

PRACTICE

MOCK



**WEEKLY CA
DEC 2020**

DECEMBER 24-31



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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. 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).

2. Union Minister **Harsh Vardhan** has inaugurated **Global Indian Scientists & Technocrats (GIST) meet** as a part of the **Indian International Science Festival (IISF) 2020**.
3. 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)**.
4. 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.
5. **Tso Kar Wetland Complex** situated in the Changthang region of Ladakh is 42nd Ramsar site of the country.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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 allows to pay for bus travel, toll taxes, etc.
9. 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**.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. PM **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated **New Bhaupur-New Khurja** section of **Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor** of UP through video conferencing.
13. Govt has approved the export of **Akash Missile System** and has created **Committee for faster Approval of Defence Exports**.

STATES AFFAIRS

14. **Himachal Pradesh** govt has decided to frame an **integrated Drug Prevention Policy** that comprises of Drug Prevention, Treatment, Management and Rehabilitation Programme.

15. 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.
16. India's first **Lithium refinery** which will process Lithium ore to produce battery-grade material will be set up in **Gujarat**.
17. **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.
18. **Madhya Pradesh** govt approved **Dharma Swatantrya (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**.
19. 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.
20. 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**.
21. 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.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

22. **Indian Navy** and **Vietnamese Navy** has undertaken naval passage exercise '**PASSEX-2020**' in **South China Sea**.
23. Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, **Harsh Vardhan** has been nominated as the board member of Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI).

REPORTS & INDEXES

24. 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)

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

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

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

26. **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.
27. 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**.
28. 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**.
29. 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.

FINANCE & BANKING

30. **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**.
31. **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**
32. **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.
33. **PayU** has partnered with **Google Pay** to introduce **tokenised payments for merchants in India**.
34. **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%.

35. 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)**.
36. **Niranjan Banodkar** has been appointed as the new **Group Chief Financial Officer (CFO)** of **Yes Bank**. He succeeded **Anurag Adlakha**.
37. **ICICI Bank** has partnered with **Google Pay** to issue **FASTag** to users digitally.



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AWARDS & RECOGNITION

38. **NTPC** has been conferred with prestigious **CII-ITC Sustainability Awards 2020** in **Corporate Excellence Category** for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
39. **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**.
40. 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

41. **Vineet Agarwal** has taken over as the new **President of The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham)**. He succeeded **Niranjan Hiranandani**.
42. Vice-President of India, **M. Venkaiah Naidu** has released a book titled '**Oh Mizoram**' written by the Governor of Mizoram, **P S Sreedharan Pillai**.
43. 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**.
44. **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

45. Eminent Malayalam poet, conservationist, and women's activist, **Sugathakumari** passed away.
46. 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

47. 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**
48. **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

49. **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.
50. 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**.
51. 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.
52. 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.
53. **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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