

PRACTICE

MOCK



WEEKLY CA DEC 2020

DECEMBER 16-23

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. 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**.

2. **Indian Coast Guard** Interceptor Boat got commissioned at **Hazira in Gujarat**. This Interceptor boat is built indigenously by **M/s L&T Jetty, Hazira**.
3. 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**.
4. **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.
5. **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**.
6. **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.
7. **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.
8. **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
9. **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**
10. **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).
11. Defence minister **Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated advanced **Hypersonic Wind Tunnel test facility in Hyderabad**.
12. 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**.
13. **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**.
14. **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.

15. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** has launched 'YSR Free Crop Insurance' scheme.
16. **UP government** will launch special program titled as '**Kisan Kalyan Mission**' to double the income of farmers across the state.
17. **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.
18. 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.
19. **Uttar Pradesh govt** has launched special campaign '**Varasat**' (**natural succession**) to curb property & land-related disputes in rural areas.
20. 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)**.
21. **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.
22. **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**.



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

23. **India and Bangladesh** signed **7 MoUs during bilateral summit on Hydrocarbon Sector and Agriculture and some other sector.**
24. 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.
25. **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.**
26. PM Narendra Modi has addressed **6th edition of India-Japan SAMVAD conference** via virtual conferencing.
27. **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.**

28. **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.

REPORTS & INDEXES

29. **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**.
30. 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**.
31. 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**.
32. 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)**.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

33. 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**.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

34. 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**.
35. **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.

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FINANCE & BANKING

36. **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.
37. 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.
38. **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**.
39. 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**.
40. **Govt of India** has signed **\$1 billion loan** agreement with **New Development Bank** to support Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan through **MGNREGA Scheme**.
41. **RBI** has further extended the restrictions on **Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank** by 3 months till 31 March, 2021.
42. **Central Bank of India** in collaboration with **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has launched contactless debit card titled '**RuPay Select**'.
43. NITI Aayog's CEO **Amitabh Kant** has virtually launched India's first digital asset management platform titled as '**DigiBoxx**'.
44. **ICICI Bank** has rolled out an online platform titled as '**Infinite India**' supporting foreign companies to establish or expand business in India.
45. **Indian Army** have entered into an MoU with **Bank of Baroda** for **Baroda Military Salary Package**.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

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

47. **Steel Authority of India Limited** has been awarded the prestigious **Golden Peacock Environment Management Award** for the year **2020** in the Steel Sector.
48. 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.
49. **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.
50. 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)
51. 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.
52. 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.
53. **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.

Railways
RRB NTPC

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PERSON IN NEWS

54. 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.
55. 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**.
56. **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.

OBITUARIES

57. Celebrated **Malayalam** writer **U A Khader** passed away recently.
58. 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.

59. Classical music maestro **Ustad Iqbal Ahmed Khan** passed away in Delhi. He was raised in **Dilli Gharana of music**.
60. Veteran Congress leader **Motilal Vora** passed away in Delhi following post-COVID-19 complications. He began his career as a journalist

IMPORTANT DAYS

61. **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.
62. **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**'.
63. **Minorities Rights Day** is observed every year in India on **December 18** to protect the rights of minority communities.
64. **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.
65. **National Mathematics Day** is observed every year on **22 December** to commemorate birth anniversary of Mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan.
66. **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.

SPORTS

67. 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**.
68. **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**.
69. **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.
70. The **Sports Ministry** formally recognised **Yogasana** as a competitive sport, which will enable the ancient practice to avail government funding. Sports Minister **Kiren Rijju** and Minister of AYUSH **Shripad Yesso Naik** formally promoted **Yogasana** as a competitive sport during an event here.
71. **Bayern Munich** striker **Robert Lewandowski** was named **FIFA men's player of the year 2020**.
72. England defender **Lucy Bronze** named as **FIFA Women's player of the year 2020**.
73. **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

74. Indian pugilists have bagged **9 medals** including 3 gold, 2 silver and 4 bronze at the **Cologne Boxing World Cup 2020**, held in Germany.



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