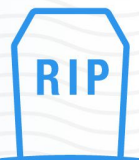
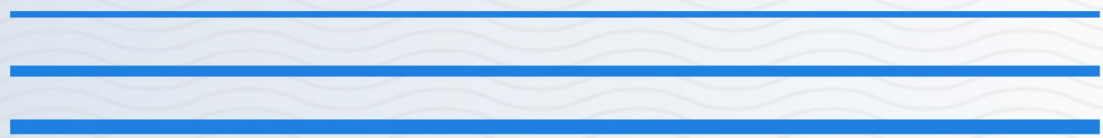


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WEEKLY CA NOV 2020

NOVEMBER 23-30

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. The Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Prakash Javadekar recently launched the **India Climate Change knowledge portal**. The portal will hold major information about the steps taken by the government at both National and international levels to address climate change issues

2. Tribes India has launched **Saheli**, an eco-friendly sanitary pad made by Vasavatribals under Gram Sangathan Kambodiya in Gujarat. It will fall under Forest Fresh Naturals and organics range. It will also be available on Tribes India outlets, mobile vans, Tribes India E-marketplace (tribesindia.com) and e-tailers.
3. Union Information Technology Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad launched the **International version of the UMANG application**. UMANG is Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance. It was launched in UK, US, Australia, Canada, Netherlands, UAE, Australia, Singapore and New Zealand.
4. The cyclone **Nivar** is to make landfall between Mamallapuram and Karaikal of Tamil Nadu. It is to hit the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry. The National Crisis Management Committee recently reviewed the status of cyclone held through video conferencing.
5. Tenth edition of **National Science Film Festival** has been inaugurated in virtual mode by Deputy CM of Tripura Jishnu Dev Verma. Orgnaiser: VigyanPrasar jointly with Tripura State Council of Science and Technology.
6. **SpiceJet** has launched dedicated freighter services to **Leh** to boost connectivity to the area with the rest of the country. It is the first-of-its-type service by any domestic airlines. Maiden freighter flight was launched from Delhi to Leh, carrying 13 tonnes of cargo supplies. The flight was operated by **SpiceXpress**, whereas a **Boeing 737** freighter has been deployed on this route.
7. The **Defence Research Development Organization** recently flagged off the first **Varunastra**, the heavy weight torpedo. The torpedo was designed and developed by the BDL, Vishakhapatnam Unit of Indian Navy. Varunastra It is a ship launched electrically propelled heavyweight anti-submarine torpedo that is capable of targeting quiet submarines.
8. The Government of India has launched the **National Portal for Transgender** persons. The portal will help the transgender community to apply for identity card and certificate online. It was developed under the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2020.
9. **Dept of Telecommunications** in line with TRAI Recommendation on 'Ensuring Adequate Numbering Resources for Fixed Line and Mobile Services' has decided to install prefix '0' for all Fixed to Mobile calls from 15th Jan 2021. However, there will be no change in dialing plan from fixed to fixed, mobile to fixed and mobile to mobile calls. **2539 million numbering series** is expected to be generated from the above that will free up sufficient numbering resources for future use.

STATES AFFAIRS

10. First **Moss Garden of India** has been inaugurated at Khurpatal in Nainital district of **Uttarakhand**. This iconic garden has been developed by Uttarakhand forest department and is spread over an area of 10 hectares.
11. Himachal Pradesh govt has launched '**Him Suraksha Abhiyan**' to sensitize the people regarding Covid-19 pandemic. The abhiyan will also collect information regarding symptoms of TB, Leprosy, sugar and blood pressure. The campaign will continue till coming 27th December.
12. Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Narendra Singh Tomar has virtually inaugurated **Sukhjit Mega Food Park** (MFP) at Phagwara, Punjab.

13. UP Cabinet has approved **Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion Ordinance, 2020** to ban religious conversion for marriage. This new law will put the responsibility on the defendant to prove that conversion was not for marriage.
14. A Letter of Understanding (LoU) has been signed between the **Rajasthan** govt and the United Nation's World Food Programme (**WFP**) for proposed participation to achieve food and nutritional security goals. On the basis of the signed MoU, WFP authorities have signed the LoU with various government departments to develop a partnership with them.
15. SIDBI has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **Tamil Nadu** government to develop micro, small and medium enterprises ecosystem in the state.



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

16. The **G20 summit of 2020** was hosted by Saudi Arabia recently. The subsequent G20 summits are to be held in Italy in 2021, Indonesia in 2022, **India in 2023** and Brazil in 2024. About G20 summit, 2020 The main focus of the Summit was on resilient, inclusive and sustainable recovery from covid-19 crisis. During the.
17. The **Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation** was recently hosted by **Malaysia**. Several leaders of the cooperation joined the summit. The Summit was attended by the US President Donald Trump as well. The next APEC meeting is to be hosted by **New Zealand**.
18. The **Indian and Singapore Navy** are to hold maritime exercise **SIMBEX-20** in the **Andaman Sea** between November 23, 2020 and November 25, 2020. The exercise is being conducted between the countries since 1994. The exercise aims to enhance mutual inter-operability between the countries.
19. The **trilateral Naval exercise, SITMEX-20** between India, Singapore and Thailand was held in the Andaman sea. The SITMEX-20 Naval exercise was scheduled in a “non-contact at sea only format” due to covid-19 restrictions. The main objective of the exercise is to increase the interoperability between the three navies.
20. **India and European Union** held 6th round of consultations on disarmament and non-proliferation matter. The partners discussed on exchange of information on development in the field of chemical, nuclear and biological disarmament. They also discussed about the development on outer space security, conventional weapons and non-proliferation.
21. The **Defence Ministers of India and Vietnam** recently discussed the collaboration in the defence industry. The discussions include training, capacity building and cooperation in United Nations Peace keeping operations.
22. India and the United States have extended the **Indo-US Civil Nuclear Energy agreement** for another ten years. The agreement is also called the **123 agreement**. India buys the nuclear material from United States based on this agreement. The extension of the agreement was signed at the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP).

23. **India and Finland** signed Memorandum of Understanding in the field of **biodiversity conservation** and environment protection. The agreement was signed by the Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar and his counterpart Krista Mikkonen of Finland.
24. The Union Minister of External Affairs **Shri S Jaishankar** recently announced at the Geneva Donors conference that India is to construct the Shahtoot Dam across the Maidan river, a tributary of river Kabul in Afghanistan.
25. The **United Arab Emirates** recently became the first and probably the last Arab country to generate **electricity from coal**. The coal plant, Hassyan is to be set up in Dubai at 3.4 billion USD.
26. The **New Zealand** government is to decide soon upon declaration of **climate emergency**. The Prime Minister of New Zealand Jacinda Ardern is to introduce a motion in the Parliament soon. If passed the motion will be a historical step in bringing climate change to the centre of policy making.
27. **China** recently connected its first indigenously developed **third generation nuclear power reactor** called **Hualong** one to its national grid. The Hualong One nuclear power reactor is first of its kind. **Hualong One**, Nuclear Power Plant located in **Fujian** province.
28. The **Hayabusa2 spacecraft of Japan** is nearing the earth after a yearlong journey from asteroid Ryugu. The asteroid is located at a distance of about 300 million kilometres from the Earth.
29. **Scottish** parliament has passed landmark legislation that made period **products like sanitary pads and tampons free of cost** to those people who need them. Bill is titled as 'Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Bill' and was passed unanimously, making Scotland the first country to take such a step.

REPORTS & INDEXES

30. The International Air Transport Association recently announced that **Shanghai is the world's most connected city in the world**. Along with Shanghai, three other cities such as Beijing, Chengdu and Guangzhou have emerged as the most connected cities in the world.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

31. A Multi-disciplinary Technical Committee that was set up under the **Jal Jeevan Mission** has recommended **five technologies** in order to provide field level solutions to the states.

What are the technologies?

- **Grundfos AQPure:** It is a solar energy-based water treatment plant. It uses ultra-filtration as well.
 - **Janajal Water on Wheel:** It is an Internet on Things based technology that delivers safe water to the doorsteps of households. It is GPS enabled.
 - **Presto Online Chlorinator:** It disinfects water and removes bacterial contamination. It is a non-electricity dependent online chlorinator.
 - **Johkasou Technology:** It is an inbuilt sewage and bath water treatment system. It has advanced anaerobic-aerobic configuration and can be installed underground.
 - **FBTec:** It is a decentralized sewage treatment system.
32. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the '**Har Ghar Nal Yojana**' (Tap Water to Every Household) for the residents of Uttar Pradesh's **Sonbhadra** and **Mirzapur** district. Government was committed to solving the water scarcity problem and hence the scheme of worth ₹5,555 crores was launched in the state.

33. Union Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar approved food processing projects of Rs 234.68 crores. Around seven proposals received **under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana** were approved. The proposals were sent under the Scheme for Creation of Infrastructure for Agro Processing Cluster of PMKSY.
34. The Government of India recently launched **Mission COVID Suraksha** to accelerate **development of vaccine** in the country. It will ensure that the vaccines being developed are brought closer to the market. The mission was introduced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as a part of 12 announcements made under Atma Nirbhar Bharat.
35. The Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar recently inaugurated a **cooperative programme for the beekeepers and honey collectors**. The programme was launched in 5 states. Under the programme, five farmer producer organisations are to be set up in five states. They are to be established in East Champaran, Bihar; Bharatpur, Rajasthan; Morena Madhya Pradesh; Mathura, Uttar Pradesh; and Sundarbans, West Bengal. The organisations are to be set up by **NAFED**, National agricultural Cooperative marketing federation of India. These farmer producer organisations were launched under the Scheme of Formation and Promotion of 10,000 FPO.
36. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare recently launched the **Sahakar Pragya**. The initiative will train the primary cooperative societies in the country. It holds **45 new training modules** of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). It will enhance the training capacity of NCDC through a network of eighteen regional training centres.

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ECONOMY & BUSINESS

37. Union Education Minister, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' inaugurated 46 **online AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL)** Academy Faculty Development Programmes (FDP). It was launched to train the teachers in higher education institutions association with AICTE (All India Council of Technical Education).
38. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 3rd Global Renewable Energy Investment called the **RE-Invest**. The 3rd Global RE-Invest Renewable Energy Investors Meet & Expo was organised by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India. It is to be held from 26 – 28 November 2020.
39. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently chaired the **33rd PRGATI interaction**. During the meeting, projects worth of Rs 1.41 lakh crores were reviewed. These projects were taken up by DPIIT, Ministry of Railways, Power Minister and Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways. PRAGATI is **Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation**.
40. The **Invest India and the United Nations Development Programme** has launched the sustainable development goal investor map for India. It has laid out 18 Investment Opportunity Areas. This investment opportunity areas are in six critical sustainable development goals that were launched by the United Nations.

The map will enable the factors that will help India in achieving its sustainable development goals. It will help India understand how it can reduce the SDG financing gap in the country.

41. The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has approved the construction of the **Song Dam Drinking Water Project** worth Rs 1100 crore in **Dehradun**. This scheme will provide 24-hour drinking water to the city of Dehradun and will give a rebirth to River Rispana.
42. The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology and **IBM India** collaborated to create a robust education and skilling ecosystem that creates critical thinkers, problem-solvers, and next-generation innovators through the Common Services Centre Academy. It aims to upskill members of the CSC ecosystem in new-age technologies like Artificial Intelligence and Cloud.

FINANCE AND BANKING

43. Union Cabinet approved **Rs 6,000 crores of capital infusion** into the **National Infrastructure Investment Fund**. This is a part of the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. The move will leverage to create financial pipeline of Rs 1 lakh crore.
44. **SEBI** has launched an initiative called '**Securities Market Trainers**' (SMARTs) program, to enhance investor education and awareness. The program was launched during the World Investor Week (WIW), observed from Nov 23 to 29, 2020. The first batch of SMARTs includes 40 individuals across 16 states and union territories, covering 31 districts on a pan-India basis with 4 days of training at **National Institute of Securities Market (NISM)**.
45. The Union Govt's fiscal deficit further widened to **₹9.53 lakh crore**, or close to 120% of the annual budget estimate, at the end of Oct 2020. The deficit widened mainly due to poor revenue realisation. **Fiscal Deficit** is the difference between the Revenue Receipts plus Non-debt Capital Receipts and the total expenditure.
46. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has banned the Manta Urban Cooperative Bank in Jalna district of Maharashtra for six months for payment of money and loan transactions.

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AWARDS & RECOGNITION

47. The **Pilibhit Tiger Reserve** and the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department bagged the first international award **TX2**. The Pilibhit Tiger Reserve was awarded for doubling its number of tigers in four years. The target set was to double the numbers in ten years.
48. Netflix show, **Delhi Crime** has been conferred with Best Drama Series award at the 48th International **Emmy Awards 2020**.
49. ISRO Chairman **K Sivan** has been conferred with Doctor of Science honorary doctorate at Visvesvaraya Technological University under Government of Karnataka.

PERSON IN NEWS

50. Lt Gen Harpal Singh has appointed new Engineer-in-Chief of Indian Army. He is presently the Director-General of Border Roads Organization and would take over his new appointment on 1 December.

OBITUARIES

51. **Tarun Gogoi**, former Chief Minister of Assam passed away due to post covid-19 complications. Mr Gogoi was diagnosed with COVID-19 in August 2020.
52. Legendary Argentine footballer, **Diego Maradona** (60 years) passed away following a heart attack. Diego Armando Maradona was regarded as one of the greatest players of all time. He was one of the two joint winners of FIFA Player of the 20th Century award.
53. Senior Congress leader **Ahmed Patel** (71 years) passed away at Medanta Hospital, Gurgaon hospital after COVID infection. He was an Indian politician and Member of Parliament from Indian National Congress, representing Gujarat since eight times in Lok Sabha as well as Rajya Sabha.
54. Indian industrialist **Faqir Chand Kohli** (96 years) passed away in Mumbai due to cardiac arrest. He was the founder and the first CEO of Tata Consultancy Services, and was also associated with Tata Power Company and Tata Elxsi. He served as President of NASSCOM.
55. Noted **Telugu poet**, journalist, scriptwriter **Shaik Khaja Hussain** (70 years) passed away after brief illness in Hyderabad. He was popularly known as Devi Priya. He was conferred with Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award in 2017, for his book Gaali Rangu.

IMPORTANT DAYS

56. Every year, the **International Day for Elimination of violence against women** is marked by the United Nations on **November 25**. The day is celebrated to create awareness that women around the world are subjected to domestic violence, rape and other forms of violence. This year the day is celebrated under the **Theme: "Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect"**
57. Every year **Constitution Day is celebrated on November 26**. It is also known as Samvidhan Divas or National Law Day. The day is celebrated to mark the adoption of Constitution. The Constitution of India was adopted on November 26, 1949.
58. **National Milk Day** is observed every year in India on **November 26** to commemorate birthday of father of India's White Revolution, Dr. Verghese Kurien, since 2014. It is being celebrated jointly by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), Indian Dairy Association (IDA), along with 22 milk federations.

SPORTS

59. Sports Minister **Kiren Rijiju** has rolled out second edition of **Fit India School Week program** virtually. Schools have to register themselves on fitindia.gov.in/fit-india-school-week to participate in this program. It aims to encourage kids to inculcate physical activity and sports in their daily routine.

60. Federation Internationale de Football Association (**FIFA**), has released the international rankings for November 2020. India has moved up to **104**, a significant rise of four spots from previously rankings released in October 2020. **Belgium** has kept their place on the top, followed by France, Brazil, England, and Portugal.



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