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WEEKLY CA DEC 2020

DECEMBER 8-15



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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. 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'**.
2. 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 Pratihara, Tomara, Baghel Kachhwaha and Scindia Rajvanshi.
3. 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**.
4. **Ministry of AYUSH** and **AIIMS** have decided to set up **Department of Integrative Medicine** at AIIMS.
5. **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
6. 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)**.
7. 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**.
8. 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)**.
9. **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**.
10. 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.

11. **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.

STATES AFFAIRS

12. **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.



The advertisement features a light green background with a subtle pattern. On the left, the text 'SBI PO 2020 Prelims' is written in blue. In the center, the main headline 'Get Your All India Rank' is in large, bold, dark blue font, followed by 'Take a FREE Mock Test' in a smaller, dark blue font. On the right, there is a graphic of a gold medal with the number '1' and a laurel wreath, with the word 'CONSISTENTLY' written below it. At the bottom right, there are three small gold medals with numbers '2', '1', and '3' on them.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

13. **United Kingdom (UK)** has become **first country to roll out the Covid-19 vaccine**. The approved vaccine has been developed by Pfizer and BioNTech.
14. 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**.
15. **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**.
16. 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.
17. 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**.
18. **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**.
19. **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** has signs 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.

20. 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
21. **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.

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REPORTS & INDEXES

22. **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)**.
23. 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.
24. **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**.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

25. 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.

26. **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.
27. 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)**.
28. **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.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

29. **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**.
30. **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.
31. **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.



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FINANCE & BANKING

32. **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.

33. **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.
34. **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**.
35. **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.
36. **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.
37. **RBI** has made announcement to set up an **Automated Banknote Processing Centre (ABPC)** in **Jaipur** for receipt, storage, and dispatch of currency notes.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

38. **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)**
39. 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**'.
40. 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.
41. 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**.
42. 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.

43. **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**.
44. **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.

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PERSON IN NEWS

45. 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.
46. **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.

OBITUARIES

47. Veteran Hindi writer **Madhukar Gangadhar (88 years)** passed away. He was from Bihar, and had worked at **Patna Akashwani**.
48. 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.
49. Italy's legendary footballer, **Paolo Rossi (64 years)** passed away.
50. Renowned Sanskrit scholar **Vidyavachaspati Bannanje Govindacharya (85 years)** passed away due to age-related illness.

IMPORTANT DAYS

51. The **International Anti-Corruption Day** is being observed annually on **9 December** to raise public awareness for anti-corruption. Theme 2020: '**RECOVER with INTEGRITY.**'

52. **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**'.
53. **UNICEF Day** is being observed every year on **December 11**. On **December 11 in 1946, United Nations General Assembly** created **UNICEF**.
54. **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**'.
55. **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**'.
56. **National Energy Conservation Day** is being observed every year on **14 December by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**, under Ministry of Power.

SPORTS

57. 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.
58. **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.
59. 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**.
60. 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.
61. India's wicketkeeper cum batsman **Parthiv Patel (35 years)** has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.

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62. **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**.

63. **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.
64. **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**.
65. 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.
66. **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**.
67. Indian Tennis player **Ankita Raina** won the **2020 Al Habtoor Tennis Challenge** jointly with her Georgian tennis partner **Ekaterine Gorgodze** in Dubai.



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