







WEEKLY CA NOV 2020

NOVEMBER 1-7



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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. The UNESCO has recently included **Panna National Park of Madhya Pradesh** under its list of Biosphere reserves. Along with Panna, Fuvahmulahand Addu Atoll of Maldives was also included under the **World Network of Biosphere Reserves**.
2. On November 2, 2020, the Ganga Utsav was begun virtually. The Ganga Task Force as a part of celebration conducted afforestation drives with NCC cadets. The Ganga Utsav is being organized by the **National Mission for Clean Ganga**.
3. The Chief Minister of Assam, Sabananda Sonowal laid the foundation stone of **Indo-Israeli Centre of Excellence** for vegetables Protected Cultivation in Khetri in the outskirts of Guwahati, Assam. The centre will provide exposure to the **latest Israeli technologies** to the farmers of the state.
4. Defence Minister Shri Raj Nath Singh inaugurated the **anti-Satellite Missile System** at Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) headquarters, New Delhi. The DRDO successfully conducted anti-satellite missile test at Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha. Anti-Satellite Weapon It is designed to destroy satellites for military purposes.
5. The **"Go Electric"** campaign was launched by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) in coordination with the **Andhra Pradesh State Energy Conservation Mission**. The Andhra Pradesh State Government is to set up **400 Electric Vehicle charging vehicles** all over the state to promote the usage of electric vehicles.
6. The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has developed **"IITM COVID Game"** to create awareness about the COVID-19 virus. The game mainly focuses on children. It is available in 12 different Indian languages.
7. Indian Navy has commissioned the **ICGS C-452** designed and built by L&T. The ship was indigenously built in India under the Make in India initiative. Earlier, Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh had commissioned the **ICGS Sachet** and two other interceptor boats namely C-451 and C-450.
8. Indian Naval Ship Airavat has entered Port Sudan as part of **Mission Sagar Phase II**. Under Mission Sagar, India is currently providing assistance to its friendly foreign countries to help them overcome COVID-19 pandemic and natural calamities. **INS Airavat** was carrying a consignment of 100 tonnes of food aid.
9. The **IISc and the Indian Oil Corporation Research and Development Centre** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop **biomass gasification-based Hydrogen Generation Technology** to produce Fuel Cell Grade Hydrogen at an affordable price.
10. The **Election Commission of India** is to organize a three-day **International Virtual Election Visitors Programme**. The programme is meant for foreign election organizations. Over 40 countries participated in the programme. This included Australia, Afghanistan and Bangladesh as well. Apart from

these countries the international organizations such as **International IDEA (Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance)**, **Association of World Election Bodies** and **International Foundation of Electoral Systems (IFES)** also participated in the programme.

11. The **Ministry of Shipping** has recently announced that the government of India is to set up **fourteen more aerodromes** in the country to develop **sea plane tourism** in the country. Recently, PM Modi inaugurated the seaplane service between **Statue of Unity in Kevadia and Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad**.
12. **Prasar Bharati and Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding. Under the MoU, all the **51 DTH education channels** will be available as DD co-branded channels to all DD Fresh Dish viewers. The 51 DTH channels includes **Swayamprabha, E-Vidya for Class 1 to 12, DigiShala, Vande Gujarat**, etc.
13. **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)** announced that it will start providing **Malaria outbreak forecast** from next monsoon.
14. Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the **Global Investor Roundtable Conference**. The conference witnessed the participation of twenty of the world largest Sovereign Wealth Funds and pension funds. These participants owned total assets of more than 6 billion USD.
15. The **Atal Innovation Mission-Sirius Innovation Programme** was launched for **India and Russia** school children. The programme aims to develop technological solutions for both India and Russia.
16. The Indian Space Research Organization launched an all-weather **Earth Observation Satellite, EOS-01 using PSLV-C49** rocket along with nine customer satellites. The Earth Observation Satellite launched is a Radar Imaging Satellite. It is the third of the three-spacecraft constellation. The other two are RISAT-2B and RISAT-2BR1.

STATES AFFAIRS

17. On the eve of Statehood Day celebrations, on November 1, 2020, the State Government of **Chhattisgarh** launched **Fortified Rice Distribution Scheme**. The scheme was launched to reduce malnutrition and anaemia. Under the scheme, fortified rice is distributed through fair price shops.
18. The Union Minister of Development of the North Eastern Region Shri Jitendra Singh inaugurated the **Mansar Lake Development Plan in Jammu and Kashmir**. The plan is to attract more than 20 lakh tourists every year.
19. Saffron Production under the **National Saffron Mission** that was so far confined to Kashmir is now to be **implemented in the North East**. The plants are to be transported from Kashmir to Sikkim.
20. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has announced a number of initiatives for the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and refugee population.

21. Union Minister of State for Tourism and Culture **Shri Prahlad Singh Patel** has inaugurated the “**Tourist Facilitation Centre**” at **Guruvayur, Kerala**. The centre was constructed under the PRASAD Scheme of Ministry of Tourism.
22. The State Government of **Tamil Nadu** recently notified that it would grant **100% motor vehicle tax exemption** for **Electric Vehicles**. Earlier, the State Government had issued orders for 50% concessional rate to EV taxes. It has now been made to 100%.

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

23. On November 1, 2020, the world strongest **Typhoon Goni** hit the eastern part of **Philippines**. This typhoon is considered as the strongest typhoon in the world. The Typhoon Goni has attained its maximum speed of 315km/hour.
24. The **BRICS Business Forum** was held recently through video conferencing. The BRICS Business council held the forum. The council was formed in 2013 summit in Durban. Since its establishment, the primary task of BRICS Business council is to increase trade and investment among the member countries of BRICS.
25. On November 2, 2020, **Duarte Pacheco** was elected as the new **President of Inter Parliamentary Union**. He will serve as the president of the union between 2020 and 2023. India was represented by the Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla at the session.
26. The Central Board of Direct Taxes recently exempted the interest, dividend and long-term capital gains made by the **Sovereign Fund MIC Redwood 1 RSC Limited of Abu Dhabi, UAE** (United Arab Emirates). The exemption has been provided under **clause 23 FE of Section 10** of the Income Tax Act.
27. On November 3, 2020, **India and UAE held the High-Level Joint Task Force on Investments**. The task force was created in 2012. The India and UAE sectors with potential for economic growth were identified.
28. **India and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Troika** have held an annual **Political Dialogue**. India was represented by the External Affairs Minister S Jai Shankar at the dialogue. During the dialogue, India requested the members of GCC to ease the return of Indian professionals and workers to the Gulf countries.

29. On November 3, 2020, two resolutions were adopted by United Nations namely "**Convention on Prohibition of the use of Nuclear Weapons**" and "**Reducing Nuclear Danger**". The resolutions were sponsored by India.
30. Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi approved the Memorandum of Understanding signed between India and UK. The MoU was signed in the field of **Information Communication Technologies and Telecommunications**. The MoU was signed between Department of Digital, Media and sports of UK Government and Ministry of Communications of India.
31. Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi approved the MoU signed between India and UK in the field of **medical product regulation**. The MoU was signed between United Kingdom Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency and Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).
32. Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi approved the Memorandum of Understanding signed between **India and Israel** in the field of **Health and Medicine**. The MoU covered the exchange and training of medical doctors and other professionals and to assist in setting up of health care facilities.
33. China has launched **13 satellites in a single rocket** successfully. Of these 13 satellites, 10 were from Argentina. This is the biggest launch of foreign satellites by the country.
34. The **Oil India Limited** has recently announced that a new technique snubbing unit is to be brought from **Canada** to control the oil well blowout in Assam's Baghjan. The Oil India Limited owned Baghjan well erupted on May 27, 2020. It has been burning for more than five months now.
35. India-Indonesia fifth joint working group on coal was held through video conference. During the meeting, the countries discussed on Indian Coal Policy reforms, commercial mining of coal in India and coking coal exploration.
36. Government of Bangladesh signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Serum Institute of India for priority delivery of 3 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses. This COVISHIELD Vaccines was developed by AstraZeneca and University of Oxford.
37. On November 5, 2020, the **first India-Nordic-Baltic Conclave** was held virtually. The Conclave was jointly hosted by Ministry of External Affairs and Confederation of Indian Industry. The Conclave focused on clean technologies and renewable energies, Artificial Intelligence, supply chain logistics and block chain.
38. Bangladesh and United States held a joint Naval Exercise CARAT. CARAT is Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training. The exercise was held at Chittagong.

39. The scientists have discovered a **massive detached coral reef in the Great Barrier Reef of Australia**. It is the first to be discovered in 120 years. The reef is taller than the Empire State Building of the United States.
40. Fourth high level meeting of **India-OPEC Energy Dialogue** was held virtually. India was represented by the Oil Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan**. The dialogue is being held since 2015. During the dialogue, India pressed for assessing COVID-19 induced disruptions of oil supply.
41. **United Arab Emirates** announced major changes to its Islamic laws. It includes loosening of alcohol restrictions, **allowing unmarried couples to cohabit** and loosening criminalization of honour killings.
42. PM Modi is to hold a virtual bilateral summit with his Italian counterpart **Giuseppe Conte**. The leaders are to sign **15 pacts in the field of energy, trade, ship building and culture**. The summit is to explore possibilities of Italian investments in India especially in defence.
43. Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi approved the Memorandum of Understanding signed between **India and Spain**. The MoU will facilitate scientific and technical collaborations between the countries in the field of Astronomy. The MoU was signed between the Instituto de Astrofisica de Canarias of Spain and the Indian Institute of Astrophysics.

REPORTS & INDEXES

44. Recently released **World Wide Fund - Water Risk Filter Report** says that nearly **30 Indian cities** are likely to face acute water risks. *This includes Jaipur, Amritsar, Indore, Srinagar, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Mumbai, Vishakhapatnam and Kozhikode.* Of these cities **Jaipur** topped the list. It was followed by Indore, Thane, Mumbai, Kolkata and Delhi. The number of cities affected with water risks will increase to 100 by 2050.
45. The Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan recently released the report prepared **by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)**. The report was titled **"Estimating the Economic Benefits of Investment in Monsoon Mission and High-Performance Computing Facilities"**. According to the report, 1000 crores of investment in computing facilities in India will bring in 50,000 crores of benefits. This is to mainly get reflected in livelihood of 1.07 crores of people Below Poverty Line and 53 lakhs Below Poverty Line fisher folk households.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

46. Around **15 State Governments** have identified districts to implement the Fortification of Rice Scheme. The State Governments have identified the districts where the scheme is to be implemented and have notified the same to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. The **Department of Food and Public Distribution**, Government of India has been implementing the "Centrally Sponsored Pilot Scheme on Fortification of Rice and its distribution through Public Distribution System". *The scheme is to be implemented for a period of three years between 2019-20 and*

2022-23. The distribution of fortified rice is already being implemented by five states namely Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Tamil Nadu.

47. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the **one rank one pension scheme** of armed forces has completed 5 years of successful journey. The Government of India has disbursed Rs 42,700 crores to more than 20.6 lakh ex-servicemen in the last five years.
48. Government of India has recently announced that it is to expand the **PLI (Production Linked Incentive) scheme to more than ten sectors**. This includes food processing, leather, textiles, battery manufacturing. The pharmaceuticals (and medical devices) and electronics are already under the scheme. These sectors were suggested by NITI Aayog. The rest four sectors are to be decided soon. *The Government of India in March 2020, introduced the PLI scheme to boost domestic manufacturing and cut down import bills. The central government aims to provide incentives to the companies on incremental sales from products manufactured in domestic units.* So far, the scheme was introduced in mobile and pharmaceutical industries as they are labour intensive and likely to create new jobs.
49. Government of India has announced that over **11 lakh MSMEs** have registered on the new online system of **Udyam Registration**. It was launched in July 2020.



ECONOMY & BUSINESS

50. Government of India released **Rs 2,200 crores to 15 states** to improve Air Quality Measures. The air quality improvement measures are to be executed in more than million plus cities. The amount was released based on the recommendations of the Fifteenth Finance Commission. The fund will help states undertake air quality measures and capacity building in local bodies. The amount was released to states such as Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. **Rs 396.5 crores has been released to Maharashtra**, Rs 357 crores to UP, Rs 202.5 crores to Gujarat and Rs 209.5 crores to West Bengal.
51. The **Ministry of AYUSH and Invest India** will set up **“Strategic Policy and Facilitation Bureau”** to facilitate systematic growth of AYUSH sector. The Bureau will help to make AYUSH systems future ready. It will support in making initiatives under the ministry to its full potential.
52. The Ministry of Labour recently notified the draft rules for the **Industrial Relations Code, 2020**. The rules are to be implemented by **April, 2021**.

The Industrial Relations Rules, 2020 is to supersede the Industrial Tribunal (Central Procedure) Rules, 1949, Industrial Tribunal (Central Procedure) Rules, 1954, Industrial Employment (Standing Order) Central Rules, 1946 and Industrial Disputes (Central) Rules, 1957.

53. **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** signed a Memorandum of Understanding to set key targets for the year 2020-21. According to the agreement, the Government of India has set a new revenue target of Rs 2,406 crore from the renewable energy industry. Till November 2, 2020, the IREDA has financed more than 2,700 renewable energy projects in India.
54. Coal Minister Shri **Pralhad Joshi** has announced that the **19 mines were auctioned** during first tranche of coal mine auction. The first tranche of the auction is to generate revenue of Rs 7,000 crores. The auctioned mines have peak rated capacity of 51 million tonnes.
55. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has made **FASTags mandatory** for all four-wheelers from **January 1, 2021**. The ministry released an official notification regarding this on November 6 and also clarified that it will be applicable to old vehicles also.
56. Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi approved the **Rs 1810 crore investment proposal of 210 MW of Luhri Stage I Hydro Power Project**. The hydro power project is to be constructed on River **Sutlej**. The project will generate 758.2 million units of electricity annually.
57. **Microsoft India** has collaborated with **National Skill Development Corporation** (NSDC) to skill over 1 lakh underserved women in India with digital skills over the next 10 months. This initiative is an extension of the partnership of Microsoft India and NSDC to provide digital skills to over 1 lakh Indian youth.

FINANCE AND BANKING

58. **National Payment Corporation of India** approved the Facebook owned messaging Application, WhatsApp to "Go Live" on UPI. This is to be achieved through new feature of WhatsApp called "**WhatsApp Pay**". In order to achieve this, WhatsApp has partnered with five banks namely **ICICI Bank, Indian Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, State Bank of India**. Apart from these five banks, Jio Payment Bank has also been included.
59. Goods and Services Tax Network (**GSTN**) has launched the facility of **filing NIL statement** in Form GST **CMP-08** for Composition Taxpayers through (short message service) and without logging in to the GST portal.
60. In a bid to develop skill sets of career-oriented individuals, **SBI** (State Bank of India) has entered into a strategic partnership with **edX**, a global non-profit education platform. As part of this partnership, SBI will offer its Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) on the edX platform (edx.org). With this partnership, SBI becomes 1st Corporate Partner of edX from India.

61. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised the loan **scheme of the Co-Origination Model between Banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies** – Non-Deposit taking – Systemically Important (NBFC-ND-SIs) launched in September 2018 with the improved” Co-Lending Model (CLM) “. The Scheme CLM helps banks to provide loans along with NBFCs (Non-Banking Financial Companies) including HFCs (Housing Finance Companies) for priority sector borrowers based on a prior agreement.
62. Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) issued a circular on “**Enhancement of overseas investment limits for mutual funds**” under which the foreign investment limit per mutual fund (MF) house has been doubled to **\$600 million**, from the existing \$300 million, within the overall industry limit of US \$ 7 billion. *SEBI has reserved an amount of \$50 million per fund house. A mutual fund launching a New Fund Offer (NFO) and intending to invest overseas will be required to specify the amount it will invest outside India and use the limit specified within six months.*
63. Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) introduced ‘**Flexi Cap Fund**’ as a **New Category under Equity Schemes**. The objective is to protect the interests of investors in securities, to promote growth and to regulate the securities market. SEBI has made it mandatory for all open-ended debt mutual fund schemes (with exception) to hold at least 10% of their net assets in liquid assets. With this Flexi Cap Fund the Schemes should have minimum investment of 65% of total assets in the equity & equity related instruments.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

64. The Asian Film Awards Academy (AFAA) has announced the winners of the **14th Asian Film Awards (AFA14)** held at **Busan**, South Korea. Karsh Kale and the Salvage Audio Collective won the Best Original Music Award 2020 for the film **Gully Boy** directed by Zoya Akhtar.

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PERSON IN NEWS

65. Indian Army Chief Manoj **Mukund Navarne** was conferred with the rank of **honorary General of Nepal Army**. The President of Nepal Bidya Devi Bhandari presented him with a scroll and a sword during the honouring ceremony.
66. **Joe Biden** was declared the winner of US Election, 2020. He is to become **46th President** of the United States beating Donald Trump.

67. The President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind appointed **Shri Yashvardhan K Sinha** as the new **Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of India**. The post of Chief Information Commissioner was lying vacant over two months after Bimal Julka completed his term in August, 2020.
68. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is to set up a committee to review the existing guidelines of Television Rating Agencies. The committee has been formed with four members under the chairmanship of CEO of Prasar Bharti **Sashi Shekar Vempati**.

OBITUARIES

69. Veteran **Violinist** and Padma Shri & Padma Bhushan Awardee **Tripunithura Narayanaiyer Krishnan** (T N Krishnan) passed away at the age of 92 at Chennai, Tamil Nadu. He was born in 1928 in **Kerala**. He received the Padma Shri in 1973 and Padma Bhushan in 1992, India's highest civilian awards, for arts.

IMPORTANT DAYS

70. Every year, the United Nations marks the **International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists** on **November 2**. This year, the day is celebrated under the theme: **Protect Journalists, Protect the Truth**.
71. Every year, the **International Day for Preventing the exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict** is marked on **November 6**. The resolution to celebrate the day was passed in 2001.
72. Every year India observes **National Cancer Awareness Day on November 7**. Cancer is the second leading cause of death according to the World Health Organization.

SPORTS

73. British Driver **Lewis Hamilton** (Mercedes) won the 2020 **Emilia Romagna Grand Prix** (officially known as the Formula 1 Emirates Gran Premio dell'Emilia Romagna 2020) held at Autodromo Internazionale Enzo e Dino Ferrari in **Imola, Italy**. This was Hamilton's record extending **93rd F1 victory**. The Championships are organized by Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA).

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