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WEEKLY CA NOV 2020

NOVEMBER 16-23

CONTENTS

CONTENTS	2
NATIONAL AFFAIRS	3
STATES AFFAIRS	3
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS	3
REPORTS & INDEXES	5
GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES	5
ECONOMY & BUSINESS	6
FINANCE AND BANKING	7
AWARDS & RECOGNITION	8
PERSON IN NEWS	9
OBITUARIES	9
IMPORTANT DAYS	9
SPORTS	9

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually unveiled the '**Statue of Peace**' to mark the 151st Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Jainacharya Vijay Vallabh Maharaj.
2. **Sur Sarovar** also known as Keetham Lake in Agra, Uttar Pradesh and **Lonar Lake** in Maharashtra, the only crater lake of Country has been added to the 'Ramsar Sites'. These 2 wetlands have been included in the 'List of Wetlands of International Importance' established by Article 2.1 of the convention.
3. **Jai Bhawani women's cooperative textile mill** is set to become the first Textile Mill in Asia that will operate on Solar Power.
4. Bhubaneswar, Capital of Odisha became the First City in the Country and 2nd in the world to get **ISO (International Organization for Standardization) 9001:2015 Certification for Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM)** services. Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) was the first civic body to implement FSSM regulations in Odisha.
5. **Mumbai** has become the first city in the country with a **gender-specific city's** urban plan which has provisions for designated spaces for the needs of women.
6. Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (**MeitY**), and National Association of Software and Services Companies (**NASSCOM**) unveiled the **FutureSkills PRIME Beta Platform**, a digital learning platform to enhance India's digital talents to benefit the aspirants from Tier II and Tier III cities.

STATES AFFAIRS

1. **Puducherry** Government formally launched a **free breakfast scheme "Dr Kalaignar Mu Karunanidhi Kaalai Sitrundi Thittam"** for Government and Government aided school's students.
2. Madhya Pradesh Government has decided to celebrate the **Tribal Pride Day** in Madhya Pradesh on 15th November 2020 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Freedom fighter and martyr **Birsa Munda**.
3. The Punjab Cabinet has approved the '**Punjab Divyangjan Shaktikaran Yojana**' to empower persons with disabilities

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

4. The **International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)** and the World Customs Organization (WCO) conducted Operation Thunder in 103 countries against environmental crimes. During the Operation, India Customs along with INTERPOL and

WCO intercepted an **18-tonne shipment of red sandalwood** destined for the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

5. On November 18-20, 2020, the 30th edition of **India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol** (Indo-Thai CORPAT) between the Indian Navy with Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karmuk and the Royal Thai Navy with Majesty's Thailand Ship (HTMS) Kraburi, was conducted in Andaman Sea close to the strategic Strait of Malacca.
6. Phase 2 of the 24th Edition of the Four-nation **Naval Exercise Malabar 2020** took place in the Arabian Sea from November 17-20, 2020. This is the First time since 2007, that all the QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) Countries (India, United States, Japan, Australia) are participating in the Malabar Naval Exercise.
7. World Health Organization (WHO) listed **nOPV2 (novel Oral Polio Taccine type 2) Polio vaccine** produced by Indonesia's Bio Farma Company for Emergency Use Listing (EUL), this is the first approval by WHO of its kind amidst several outbreaks in several parts of the world.
8. The 12th BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) Summit 2020 held virtually on November 17, 2020 and hosted by Vladimir Putin, President of Russia on the theme "**Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth**". India was represented by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi. Vladimir Putin announced the approval of the **Moscow Declaration**, the BRICS Anti-Terrorism Strategy and the BRICS updated strategy for the economic partnership until 2025. Two pillars of this year's summit are the economy and counterterrorism.
9. 4 Indian Cities namely **Bengaluru, Faridabad, Indore and Hyderabad** feature among the 36 global cities selected by World Economic Forum (WEF) for **pioneering a new global policy roadmap for smart cities**. They will be developed by **G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance**. The WEF's Inaugural "Pioneer of Change Summit" is taking place virtually on 16-20 November, 2020.
10. Japanese Prime Minister, **Yoshihide Suga** and Australian Prime Minister, Scott Morrison signed a defence pact "**Reciprocal Access Agreement**" to counter China's growing influence in the South China Sea and over Pacific Island Nations.
11. SpaceX launched Four Astronauts (3 Americans, 1 Japanese) to the International Space Station on the first full-fledged taxi flight for NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) by a private company. They were launched by **Falcon Rocket** from the Kennedy Space Center. The capsule has been named as "Resilience".



REPORTS & INDEXES

12. According to Annual Report on '**Vital Statistics on India based on Civil Registration System 2018**', **Arunachal Pradesh** recorded the Highest Sex Ratio at Birth in the country with 1,084 females born per thousand males. It was followed by Nagaland (965) & Mizoram (964), Kerala (963), and Karnataka (957). The report was released by the Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. **Manipur** (757), Lakshadweep (839), Daman & Diu (877) recorded the Lowest Sex Ratio at Birth in the country.
13. In accordance with the **World-Wide Fund (WWF) Water Risk Filter**, an online tool, co-developed by the WWF for Nature and Germany's Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft (KfW DEG), nearly a **third of the 100 cities in the world susceptible to "water risk"** are in India. 30 Indian cities are expected to suffer increased water risks by 2050. The list of Indian cities was topped by **Jaipur** (Rajasthan) which is followed by Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and Thane (Maharashtra). Globally, populations in areas of high-water risk could rise from 17% in 2020 to 51% by 2050.
14. As per the new report by **World Health Organisation (WHO)** and United States (US) Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) titled "**Progress Towards Regional Measles Elimination Worldwide 2000- 2019**", India is among six countries with the highest number of infants who had not received the vaccine against measles. The other five countries are Nigeria, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Pakistan, and Philippines.
15. India is at **77th position** in "2020 TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix" was released by an anti-bribery standard setting organisation **TRACE International**, featuring 194 countries, territories, and autonomous and semi-autonomous regions. India at the 78th position in 2019. The list has been topped by **Denmark** for lowest bribery risk which is followed by Norway and Finland. **North Korea ranked last** i.e. at 194th position.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

7. The year 2020 marked the Fifth Anniversary of 'One Rank One Pension' (OROP) Scheme for Defence Forces Personnel, the decision to implement OROP was taken in November, 2015. OROP is aimed at ensuring uniform pensions for veterans retiring in the same rank with the same length of service irrespective of when they retire.
- 8.
9. Fifteenth Finance Commission led by Chairman NK Singh has recommended for **reprioritising Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) to increase Health Infrastructure Spending**, and Public spending on Health in India. The 15th Finance Commission headed by NK Singh submitted its report titled "**Finance Commission in COVID Time**" to the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and Union Minister of Finance, Nirmala Sitharaman.

10. As a part of "Operation Green Scheme **TOP to TOTAL**", the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has announced a **50% air transportation subsidy for 41 notified fruits and vegetables** from North East and Himalayan states to any place in the country. In this regard, Airlines will provide the transport subsidy directly to the supplier/ consignor/ consignee/ agent by charging only 50% of the freight charges and will claim the balance 50% from MoFPI as subsidy.
11. Union Minister Dharmendra Debendra Pradhan, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has signed Memoranda of Understandings (MoUs) with 8 leading oil & gas marketing companies & technology providers to set up **900 Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plants** with an outlay of **Rs 30,000 Cr** across India under the **Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT)** initiative.
12. **6 Organizations** – International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO), UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) India, Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI), Pregnancy and Obesity Nutrition Initiative (PONI), Alive & Thrive, Nutrition International and ARTIST for Her (Asian Research & Training Institute for Skill Transfer) have partnered to **strengthen the implementation of the POSHAN** (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition) Abhiyaan. It aims to bring stunting of children in age groups of 0-6 years from 38.4% to 25% by 2022.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

16. Finance Ministry has approved the allocation of **Rs 39,097 crore** under the **Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS)** for the exports made during FY 2019-20. It also approved an allocation of Rs 15,555 crore for MEIS benefits for exports made during the period April 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.
17. Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), which handles government's disinvestment programme, signed an agreement with the World Bank (WB) under which the latter provides advisory services to DIPAM for asset monetization.
18. The **3rd Annual Bloomberg New Economy Forum 2020** was held virtually where India was represented by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi. The focus of the forum was to restore the economy and to chart a course for the future amid COVID-19 pandemic. The forum was held from November 16 to 19, 2020.
19. Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of New & Renewable Energy (DNRE), Government of Goa to discuss the implementation of **India's First 100 MW(MegaWatt)** decentralised solar convergence project under the newly formed **Convergence Energy Services Limited (Convergence) in Goa**.
20. Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) has issued a notice asking all eligible news websites, portals, aggregators and agencies which are uploading or streaming news and current affairs

through digital media to **comply with the 26% foreign direct investment (FDI)** policy for digital news media.

21. Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) virtually inaugurated the **capacity building component of the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises scheme (PM-FME Scheme)**.

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FINANCE AND BANKING

22. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bhutan Prime Minister **Lotay Tshering** jointly e-launched **RuPay card Phase-II** which will allow Bhutanese card holders to access RuPay network in India.
23. RBL Bank in partnership with Visa launched the latter's processing capability "**Visa Direct**" that allows safe, convenient, real-time and secure funds delivery directly to financial accounts using credit and debit cards.
24. Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited(ESFBL) headquartered at Chennai, Tamil Nadu launched '**Eva**', a unique savings account for Indian women. The product addresses the wellbeing of women in every aspect such as Health, Wealth and Prosperity. **Smriti Mandhana**, Indian Woman cricketer has been appointed as the new brand ambassador of ESFBL.
25. HDFC Bank has launched 'Mooh Band Rakho' campaign to increase awareness on Cyber Frauds.
26. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the opening of the first cohort under the Regulatory Sandbox (RS) with "**Retail Payments**", as its theme.
27. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed a draft scheme of amalgamation of the capital starved Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd. (LVB) with DBS Bank India Ltd. (DBIL). This decision has been taken after the Central Government has imposed a **one-month moratorium on LVB** on November 17, 2020 that temporarily capped withdrawals at Rs 25,000. The moratorium will be effective upto December 16, 2020. LVB was imposed with 1month moratorium under **Section 45 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
28. **HDFC Bank** and **IndusInd Bank** have been mentioned in the '**red flag**' list, a system used for monitoring Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) limits. A red flag will be activated whenever the foreign investment in Indian companies exceeds the permissible limit i.e within 3% or less than 3% of the aggregate NRI/FPI limits or the sectoral cap. As per the data provided by NSDL (National Securities

Depository Ltd.) the current **FPI shareholding of HDFC is 71.3%** and 73.1% for IndusInd Bank. FPIs **can invest up to 74%** in both HDFC Bank and IndusInd Bank.

29. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), National Capital Region Transport Corporation Limited (NCRTC) and New Development Bank (NDB) of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa) have signed a loan agreement for lending **USD 500 Million** for the '**Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System Project (RRTS)**' in the National Capital Region (NCR). It is expected to be completed by August, 2027.
30. ICICI Bank Ltd in partnership with **Pine Labs** launched '**ICICI Bank Cardless EMI**'. ICICI Bank
31. Government of India, the Government of Meghalaya and the World Bank (WB) have signed a **\$120-million** loan agreement for **Meghalaya Integrated Transport Project (MITP)** to improve and modernize the transport sector of Meghalaya. The loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), has a maturity of 14 years including a grace period of 6 years.
32. The Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) approved a **\$50 million** policy-based loan to boost West Bengal's Digital Platforms for Public Finance Reforms.
33. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) launched its First Digital Application, '**ANANDA**' (**Atma Nirbhar Agents New Business Digital App**). The digital tool supports the on boarding process to get Life Insurance policy with the help of the Agent / Intermediary without any paperwork.
34. As per Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) first ever estimation based on high-frequency data namely "**nowcast**", India's Gross domestic product (GDP) **contracted 8.6%** in the quarter ended September 2020.
35. The Moody's Investors Service has revised upwards the India's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) for the Fiscal 2020 (April 2020-March 2021) to **-10.6%**(contract by 10.6%) from -11.5% projected earlier. The upward revision is due to the latest stimulus prioritizes manufacture and job creation, and changes the focus to longer-term growth. *It has also projected India's GDP growth for fiscal 2021-22 at 10.8%, against the previous estimate of 10.6%.*

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

36. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Union Minister of Education virtually launched the **Lilavati Award 2020**, an initiative by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to promote women empowerment in India. The Theme of the Lilavati Award 2020 is "**women empowerment**".
37. Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai presented the International Children's Peace Prize 2020 award to **17 year old Sadat Rahman from Bangladesh** for his involvement in setting up his social

organization and creating mobile application 'Cyber Teens' to end cyberbullying during a ceremony in the Netherlands.

38. New York based **Scottish writer Douglas Stuart** has won the **Booker Prize 2020** for his debut novel "**Shuggie Bain**" published by Grove Atlantic in the United States and Picador in the United Kingdom. He is the second Scottish writer to win the award after James Kelman who won the Booker Prize in 1994 for his book titled "How Late It Was, How Late"

PERSON IN NEWS

39. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed **Senapathy Gopalakrishnan**, cofounder, and former co-Chairman, Infosys as the **1st chairperson of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)**. He is currently the Chief Mentor of Start-up Village, an incubation hub for start-ups.
40. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has approved the appointment of **Sonu Sood as the State Icon of Punjab**. Sonu Sood hails from the **Moga** district of Punjab.
41. Girish Chandra Murmu, 14th Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India elected as the **External Auditor of Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) for 3 years**. He will take charge of this position from the Supreme Audit Institution of Switzerland.

OBITUARIES

42. Legendary Bengali Actor and Padma Bhushan Awardee **Soumitra Chatterjee** has passed away.
43. **Bhanwar Lal Meghwal**, Rajasthan's Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment and the leader of Indian National Congress of Rajasthan passed away at the He was born on 2nd July 1948 in Sujangarh in Churu district, Rajasthan.
44. **Mridula Sinha**, former and **first Woman Governor of Goa** passed away at the age of 77 at a hospital in Delhi. She was born on 27th November 1942 in Chhapra, Bihar. Mridula Sinha was a proficient Hindi **writer** who contributed to the field of literature and culture.

IMPORTANT DAYS

45. United Nations(UN)'s **World Toilet Day** is annually celebrated across the globe on **19th November** to celebrate Toilets and to raise awareness about the 4.2 billion people across the globe who are living without any access to safely managed sanitation. The theme of the 2020 World Toilet Day is "**Sustainable sanitation and climate change**".

SPORTS

46. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS) has introduced an incentivisation structure to **fund 500 private academies**, through the Khelo India Scheme over the next four years starting 2020-21. Under the scheme, SAI (Sports Authority of India) and NSFs (National Sports Federations) will work together to encourage all academies, particularly the private academies to continue to improve the level of infrastructure, resources and sports science support.

47. British Driver Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) won the **Formula 1 DHL Turkish Grand Prix 2020** held at Intercity Istanbul Park, Turkey.

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