

PRACTICE

MOCK



WEEKLY CA DEC 2020

DECEMBER 1-7

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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 began 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)

STATES AFFAIRS

11. 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.
12. 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.
13. **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.
14. **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.
15. 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.
16. 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.

IBPS PO
Mains

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

17. 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.
18. **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.

19. 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.
20. 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**".
21. **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.
22. 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".
23. **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.
24. **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.
25. 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.
26. **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'.
27. **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.

28. **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.
29. 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.*
30. 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.



Railways
RRB NTPC

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GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

31. NA

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

32. 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.
33. 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.

FINANCE & BANKING

34. 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**'.
35. 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.

36. 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.
37. 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.
38. 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.
39. 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.
40. 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).
41. **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.



SEBI Grade A

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1ST RANK

COMPARISONS

2 1 3

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

42. 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.

43. **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.
44. 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.

PERSON IN NEWS

45. **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.
46. 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.

OBITUARIES

47. Popular face in Marathi entertainment industry, **Ravi Patwardhan** (84 years) passed away.
48. 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.

IMPORTANT DAYS

49. 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**
50. 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.
51. 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**".
52. 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**.
53. The Every 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**.

54. The **Armed Forces Flag Day** has been observed in India on **7th December**. The day is dedicated towards collection of funds from the people.

SPORTS

55. Mercedes racer **Lewis Hamilton (Great Britain)** has won the **2020 Bahrain Grand Prix** that was held in Sakhir, Bahrain



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