Cabinet has given its approval for the proposal of DoT for setting up of **Public Wi-Fi Networks by Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs)** to accelerate proliferation of Broadband Internet services through Public Wi-Fi network. It will provide public Wi-Fi service through **Public Data Offices (PDOs)**. It will be known as **PM-WANI (Wifi Access Network Interface)**.
114. **Union Cabinet** has approved **Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana** for current financial year to benefit **58.5 lakh employees**. **Rs 20,810 crore** has been approved for the entire Scheme period **2020-2023**. Under this scheme, Govt will provide subsidy for 2 years to new employees engaged on or after 1st Oct 2020. Government will also pay **12% employees' contribution** and 12% employers' contribution to new employees in companies employing up to 1,000 employees.
115. Union Cabinet has approved **Rs. 6,700 crore Revised Cost Estimate (RCE)** of North Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project (**NERPSIP**). **NERPSIP** is being implemented

through **POWERGRID** in association with 6 beneficiary North Eastern States of **Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura**.

116. PM Narendra Modi launched **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)** SEHAT scheme for the residents of Jammu and Kashmir.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

117. India recently submitted its proposal at the on-going negotiations at the World Trade Organization (WTO) on preventing harmful fisheries subsidies. The negotiations are being done as according to WTO the harmful fisheries subsidies are estimated to be at 14 billion USD to 20.5 billion USD.

118. Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has topped 2020 Fortune 500 list of Indian companies, released by Fortune India which is part of Kolkata-based RP Sanjiv Goenka Group. RIL's revenue of Rs 615,854.00 accounts for 7% of cumulative revenues.

119. **Fitch Ratings** has revised GDP growth rate for India in its **Global Economic Outlook** to **contract 9.4% in the current financial year 2020-21**.

120. **PwC India** has partnered with **UNICEF and YuWaah** (Generation Unlimited in India) to upskill **300 million** young Indians over the next 10 years. The collaboration is part of **PwC's global multi-sector partnership** with **UNICEF and YuWaah** that will provide 1.8 billion youngsters with socio-economic opportunities from school to work by 2030.

121. **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** in its latest **Asian Development Outlook report** has estimated **India's economy to contract 8% in 2020**, ADB also expects India's GDP to bounce back with growth of 8.0% in 2021. South Asian region's GDP is expected to contract 6.1% in 2020, with growth recovery of 7.2% in 2021.

122. Minister of State for Skill Development, **Raj Kumar Singh** has inaugurated **1st Centre of Excellence (CoE) for 'skill development in the power sector'** in National Institute of Solar Energy, Gurugram. CoE has been set up by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, in collaboration with **Ministry of National Education and Youth, France** and **Schneider Electric**.

123. **World Bank** has approved projects for India, to support various development initiatives

- **Chhattisgarh Inclusive Rural and Accelerated Agriculture Growth Project (CHIRAAG):** To promote nutrition-supportive agriculture for tribal household.
- **Nagaland: Enhancing Classroom Teaching and Resources Project:** Professional development of teachers and education.
- **Second Dam Improvement and Rehabilitation Project (DRIP-2):** Improve safety and performance of existing dams.

124. **Directorate General of Training (DGT)** under Skill Development Ministry has partnered with **Microsoft** and **NASSCOM Foundation** to provide a digital content for ITI students. This will benefit **1,20,000 students** in around 3000 ITIs across India via Bharatskills portal.
125. According to **Centre for Economics and Business Research (UK based think-tank)**, Indian economy will overtake UK becoming the **5th largest economy in 2025 and will reach 3rd spot by 2030**.
126. Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship **Mahendra Nath Pandey** has inaugurated **1st batch of Indian Institute of Skills in Mumbai**. It is a joint initiative of **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship** and **Tata Indian Institute of Skills**.
127. Minister of Earth Sciences Harsh Vardhan has inaugurated web-based application 'Digital Ocean do.incois.gov.in. It has been developed by **INCOIS** of Ministry of Earth sciences. It is a first of its kind digital platform for Ocean Data Management that will expand our '**Blue Economy**' initiatives.

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FINANCE & BANKING

128. The **Ethereum**, a crypto currency Recently was launched in a faster, cheaper and more environmentally friendly platform, as the upgraded version called '**Ethereum 2.0**'.
129. The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank have recently signed an agreement under which the bank will provide 50 million USD of loan. **It is a policy-based loan**. The loan is to be utilised to **improve financial management procedures**, promote informed decision making, improve operational efficiencies that aim at achieving more fiscal savings.
130. The Government of India recently signed **133 million USD** loan Agreement with the **Asian Development Bank**. Agreement was signed to strengthen the power distribution sector in the state of **Meghalaya**. Also, the loan is to be supplemented with a 2 million USD grant from the Asian Development Bank Japan fund for poverty reduction.
131. The RBI recently held its Monetary Policy Committee meet. During the meet, the Reserve Bank of India has kept the **repo rate unchanged at 4%**. Repo rate is the rate at which RBI lends to banks. The Reverse Repo Rate is to continue at **3.35%**. The meeting concluded that the "**Accommodative Stance**" of monetary policy is to continue. Accommodative Stance means the apex bank will keep cutting rates in order to inject money into the financial system. When the accommodative stance of the bank is

addressed as “neutral”, it means that RBI may alter rates in any direction to control the flow of the currency in the country.

132. The RBI is to introduce **digital payment security control directions** for regulated entities to improve the security of digital payment channels and also to improve the consumer service. This announcement comes after the central bank temporarily barred the largest private bank, HDFC, from selling new credit cards or launching new digital banking initiatives due to service outages at the bank for over the past two years.
133. Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to extend **liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) to Regional Rural Banks (RRB)** to make liquidity management more efficient. The LAF was introduced in RBI in 1998 based on the recommendations of **Narasimham Committee** on Banking Sector Reforms.
134. RBI has increased the limit for contactless card transactions from Rs 2,000 to Rs 5,000 to boost digital payment. It will be effective from January 1, 2021. The limit has also been increased for e-mandates for recurring transactions through cards and Unified Payment Interface (UPI).
135. **Axis Bank** has partnered with **Rupifi** to launch an exclusive business credit card ‘Axis Bank Rupifi Business Credit Card’ for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) sector.
136. **RBI** has announced introduction of risk-based internal audit norms for large **urban cooperative banks (UCBs)** and **non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)**. It is introduced as a part of measures to improve governance. RBI has also proposed to issue **Digital Payment Security Controls directions** for regulated entities.
137. **ICICI Bank** has launched new version of its mobile payment app called **iMobile Pay**, to offer payment and banking services to customers of any bank.
138. **Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company (Kotak Mutual Fund)** has rolled out Kotak International REIT Fund of Funds, **India’s first diversified REIT (Real Estate Investment Trust) Mutual Fund**.
139. **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has rolled out loan management tech-solution titled ‘**LenS-The Lending Solution**’, to speed up online loan processing and sanctioning of credit proposals with accuracy.
140. **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** has rolled out electronic spot platform, ‘**BSE E-Agricultural Markets Ltd (BEAM)**’ for agricultural commodities through its subsidiary BSE Investments Ltd.
141. **RBI** has made announcement to set up an **Automated Banknote Processing Centre (ABPC) in Jaipur** for receipt, storage, and dispatch of currency notes.

142. **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.
143. 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.
144. **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. This credit is from **International Development Association of World Bank**.
145. 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**.
146. **Govt of India** has signed **\$1 billion loan** agreement with **New Development Bank** to support Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan through **MGNREGA Scheme**.
147. **RBI** has further extended the restrictions on **Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank** by 3 months till 31 March, 2021.
148. **Central Bank of India** in collaboration with **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has launched contactless debit card titled '**RuPay Select**'.
149. NITI Aayog's CEO **Amitabh Kant** has virtually launched India's first digital asset management platform titled as '**DigiBoxx**'.
150. **ICICI Bank** has rolled out an online platform titled as '**Infinite India**' supporting foreign companies to establish or expand business in India.
151. **Indian Army** have entered into an MoU with **Bank of Baroda** for **Baroda Military Salary Package**.
152. **Central Govt** and **World Bank** has signed **USD 500 million project** to build safe and green national highway corridors in **Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, UP and Andhra Pradesh**. Green National Highways Corridors Project will **support Road Transport and Highways Ministry to construct 783 km of highways**.
153. HDFC Bank bags top rank among **100 Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI)** companies in the country for its customer service, monetary management, and innovative offerings. The ranking

has been released by **Wizikey's BFSI Movers and Shakers 2020 report**. HDFC is followed by **ICICI Bank, SBI**. Other winners:

- Wallet and UPI segment: **Google Pay**
- Neo Banks segment: **YONO**
- Payments bank category: **Airtel Payments Bank**

154. **RBI** has cancelled banking license of **Subhadra Local Area Bank**, Kolhapur, Maharashtra with effect from December 24, 2020. Because it had breached the minimum net worth requirement for 2 quarters in 2019-20.

155. **PayU** has partnered with **Google Pay** to introduce **tokenised payments for merchants in India**.

156. **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs** has introduced new rule that mandates businesses with monthly **turnover of over ₹50 lakh** to pay at least **1% of their GST liability in cash** instead of using input tax credits. It introduced **Rule 86B in GST rules** that restricts use of input tax credit (ITC) for discharging GST liability to 99%.

157. Govt has issued **Rs 5,500-crore** worth of non-interest-bearing bonds valued at par (special zero-coupon bond) to recapitalize **Punjab & Sind Bank**. They are not tradable, and the lender has to keep them in **Held-To-Maturity** (HTM).

158. **Niranjan Banodkar** has been appointed as the new **Group Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Yes Bank**. He succeeded **Anurag Adlakha**.

159. **ICICI Bank** has partnered with **Google Pay** to issue **FASTag** to users digitally.

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AWARDS & RECOGNITION

160. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) recently declared "**Invest India**" as the **winner of the United Nations Investment Promotion Award, 2020**. The award recognizes outstanding achievements of investment promotion agencies spread all over the world. Around 180 such agencies were shortlisted for the award in 2020.

161. **Ranjitsinh Disale** (32-years) has won the 2020 Global Teacher Prize, carries prize money of \$1 million (Rs 7.4 crore). He is the first Indian to win this award. Mr Disale is a government teacher from Zilla Parishad Primary School, in Paritewadi village, **Solapur** district of Maharashtra.

162. Chairperson of HCL Technologies, **Roshni Nadar Malhotra** has topped the list of wealthiest women in India, released in 2nd edition of 'Kotak Wealth Hurun–Leading Wealthy Women' report. The report is created by Kotak Wealth Management and Hurun India.
163. **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** has won prestigious **International King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award for 2020** on **World Soil Day**. ICAR has been conferred for its commitment to raise awareness about healthy soil addressing soil erosion under motto '**Stop soil erosion, save our future**', taken in **2019**. Award is presented by **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**
164. Writer, chief editor of 'The Indian Express', **Raj Kamal Jha** has won **Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2020** for his book, '**The City and the Sea**'.
165. Bollywood star **Sonu Sood (47 year)** has topped '**50 Asian Celebrities In The World**' **2020 list**, published by UK Eastern Eye newspaper for those who made positive impact, broke boundaries. He has been honored for his inspiring philanthropic work throughout Covid-19.
166. Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has been ranked 41 in the **Forbes 2020 list of 'The World's 100 Most Powerful Women'**. German Chancellor **Angela Merkel** has been topped for the 10th year in a row, followed by European Central Bank head **Christine Lagarde** and US Vice President **Kamala Harris**.
167. Brazilian mathematician, **Carolina Araujo** has been conferred with '**2020 Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians**' for her significant work in algebraic geometry. It is given every year to young mathematicians who conducts outstanding research in developing nation.
168. **Ashraf Patel** has been declared as the winner of the **Social Entrepreneur of the Year (SEOY) Award – India 2020**. The award was presented by Union Minister of Women & Child Development & Textiles, **Smriti Zubin Irani**.
169. **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**. 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.
170. **United Nation Environment Program (UNEP)** has announced **2020 Champions of the Earth award. Winners are:**
- Frank Bainimarama (Fiji PM)

- Fabian Leendertz (Germany)
- Mindy Lubber (USA)
- Nemonte Nenquimo (Ecuador)
- Yacouba Sawadogo (Burkina Faso)
- Robert D. Bullard (US-Lifetime award category)

171. The award is presented since 2005 in **5 categories: Lifetime Achievement, Inspiration and Action, Policy Leadership, Entrepreneur Vision, Science and Innovation.**

172. **Steel Authority of India Limited** has been awarded the prestigious **Golden Peacock Environment Management Award** for the year **2020** in the Steel Sector.

173. The chairman emeritus of the Tata group **Ratan Tata** will be honored with '**Global Visionary of Sustainable Business and Peace**'. He will be honored by the Indo-Israel Chambers of Commerce for promoting innovation that supports sustainability and peace in the region, including with the Palestinians.

174. **Vidyut Mohan (29 years)** has been recognized as one of the 7 winners of '**Young Champions of the Earth**' **2020 award**. The award is being conferred by **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** annually.

175. Union Minister, **Ravi Shankar Prasad** along with **Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre** presented '**Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Telecom Skill Excellence Awards**' for the year 2018. Winners are:

- First Prize: **Sreenivas Karanam** of Bangalore (Rs 50,000)
- Second Prize: **Subrat Kar** of New Delhi (Rs 30,000)

176. Formula 1 world champion **Lewis Hamilton** has been conferred with **BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2020**. He won this award for the first time in 2014.

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177. US President **Donald Trump** has presented prestigious '**Legion of Merit**' award to Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** for his leadership in elevating strategic partnership of US-India and emergence of India as a global power.

178. **HelpAge India** has been awarded with **UN Population Award for 2020 (institutional category)**. It is the first institution to be awarded with UN Population Award.

179. **NTPC** has been conferred with prestigious **CII-ITC Sustainability Awards 2020** in **Corporate Excellence Category** for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
180. **Amar Singh College, Srinagar** has been named as one of the seven conservation projects to be recognized with the **2020 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation**.
181. President **Ram Nath Kovind** virtually confer 'Digital India Awards 2020' via video conferencing. It is being conducted biennially by National Informatics Centre (NIC) under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).

PERSON IN NEWS

182. **Kuldeep Handoo** (2020 Dronacharya Awardee) has been appointed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's '**Fit India**' **Ambassador**. Mr Handoo, who is Wushu Coach of Team India is serving as Inspector in Jammu and Kashmir Police Department.
183. Indian-origin Colorado young scientist, **Gitanjali Rao** (15 years) has been named as '**Kid of the Year**' by TIME magazine. TIME Magazine has rolled out 'Kid of The Year' award for the first time.
184. Indian-origin global health expert **Anil Soni** has been appointed as **Chief Executive Officer for the WHO Foundation**. He will assume his role as its inaugural CEO on January 1, 2021.
185. **Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah** has been re-appointed as the **Prime Minister of Kuwait** after winning parliamentary polls in the Gulf Arab state.
186. 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.
187. Indian-American US Air Force Colonel **Raja Chari** has been selected as the Commander of the **SpaceX Crew-3 mission** to the **International Space Station (ISS)** by **NASA** and the **European Space Agency**.
188. **Sukhbir Singh Sandhu** tenure as the Chairman of National Highways Authority of India (**NHAI**) has been extended for a period of six months by Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
189. **Vineet Agarwal** has taken over as the new **President of The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham)**. He succeeded **Niranjan Hiranandani**.
190. Vice-President of India, **M. Venkaiah Naidu** has released a book titled '**Oh Mizoram**' written by the Governor of Mizoram, **P S Sreedharan Pillai**.

191. Nobel laureate **Kailash Satyarthi** has penned down book titled '**Covid-19: Sabhyata ka Sankat aur Samadhan**'. It is written in Hindi and is published by **Prabhat Prakashan**.

192. **Arya Rajendran** (21-years) became the youngest-ever Mayor in the country. She became the Mayor of **Thiruvananthapuram**. Arya is a second-year student of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc) in Mathematics at the All-Saints College.

OBITUARIES

193. Popular face in Marathi entertainment industry, **Ravi Patwardhan** (84 years) passed away.

194. MDH owner '**Mahashay**' **Dharampal Gulati** (98 years) passed away in Delhi. Mahashay Dharampal Gulati was the founder and CEO of MDH (Mahashian Di Hatti Private Limited), an Indian spice company. He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 2019.

195. Veteran Hindi writer **Madhukar Gangadhar (88 years)** passed away. He was from Bihar, and had worked at **Patna Akashwani**.

196. Indian-American physicist **Narinder Singh Kapany** passed away in **California, US**. He is considered as '**Father of Fibre Optics**' and is credited with coining of the term Fibre Optics in 1956.

197. Italy's legendary footballer, **Paolo Rossi (64 years)** passed away.

198. Renowned Sanskrit scholar **Vidyavachaspati Bannanje Govindacharya (85 years)** passed away due to age-related illness.

199. Renowned Indian wrestler **Sripati Khanchanale** 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.

200. Classical music maestro **Ustad Iqbal Ahmed Khan** passed away in Delhi. He was raised in **Dilli Gharana of music**.

201. Veteran Congress leader **Motilal Vora** passed away in Delhi following post-COVID-19 complications. He began his career as a journalist.

202. Eminent Malayalam poet, conservationist, and women's activist, **Sugathakumari** passed away.

203. Noted Indian dance historian, scholar and critic **Sunil Kothari** passed away due to COVID-19 complications. He was instrumental in establishing School of Arts and Aesthetics at Jawaharlal Nehru University.

IMPORTANT DAYS

204. Every year the **World AIDS Day is celebrated on December 1**. The day is being celebrated since 1988. It is celebrated to create awareness against the spread of HIV infection. This year the World AIDS Day is celebrated under the following theme **Global Solidarity and Shared Responsibility**
205. Every year, India marks the **National Pollution Control Day on December 2**. The day is observed in the memory of the people who lost their lives in the Bhopal Gas Tragedy.
206. Every year, **International Day of Persons with Disabilities is celebrated on December 3** by the United Nations and several other organisations spread all over the world. This year the day is celebrated with the following theme: **"Building Back Better: Towards a disability-inclusive accessible and sustainable post COVID-19 World"**.
207. Every year the **Indian Navy Day is celebrated on December 4**. This year the Indian Navy Day is celebrated on the following theme: **Indian Navy Combat Ready, Credible and Cohesive**.
208. TheEvery year, the **World Soil Day is celebrated on December 5**. The day is celebrated by the Food and Agriculture Organization (**FAO**) operating under the United Nations and also by several other international organizations. This year, the World Soil Day is celebrated under the theme: **Keep Soil Alive, Protect Soil Biodiversity**.
209. The **Armed Forces Flag Day** has been observed in India on **7th December**. The day is dedicated towards collection of funds from the people.
210. The **International Anti-Corruption Day** is being observed annually on **9 December** to raise public awareness for anti-corruption. Theme 2020: **'RECOVER with INTEGRITY.'**
211. **Human Rights Day** is being observed every year on **10 December** to reaffirm the importance of human rights in re-building the world. Theme 2020: **'Recover Better – Stand Up For Human Rights'**.
212. **UNICEF Day** is being observed every year on **December 11**. On **December 11 in 1946, United Nations General Assembly** created **UNICEF**.
213. **International Mountain Day** is being observed every year on **December 11** to create awareness about the importance of mountains in human life. Theme 2020: **'Mountain biodiversity'**.
214. **International Universal Health Coverage Day** is observed every year on **December 12** to provide access to quality and affordable health care to every person across the globe. Theme 2020: **'Health For All: PROTECT EVERYONE'**.
215. **National Energy Conservation Day** is being observed every year on **14 December by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**, under Ministry of Power.

216. **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.
217. **International Migrants Day** is being observed every year on **18 December** to recognize the importance of protecting the rights and dignity of migrants. Theme 2020: '**Reimagining Human Mobility**'.
218. **Minorities Rights Day** is observed every year in India on **December 18** to protect the rights of minority communities.

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219. **International Human Solidarity Day** is being observed every year on **December 20** to celebrate the unity in diversity and raise awareness about the importance of solidarity.
220. **National Mathematics Day** is observed every year on **22 December** to commemorate birth anniversary of Mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan.
221. **National Farmer's Day (Kisan Diwas)** in India is observed every year on **December 23** to remember the role of Indian farmers in boosting the economy. The day also marked the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh, who served as PM from 28 July 1979 to 14 January 1980.
222. The **National Consumer Day** is observed every year on **December 24** to spread awareness about consumer importance, their rights, and responsibilities. **Theme 2020: The Sustainable Consumer**
223. **Good Governance Day (Sushasan Divas)** in India is observed every year on **December 25** to commemorate the birth anniversary of former PM **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.

SPORTS

224. Mercedes racer **Lewis Hamilton (Great Britain)** has won the **2020 Bahrain Grand Prix** that was held in Sakhir, Bahrain.
225. Mercedes racer **Sergio Perez** (Mexico) has won **2020 Sakhir Grand Prix** at Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir, Bahrain. This is the 1st Formula One victory for Sergio Perez.
226. **Jehan Daruvala** (22 year) has created history as he became the 1st Indian to win Formula 2 race at **2020 Sakhir Grand Prix**. He is currently member of Red Bull Junior Team and competes for Carlin

Motorsport. Michael Schumacher's son **Mick Schumacher** was crowned as the overall F2 champion of the season.

227. Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has rolled out **2nd edition of Fit India Cyclothon** virtually. This mega cycling event will run for **25 days** from **7th December to 31st December 2020**.
228. Swedish pole vaulter, **Mondo Duplantis (20 year)** and Venezuelan triple jumper **Yulimar Rojas (25 years)** have won **2020 Male and Female World Athletes of the Year** respectively.
229. India's wicketkeeper cum batsman **Parthiv Patel (35 years)** has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
230. **Indian Ocean Island Games (IOIG) 2023** will take place in **Madagascar** due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic. The move is taken by **Indian Ocean Island Games Federation**.
231. **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** has announced '**Breakdancing**' as the newest entry into Olympics Game. Breakdancing will be referred as '**Breaking**' in Olympics event. It will make its Olympic Games debut at **2024 Paris Games (2024 Summer Olympics)**. Skateboarding, sport climbing, and surfing are making their Olympic debuts at Tokyo Games 2021.
232. **Federation of Indian Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** virtually presented **India Sports Awards 2020**. 2020 Male Sportsperson of the Year: **Wrestler Bajrang Punia**. 2020 Female Sportsperson award: **Shooter Elavenil Valarivan**.
233. 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.
234. **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**.
235. Indian Tennis player **Ankita Raina** won the **2020 Al Habtoor Tennis Challenge** jointly with her Georgian tennis partner **Ekaterine Gorgodze** in Dubai.
236. 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**.
237. **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** has formally announced **the AFC Asian Cup 2027** that will be held in India. India is due to host the **FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup** and **AFC Women's Asian Cup in 2022**.

238. **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.
239. The **Sports Ministry** formally recognized **Yogasana** as a competitive sport, which will enable the ancient practice to avail government funding. Sports Minister **Kiren Rijiju** and Minister of AYUSH **Shripad Yesso Naik** formally promoted **Yogasana** as a competitive sport during an event here.
240. **Bayern Munich** striker **Robert Lewandowski** was named **FIFA men's player of the year 2020**. England defender **Lucy Bronze** named as **FIFA Women's player of the year 2020**.
241. **Sports Ministry** has approved the **insertion of 4 Indigenous Games into Khelo India Youth Games 2021**, scheduled to take place in Haryana. **These 4 Games includes:**
- **Kalaripayattu** has its origin from Kerala
 - **Mallakhamba:** Traditional sport of India that denotes a wrestler and khamba (pole)
 - **Gatka:** It originated in Punjab and this traditional fighting style of Nihang Sikh Warriors is used both as self-defense as well as a sport.
 - **Thang-Ta:** Manipur marital art

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242. Indian pugilists have bagged **9 medals** including 3 gold, 2 silver and 4 bronze at the **Cologne Boxing World Cup 2020**, held in Germany.
243. **Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) 2020 Awards** were announced with **Novak Djokovic (Serbia)** as the **ATP Player of the Year 2020 award** for the record 6th time.
244. Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** has announced the establishment of **India's largest hockey stadium in Rourkela, Odisha**. It will be constructed in **Biju Patnaik University of Technology campus, Rourkela**.
245. The World football's governing body, FIFA has cancelled **Under-17** and **Under-20 World**. Now, these World Cups will be played in 2023, with Indonesia still hosting the Under-20s and Peru the Under-17s.
246. Former Indian skipper **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** has been named as the '**captain of ICC Men's ODI Team of the Decade**' by International Cricket Council (ICC).
- **Virat Kohli** and **Rohit Sharma** have also been featured on '**ICC Men's ODI Team of the Decade**'.
 - **ICC Men's ODI Team of the Decade (India):** Rohit Sharma, , Virat Kohli, MS Dhoni (Capt & Wk).
 - **ICC's Test Team of the Decade (India):** Virat Kohli (c), Ravi Ashwin.

247. **Cristiano Ronaldo** has won the '**Player of the Century**' award at the Globe Soccer Awards. Bayern Munich's **Robert Lewandowski** won the **Player of the Year** award. Manchester City manager **Pep Guardiola** won the **Coach of the Century** award. Spanish giants **Real Madrid** won the **Club of the Century** award during the event.

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