

# Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest



**November 2020**

**BANK  
EXAMS  
Today**

# Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

## CONTENTS

India's first seaplane service launched by PM Modi .....	5
SERB-POWER Initiative of DST .....	5
Appointment and Extension on 1st November 2020 .....	6
Green Delhi App .....	6
5th Public Affairs Index 2020 .....	7
'Visa Direct'—By RBL Bank and Visa .....	7
IISc signs MoU with Indian Oil .....	8
'Strategic Policy and Facilitation Bureau' .....	8
Fortified Rice Distribution Scheme--Chhattisgarh .....	8
Swami Atmanand Government English Medium School Scheme--Chhattisgarh .....	9
IITM COVID Game—IIT Madras .....	9
IREDA signs MoU with MNRE .....	10
Appointments on 3rd November 2020 .....	10
Accelerator for Electronics Technologies (ACE)--Kerala .....	10
Malabar Naval Exercise 2020 .....	11
AI enabled Solution to Automate Motor claim Settlements .....	12
Life + 36 Critical Illness Insurance—Aegon Life Insurance Company Limited .....	12
Appointments on 4th November 2020 .....	13
2020 Annual Political Dialogue between India and GCC Troika .....	13
MoU between India and Spain in Astronomy- Approved by Union Cabinet .....	13
Visa partners with DigitSecure and HDFC Bank .....	14
ADB approves loan to Improve Power Distribution in Meghalaya .....	14
Appointments on 5th November 2020 .....	15
Tourist Facilitation Centre-- Kerala .....	15
MoU between India and UK in ICT Sector- Approved by Union Cabinet .....	16
DRDO successfully Test Fired advanced version of Pinaka Rocket .....	16
5th Joint Working Group on Coal between India-Indonesia .....	17
Appointments on 6th November 2020 .....	17
Prasar Bharti signed MoU with BISAG-N .....	18
First India-Nordic-Baltic Conclave .....	18
'ICICI Bank Mine', a Comprehensive Banking Programme .....	19
4th High-level meet of the India-OPEC Energy Dialogue .....	19
'Sagar Kavach'-- A two-day Joint Coastal Security Exercise Commenced .....	20
IIT-Madras partnered with DG Takano .....	20
ISRO launched all Weather Earth Observation Satellite & 9 Customer Satellites .....	20

# Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

Appointments, Resignation and Ambassador on 8th November 2020 .....	21
40th Meet of SAARC Central Bank Governors Meet.....	21
'Bull Strike' -- A Triservice Exercise.....	22
PM Modi laid Foundation Stone for Development projects in Varanasi.....	22
Virtual Global Investor Roundtable (VGIR) 2020 Conference.....	23
'Parivarthanam Scheme'-- Kerala.....	23
AAI signed MoU with NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN) .....	24
'AIM-Sirius Innovation Programme 3.0' .....	24
'Smart Drive Private Car Insurance'.....	25
Pakke Tiger Reserve offers Insurance cover against Covid-19 for Green Soldiers.....	25
Appointments on 10th November 2020 .....	26
Inter-Ministerial Approval Committee Meet.....	26
Marg ERP partnered with Paytm .....	27
Creation of National Database for Unorganised Workers .....	27
Four Agreements signed between India and Maldives.....	28
'Covid Shield+'—By Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance.....	28
Australia-India Water Centre Inaugurated.....	29
Cabinet approved Production-Linked incentive Scheme.....	29
Appointments on 12th November 2020 .....	30
'SmartHub Merchant Solutions 3.0' .....	30
IBSA Report on 'Deepening Cooperation in IBSA.....	31
Indian Astronomers joined hands with 2020 Physics Nobel Laureate .....	31
20th SCO Council of Heads of State Summit.....	32
'Payout Links' by Paytm.....	32
Mission COVID Suraksha .....	33
India's GDP at -8.9% for FY 2020—By Moody's Rating Agency .....	33
'Project Air Care'-- Haryana .....	33
AGS Transact partnered with Utimaco .....	34
Indian Navy launched the fifth Scorpene submarine 'Vagir' .....	34
MNRE Amends Guidelines for PM-KUSUM Scheme.....	34
'Bharat Darshan-Dakshin Bharat Yatra' .....	35
'Aatma Nirbhar Madhya Pradesh 2023' .....	35
'Local4Diwali' Campaign of Textile Ministry.....	36
17th ASEAN-India Virtual Summit .....	36
Jeevan Seva App.....	37
India Test Fired Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM).....	37

# Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

15th East Asia Summit 2020.....	38
Sports Ministry to Provide Incentives Under Khelo India Initiative .....	38
PM Modi unveiled 'Statue of Peace' .....	39
8th BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial Meeting.....	39
3 months SAANS Campaign by MoHFW .....	39
SBM Bank India partnered with PayNearby.....	40
DIPAM signs agreement with World Bank.....	40
Appointments and Extension on 17th November 2020 .....	41
'Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)' .....	41
StashFin partners with Visa.....	42
'Eva'-- Unique Saving Account for Women.....	42
RBI creates Innovation Hub.....	43
Appointments and Brand Ambassador on 18th November 2020 .....	43
BRICS Nations adopted Counter Terrorism Strategy.....	44
RBI Imposed a moratorium on Lakshmi Vilas Bank.....	44
'Mooh Band Rakho Campaign'—HDFC Bank .....	44
3rd Annual Bloomberg New Economy Forum .....	45
EESL signed MoU with DNRE, Goa.....	45
India's GDP to contract at 10.3% in FY2021—By Goldman Sachs.....	46
7th round of FoC between India and Kazakhstan.....	46
'CASA Mobilisation Campaign'—HDFC Bank.....	47
TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix 2020 .....	47
India signs loan agreement with World Bank for transport sector in Meghalaya.....	47
India's GDP for FY 21 at -6.4%—By Barclays.....	48
1st India-Luxembourg Virtual Summit.....	48
'Project Kirana'—Mastercard and USAID.....	49
Capacity Building Component of PM-FME & GIS ODOP Digital Map of India .....	49
33rd Stop TB Partnership Board Meet .....	50
GOI sanctions loan for micro irrigation projects in Tamil Nadu.....	50
30th Indo-Thai CORPAT.....	51
SITMEX-2020.....	51
Kotak ESG Opportunities Fund .....	51
Copernicus Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich Satellite .....	52
GOI signs MoU for Compressed Bio-Gas Plants.....	52
1st Fisheries Award.....	53
15th G20 Summit .....	53

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

ADB approved loan for Operational Efficiencies & Resource Planning in WB.....	54
SIMBEX-20 .....	54
2020 APEC Summit .....	55
Himachal Pradesh joined hands with ADB.....	55
23rd Bengaluru Tech Summit 2020 .....	56
International version of the UMANG Application .....	56
Har Ghar Nal Yojana.....	57
Varunastra: The heavy weight torpedo delivered to Indian Navy .....	57
FICCI FLO signs MoU with IESC of IIM Shillong.....	58
NSDL Payments Bank partnered with HDFC ERGO .....	58
'Abhayam App'—Andhra Pradesh.....	58
PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana.....	59
India test fired Brahmos Supersonic Missile .....	59
SDG Investor Map for India .....	60
Indian Railways partnered with Indian School of Business, Hyderabad .....	60
Appointments on 26th November 2020 .....	61
10th National Science Film Festival .....	61
HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank to support SMEs and Start-ups .....	62
RE-Invest 2020 .....	62
National Portal for Transgender Persons.....	63
India signs MoU with Finland .....	63
NAFED's Honey FPO Programs launched by Agriculture Minister.....	64
India and Israel partners to build future with low carbon and pollution .....	64
SMS Pay Function —By Yes Bank and Wordline .....	65
Appointments on 28th November 2020 .....	65
Shanghai- World's most connected City.....	66
India's GDP contracts 7.5% in September quarter .....	66
33rd PRAGATI interaction by PM Modi.....	66
Defence Ministers meet of India and Vietnam .....	67
Sahakar Pragya Programme.....	67
BSE signs MoU with Mission Youth, Gov. of J&K .....	68
India's GDP at -10.5% for FY21— By UBS .....	68
UP Governor gave assent to an Ordinance against Forcible Religious Conversion.....	69
'Jagananna Thodu'- An interest free Loan Scheme .....	69

# MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS GK DIGEST: NOVEMBER 2020

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## INDIA'S FIRST SEAPLANE SERVICE LAUNCHED BY PM MODI

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**Current Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India's first-ever seaplane service connecting Statue of Unity in Kevadia with Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad.

### HIGHLIGHTS

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- It is the 19 seater seaplane and will be managed by SpiceJet airline.
- The seaplane service will cover 200km of distance in around 40-45 minutes.
- There will be four flights a day between Ahmedabad and Kevadia on each side i.e. there will be four arrivals and four departures.
- The ticket price for per person is Rs 4800.
- It is fitted with a twin Otter 300, efficient Twin Turboprop Pratt & Whitney PT6A-27 engines.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Gujarat: Gandhinagar
  - CM of Gujarat: Vijay Rupani
  - Governor of Gujarat: Acharya Devvrat
  - State animal of Gujarat: Asiatic Lion
  - Dams in Gujarat: Ukai Dam (Tapti River), Dharoi Dam (Sabarmati River), Kadana Dam (Mahi River), Dantiwada Dam (Banas River)

## SERB-POWER INITIATIVE OF DST

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**Current Context:** The Union Minister of Science and Technology, Dr Harsh Vardhan launched the initiative called SERB-Power.

### KEY FACTS

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- **The significance of SERB-POWER is (Science and Engineering and Research Board-Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research).**
- **The initiative is of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. SERB is the statutory body of the DST.**
- **The SERB-POWER is framed exclusively for women scientists with an aim to encourage emerging women scientist so that they get motivated to undertake R&D activities in various scientific and engineering areas.**
- The initiative has two components of fellowship and research grants. Both components will serve as a benchmark of recognition in the national scenario.

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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- The initiative will empower women scientists, will cultivate a women-friendly culture and will ensure more women in leadership positions in decision-making bodies.
- To apply for this initiative, women researchers must belong to the age group of 35-55 years.
- **The SERB-POWER supports in the form of:** (a) Fellowship of Rs. 15,000 per month in addition to regular income (b) Research grant of Rs. 10 lakh per annum (c) Overhead of Rs 90,000 per annum
- The duration of SERB-POWER initiative is 3 years and can be availed once in a year by the women researchers.

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### APPOINTMENT AND EXTENSION ON 1ST NOVEMBER 2020

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**Current Context: PVG Menon:** He is appointed as **CEO of Electronics Sector Skill Council of India (ESSCI)**. He has replaced N K Mohapatra.

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#### ABOUT

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- **Static Part:**
- HQ of ESSCI: New Delhi
- Chairman of ESSCI: Ajai Chowdhry
- **Justice Bansi Lal Bhat:** His tenure to be Chairperson of National Company Law Appellate Tribunal(NCLAT) has been extended till 31st Dec 2020 by Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- **Static Part:**
  - Union Minister of Corporate Affairs: Nirmala Sitharaman

**GREEN DELHI APP**

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**Current Context: The Chief Minister of Delhi launched the Green Delhi mobile application.**

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#### DETAILS

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- **The app is launched for citizens so that they can bring into the government's notice about the pollution causing activities in the capital.**
- The app will keep a track on rising air pollution along with data related to pollution causing activities like burning waste, industrial pollution and dust.
- It is designed in such a way that it can be used to register photo and video complaint. Citizens can click photos or make a video of pollution causing activities and can upload it in the app.
- The app will then identify the location and will automatically transfer the complaint to the concerned department for time-bound redressal.
- Delhi Government has made strict timelines for each type of complaint received on the application.
- Once the department resolves the complaint, they are required to post a picture of it.
- **Static Part:**
  - CM of Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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- Governor of Delhi: Anil Baijal

### 5TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS INDEX 2020

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**Current Context: The 5th Edition of Public Affairs Index 2020 based on Governance is released.**

#### ABOUT INDEX

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- **Following is the ranking for each category:**
  - **Large States: Kerala (Rank1)** (Score: 1.388), **Tamil Nadu (Rank2)** (Score: 0.912), **Andhra Pradesh (Rank3)** (Score: 0.531).
  - **Small States: Goa (Rank1)** (Score: 1.745), **Meghalaya (Rank2)** (Score: 0.797), **Himachal Pradesh (Rank3)** (Score: 0.725).
  - **Union Territories: Chandigarh (Rank1)** (Score: 1.057), **Puducherry (Rank2)** (Score: 0.520), **Lakshadweep (Rank3)** (Score: 0.003).
- **The performance parameters for Public Affairs Index 2020 based on Governance are: Equity, Growth and Sustainability.**
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Public Affairs Center: Bengaluru, Karnataka
  - Chairman of Public Affairs Center: K Kasturirangan

### 'VISA DIRECT'—BY RBL BANK AND VISA

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**Current Context: The Ratnakar Bank i.e. RBL Bank in partnership with Visa launched 'Visa Direct.**

#### KEY POINTS

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- **The 'Visa Direct' is a processing capability of Visa which allows safe and secure funds delivery in real-time to financial accounts using credit and debit cards.**
- The 'Visa Direct' follows RBL Bank's philosophy of 'Partners Ka Bank.
- **This 'Visa Direct' will enable RBL Bank to increase its offerings to fintech firms.**
- It will also help RBL bank to advance tech-based banking solutions which will address the needs of its partners which will thus create a standardized digital payment solution experience to their customers.
- The fintech will get access to domestic transactions and benefits programme like refunds, card bill payments, cashback and disbursements through Visa Direct.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of RBL Bank: Mumbai
  - Tagline of RBL Bank: Apno Ka Bank
  - MD and CEO of RBL Bank: Vishwavir Ahuja



### IISC SIGNS MOU WITH INDIAN OIL

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**Current Context:** The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has signed MoU with Indian Oil Corporation Research and Development Centre with an objective to develop Hydrogen Generation Technology based on biomass gasification.

#### KEY FACTS

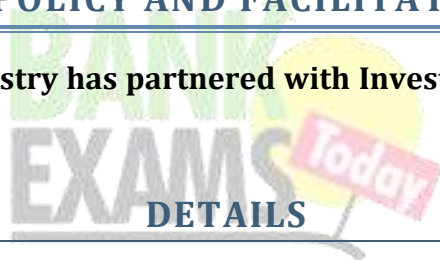
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- The hydrogen generated will be used to power fuel cell buses.
- This technology will be developed to produce Fuel Cell Grade Hydrogen at an affordable price.
- This will also help to address the challenge of biomass waste.
- **The Hydrogen Generation Technology based on biomass gasification will be demonstrated at the Indian Oil Research and Development Centre at Faridabad.**
- Both the organisations will work coordinately to optimize both biomass gasification and hydrogen purification processes.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Indian Oil Corporation: New Delhi

### 'STRATEGIC POLICY AND FACILITATION BUREAU'

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**Current Context:** The AYUSH Ministry has partnered with Invest India to set up 'Strategic Policy & Facilitation Bureau' (SPFB).



- **The 'Strategic Policy & Facilitation Bureau' will help to provide systematically and planned growth of the Ayush sector.**
- It will help in policy-making for AYUSH ministry along with framing strategic initiatives which will be helpful for the full potential development of the sector.
- The SPFB will also be supported by the stakeholders of Ayush sector.
- **Activities which will be undertaken by SPFB:** (a) Knowledge Creation and Management (b) Strategic and policy making support (c) Coordination among different states, department, and organisations (d) Conduction of Skill development initiatives (e) Setting up strategic intelligence research unit (f) Monitoring inter-ministerial groups and committees.
- **Invest India will help to frame plan for 'Strategic Policy & Facilitation Bureau' and it will play a role to define long term and short term plans for this bureau.**
- Invest India will appoint experts to execute the plan of this partnership with Ministry of AYUSH.
- **Static Part:**
  - Union Minister of State (IC) for AYUSH: Shripad Yesso Naik

### FORTIFIED RICE DISTRIBUTION SCHEME--CHHATTISGARH

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**Current Context:** The Chhattisgarh government has launched Fortified Rice Distribution Scheme.

## HIGHLIGHTS

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- The scheme was launched to mark the occasion of Statehood Day celebrations.
- **The aim of this scheme is to reduce malnutrition and anaemia.**
- **Under this scheme, fortified rice will be distributed through the Public Distribution System (PDS).** This fortified rice is comprised of Vitamin-B12, iron and folic acid which helps to control malnutrition and anaemia.
- The scheme was launched in Kondagaon district of Chhattisgarh.
- **Static Part:**
  - CM of Chhattisgarh: Bhupesh Bhagel
  - Governor of Chhattisgarh: Anusuiya Uikey
  - Dams in Chhattisgarh: Tandula Dam, Almatti Dam, Kori Dam, Bango Dam, Dudhawa Dam, Gangrel Dam

## SWAMI ATMANAND GOVERNMENT ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL SCHEME-- CHHATTISGARH

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**Current Context:** The Government of Chhattisgarh launched Swami Atmanand Government English Medium School Scheme to mark the occasion of statehood day.

### KEY FACTS

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- **This amount allotted for this scheme is Rs 130 crore.**
- **The aim of this scheme is to build English medium schools in the state so as to give an education facility in the English language also.**
- Under this scheme, initially, 52 English medium schools will be started.
- These schools will be having online learning facilities and will be comprised of computer labs, science lab and state-of-the-art library.
- **Other Schemes and facilities launched in the state on the same occasion are:** (a) Mukhyamantri Sahari Slum Swasthya Yojana (b) Third instalment of Rs 1500 crores was released under Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana. (c) 132/33 KV power substation in the district of Bijapur (d) 87.5 km long electricity line to supply 23 remote villages in the Naxal affected regions.
- **Static Part:**
  - Folk Dance of Chhattisgarh: Saila Dance, Karma Dance, Sua Nacha, Pandavani, Panthi Dance

## IITM COVID GAME—IIT MADRAS

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**Current Context:** The 'IITM COVID Game' is developed and launched by the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.

### KEY POINTS

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- **The game is launched to create awareness about COVID-19 amongst children.**

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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- It is a browser-based software game which can be played on any device.
- The game is available in 12 different Indian languages.
- **Static Part:** Other Similar games launched recently to create awareness on COVID-19 are: (a) 'Can You Save the World?' (This is the world's first COVID-19 game which was launched at the University of Hertfordshire) (b) 'Corona Fighters' Awareness Video Game (Launched by Dr Harsh Vardhan)

### IREDA SIGNS MOU WITH MNRE

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**Current Context:** The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) Limited has signed MoU with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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- **They have entered into an agreement in order to frame targets for the year 2020-21.**
- Under this MoU, GOI has allotted a revenue target of Rs 2,406 crore from the renewable energy industry.
- The MoU was signed by Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi, Secretary, MNRE and Pradip Kumar Das, CMD, IREDA.
- Until now, IREDA has financed more than 2700 renewable energy projects in India by offering a loan of Rs 57,000 crores.
- It has also supported green power capacity addition of 17,259 MW in India.
- **Static Part:**
  - Union Minister of State (IC) for New and Renewable Energy: Raj Kumar Singh

### APPOINTMENTS ON 3RD NOVEMBER 2020

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**Current Context: Priyanca Radhakrishnan:** She has become New Zealand's first-ever Indian origin minister after PM Jacinda Ardern appointed 5 new ministers into her executive.

#### ABOUT

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- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of New Zealand: Wellington
  - Currency of New Zealand: New Zealand Dollar
- **Rajiv Jalota:** He is appointed as Chairman of Mumbai Port Trust. He has replaced Sanjay Bhatia.

### ACCELERATOR FOR ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGIES (ACE)--KERALA

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**Current Context:** Kerala has launched Accelerator for Electronics Technologies (ACE), which is the state-of-the-art technology.

### HIGHLIGHTS

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- It was inaugurated by Chief Minister of state.
- **The ACE technology is launched to boost and strengthen the southern state's startups that are striving to scale up as sustainable enterprises.**
- **The technology is jointly developed by Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC).**
- The ACE will develop itself to be the leading accelerator for the country's electronics technologies. It will boost the developments for high-tech startups in the electronics sector.
- The technology is complementary to the KSUM, which is the supported incubator for electronics technologies.
- In this partnership initiative, CDAC will play the role of providing mentorships to the startups. It will provide startups with access to the latest technologies and infrastructure.
- CDAC will support the R&D activities of high-end electronic systems, tools and services.
- ACE technology will be the employment providing platform to around 1000 youths.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Kerala: Thiruvananthapuram.
  - CM of Kerala: Pinarayi Vijayan
  - Governor of Kerala: Arif Mohammad Khan
  - Folk Dances of Kerala: Kathakali, Ottan Thullal, Mohiniyattam, Kaikottikal
  - Festivals of Kerala: Onam, Vaikathashtami, Vishu, Bisu sankramana

### MALABAR NAVAL EXERCISE 2020

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**Current Context: The Navies of India, the United States, Japan and Australia have begun the four-day-long Malabar naval exercise in the Bay of Bengal.**

### KEY FACTS

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- The Phase-I of the exercise will be held from 3rd Nov to 6th Nov 2020 in the Bay of Bengal.
- The Phase-II of the exercise will be held from 17th Nov to 20th Nov 2020 in the Arabian Sea.
- **India's side will be represented by:** Destroyer Ranvijay, frigate Shivalik, off-shore patrol vessel Sukanya, fleet support ship Shakti, submarine Sindhuraj, advanced jet trainer Hawk, long-range maritime patrol aircraft P-8I, Dornier maritime patrol aircraft and several helicopters.
- Whereas, US Navy Ship USS John S McCain which is the Guided-missile destroyer, Australian Navy Ship HMAS Ballarat which is the long-range frigate and Japan's Maritime Self Defence Ship named as Ship JS Onami will be participating in the drill.
- In the first ongoing phase of the exercise, complex and advanced naval drills like anti-submarine and anti-air warfare operations, cross deck flying, seamanship evolutions and weapon firing will be witnessed by the navies.
- **Static Part:** Malabar Exercise: It was started in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between the Indian Navy and US Navy. Japan became a permanent member of this drill form 2015. This is the first time where the Quad member nations are participating in the exercise together after 2007.

### AI ENABLED SOLUTION TO AUTOMATE MOTOR CLAIM SETTLEMENTS

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**Current Context:** HDFC Ergo General Insurance has launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI) based tool to automate motor claim settlements.

#### DETAILS

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- **The name of the AI tool by HDFC Ergo is IDEAS (Intelligent Damage detection Estimation and Assessment Solution).**
- AI tool IDEAS is based on Neural Network image processing & Analytics, Machine Learning and Natural Language. These advanced features in AI tool will support instant damage detection and will calculate claims for same for the surveyors to help in motor claims settlement in real-time.
- The AI tool is trained and developed using more than 3,00,000 images from last 2 years and is integrated in the surveyor mobile app.
- The IDEAS AI tool of HDFC Ergo will improve the efficiency of surveyor by speeding up the claims process.
- The entire process is conducted under three main functions which will read vehicle number, make of the vehicle and its model, the second function is to detect the vehicle parts, damaged parts and severity of damaged parts. The third function is auto assess or estimation of claim amount depending upon the severity of motor damage using AI-assisted intelligent rate masters.
- This AI tool IDEAS, also proves beneficial as it minimizes the risk of fraudulent claims.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of HDFC Ergo: Mumbai
  - MD and CEO of HDFC Ergo: Ritesh Kumar

### LIFE + 36 CRITICAL ILLNESS INSURANCE—AEGON LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

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**Current Context:** The Aegon Life Insurance Company Limited has launched 'Life + 36 Critical Illness Insurance' on Flipkart.

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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- **Under this insurance, the policyholder will get the life protection benefit, when diagnosed with any of the 36 critical illnesses.**
- The insurance cover against coronavirus infection will be availed by the policyholder immediately via Flipkart app.
- **The initial premium amount for the plan is Rs 153 with a life cover of Rs 1 lakh plus critical illness cover of Rs 10,000.**
- Also, to avail this policy plan, no medical checkup of KYC is required.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Aegon Life Insurance Company: Mumbai
  - HQ of Flipkart: Bengaluru, Karnataka

### APPOINTMENTS ON 4TH NOVEMBER 2020

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**Current Context: Alassane Ouattara:** He has won third term elections to be the **President of Ivory Coast**.

#### ABOUT

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- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Ivory Coast: Yamoussoukro
  - Currency of Ivory Coast: West African CFA franc
- **Duarte Pacheco:** He is appointed as **30th President of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)** for a tenure of three years. He is Portugal Parliamentarian. He has replaced Cuevas Barron.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of IPU: Geneva, Switzerland

### 2020 ANNUAL POLITICAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN INDIA AND GCC TROIKA

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**Current Context: The Annual Political Dialogue between India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Troika was held virtually.**

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- India was represented by Union Minister for External Affairs, Dr S. Jaishankar and GCC was represented at the Troika-level by Secretary-General of GCC, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bahrain and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, UAE.
- Also dignitaries from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar also participated in the dialogue.
- All the dignitaries reviewed their work in detail which they coordinately handled since last few years.
- They also discussed the satisfactory cooperation between India and GCC countries during COVID-19 pandemic state.
- Both India and GCC agreed to develop the cooperation to address challenges like Covid-19 pandemic, Terrorism, climate change and sustainable development.
- Also, GCC welcomed and congratulated India to be included in the UNSC as a non-permanent member from January 2021.
- **Static Part:** The GCC is comprised of all Arab states of the Persian Gulf namely, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

### MOU BETWEEN INDIA AND SPAIN IN ASTRONOMY- APPROVED BY UNION CABINET

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**Current Context: The MoU between India and Spain in the field of Astronomy, was approved by Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**

### KEY POINTS

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- **The MoU is signed to develop scientific and technical cooperation between both nations in the Astronomy sector.**
- MoU agreement is signed by Indian Institute of Astrophysics and Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias of Spain.
- Activities related to Astronomy sector like New Technologies, New Scientific results, Joint Scientific Projects and the Capacity building will be collaboratively handled under this MoU by India and Spain
- Also, both the nation will conduct collaborative research training, programmes, seminars and conference in order to increase scientific interaction among the experts.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Spain: Madrid
  - Currency of Spain: Euro

### VISA PARTNERS WITH DIGITSECURE AND HDFC BANK

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**Current Context:** Visa has entered into a partnership with DigitSecure and HDFC Bank to deploy the world's first live PCI certified tap to phone card acceptance solution.

### KEY FACTS

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- **It is launched with an aim to have safe and contactless card-based payments within seconds through an app on NFC based android phones. This solution does not need any dedicated card acceptance machine to perform a transaction.**
- Thus DigitSecure has become the first company in Asia-Pacific to receive PCI security certification for deploying this technology.
- This solution has made India join the list of over 15 markets which provides Visa tap to phone technology for merchants to carry out contactless card payments.
- This solution is towards the achievement of Visa's global commitment to digitize 50 million small businesses.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of HDFC Bank: Mumbai
  - MD and CEO of HDFC Bank: Sashidhar Jagdishan

### ADB APPROVES LOAN TO IMPROVE POWER DISTRIBUTION IN MEGHALAYA

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**Current Context:** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved the loan to improve and upgrade the power distribution network in Meghalaya.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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- **The loan of USD 132.8 million is approved by ADB.**
- This loan amount will be used to improve and upgrade the power distribution system & financial sustainability of the Meghalaya Power Distribution Corporation Limited (MePDCL).
- Also, MePDCL has an outstanding against the power purchased from central power generating stations and to the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL). So, this loan amount will be used to clear these outstanding dues.
- Under this project, 23 substations will be constructed along with renovation and modernization of 45 substations in the state.
- Installation and up-gradation of 2214 km of distribution lines and developing provision of control room equipment and protection systems will be carried out under this project.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Meghalaya: Shillong
  - CM of Meghalaya: Conrad Sangma
  - Governor of Meghalaya: Satya Pal Malik

### APPOINTMENTS ON 5TH NOVEMBER 2020

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**Current Context: Dilip Rath:** He is elected to the **Board of International Dairy Federation (IDF)**. He is Chairman of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).

- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of IDF: Brussels, Belgium
- **Piercristiano Brazzale:** He is elected as **President of International Dairy Federation (IDF)**. He has replaced Dr Judith Bryans.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of IDF: Brussels, Belgium
- **John Magufuli:** He is appointed as **President of Tanzania**.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Tanzania: Dodoma
  - Currency of Tanzania: Tanzanian Shilling

### TOURIST FACILITATION CENTRE-- KERALA

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**Current Context:** The 'Tourist Facilitation Centre' was inaugurated at Guruvayur, Kerala.

### HIGHLIGHTS

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- **The inauguration was done by Union Minister of State (I/C) for Tourism and Culture, Prahlad Singh Patel.**



## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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- The 'Tourist Facilitation Centre' is constructed under the "Development of Guruvayur" project of PRASAD Scheme, which is the scheme of the Ministry of Tourism.
- **The center is constructed at a cost of Rs 11.57 crores.**
- The centre is comprised of CCTV Network infrastructure, multi-level car parking and tourist amenities centre.
- **Static Part:** PRASAD Scheme: Its full form is Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive. It was launched by the Ministry of Tourism in 2014-15. The objective of the scheme is to perform integrated development of identified pilgrim and heritage destinations in India.
  - CM of Kerala: Pinarayi Vijayan
  - Governor of Kerala: Arif Mohammad Khan

### MOU BETWEEN INDIA AND UK IN ICT SECTOR- APPROVED BY UNION CABINET

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**Current Context:** The MoU between India and the United Kingdom in the Information Communication Technologies and Telecommunications (ICT) sector was approved by Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi.

#### KEY POINTS

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- The MoU was signed between Department of Digital, Media and sports of UK and Ministry of Communications of India.
- Both the nations will seek cooperation to strengthen telecommunication sector.
- **They will explore the cooperation in the areas like:** (a) ICT policy regulation (b) Spectrum Management (c) Telecommunication connectivity including mobile roaming (d) Telecommunications/ICT technical standardization and testing and certification (e) Wireless Communication (f) Boost trade and investment in ICT through visits, exhibitions and other similar events.(g) Technological Development and advancement in IoT, Cloud Computing etc. (h) Build expert capacity (i) Enhance security using telecommunication.
- This MoU will also open several opportunities for India post Brexit.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of UK: London
  - Currency of UK: Pound sterling

### DRDO SUCCESSFULLY TEST FIRED ADVANCED VERSION OF PINAKA ROCKET

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**Current Context:** The Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) has successfully test-fired the advanced version of Pinaka rocket system.

#### KEY FACTS

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- It was test-fired from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha.

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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- This advanced version of the Pinaka rocket system has replaced Pinaka Mk-I rockets.
- The Pinaka rocket system can hit the target which is 45-60 km away, while its old version Pinaka Mk-I rockets have a range of 40 km.
- Basically, Pinaka is a multi-barrel rocket launcher system which can fire 12 rockets in 44 seconds.
- In this test-fire operation, a total of six rockets was launched.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of DRDO: New Delhi
  - Chairman of DRDO: D.G Satheesh Reddy

### 5TH JOINT WORKING GROUP ON COAL BETWEEN INDIA-INDONESIA

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**Current Context:** The meeting for the 5th joint working group on coal between India and Indonesia was held virtually.

#### DETAILS

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- **The meet was hosted by India.**
- India was represented by Vinod Kumar Tiwari, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal, and Indonesia was represented by Jonson Pakpahan, Director for Mineral and Coal, Non-Tax State Revenue of Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Republic of Indonesia.
- The meeting observed the discussion related to Indian Coal Policy reforms, Coking Coal Exploration and Commercial Mining.
- Indonesia also held presentation talks related to Coal Policy and Current Coal Business, Deep Seated Coal Potential in their country.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Indonesia: Jakarta
  - Currency of Indonesia: Indonesian rupiah

### APPOINTMENTS ON 6TH NOVEMBER 2020

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**Current Context:** **AK Gupta:** He is appointed as **MD and CEO of ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL).**

#### ABOUT

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- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of OVL: New Delhi
- **Shashi S. Vempati:** He is appointed to head the 4 member committee which will review 'Guidelines on Television Rating Agencies in India'. The committee is constituted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. He is CEO of Prasar Bharti.
- **Static Part:**
  - Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting: Prakash Javadekar
- **Indian Army Chief General MM Naravane:** He is conferred the **honorary rank to be the General of Nepal Army.**

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Nepal: Kathmandu
  - Currency of Nepal: Nepalese Rupee
  - President of Nepal: Bidhya Devi Bhandari
  - Prime Minister of Nepal: KP Sharma Oli

### PRASAR BHARTI SIGNED MOU WITH BISAG-N

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**Current Context:** India's largest public broadcasting agency, Prasar Bharati has signed MoU with BISAG- State level agency by Government of Gujarat i.e. with Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- **They have signed MoU with an aim to launch DTH educational TV channels to all DD free dish viewers.**
- All the 51 DTH education channels will be available as DD co-branded channels to all DD Fresh Dish viewers.
- Those 51 DTH education channels include 22 channels of Swaymprabha, 12 channels of e-Vidya for classes 1 to 12, 16 channels of Vande Gujarat and 1 channel of DigiShala.
- This partnership will provide quality online educational programmes in rural and remote areas.
- The services can be availed in free of cost for all viewers for 24x7.
- This partnership will also lead to achieving the target of GOI of 'Education to all'.

### FIRST INDIA-NORDIC-BALTIC CONCLAVE

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**Current Context:** The First India-Nordic-Baltic Conclave was held virtually.

#### KEY POINTS

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- **The Indian side was represented by Union Minister of External Affairs, Dr S Jai Shankar.**
- **The First India-Nordic-Baltic Conclave was hosted by Ministry of External Affairs in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).**
- **The theme for the conclave was:** 'An Innovation-Driven Partnership for Growth in New World'.
- The dignitaries discussed the adoption of clean technologies and renewable energies.
- They also held discussion related to Artificial Intelligence, supply chain logistics and blockchain led transformation.
- **Static Part:** Nordic Countries: Group of five nations in Northern Europe- Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, and Finland.
  - Baltic Countries: Three sovereign nations in Northern Europe which are on the east coast of the Baltic sea- Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania.

### 'ICICI BANK MINE', A COMPREHENSIVE BANKING PROGRAMME

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**Current Context:** ICICI Bank has launched a comprehensive banking programme for its millennial customers belonging to the age group of 18 to 35 years.

#### KEY FACTS

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- **The name of a comprehensive banking programme is 'ICICI Bank Mine'.**
- This is India's first comprehensive banking programme for millennials which is inspired by 'Millennial Network'.
- The 'ICICI Bank Mine' offers an instant savings account, driven with the feature of iMobile application which offers investment guidance to suit the demand of millennials, curated credit and debit card, instant personal loans & overdrafts, and even an experiential branch with social engagement space.
- Thus the new product will provide a simple, secured and customized banking solution to the millennial customers of ICICI Bank.
- It also offers Instant personal loan and overdraft facility. The 'Insta Personal Loan' facility up to Rs 25 lakh in just three seconds can be availed by the customers.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of ICICI Bank: Mumbai
  - MD and CEO of ICICI Bank: Sandeep Bakhshi
  - Tagline of ICICI Bank: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka

### 4TH HIGH-LEVEL MEET OF THE INDIA-OPEC ENERGY DIALOGUE

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**Current Context:** The 4th High-level meeting of the India-OPEC Energy Dialogue was held virtually.

#### DETAILS

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- **The meet was co-chaired by Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel, Dharmendra Pradhan.**
- Also, the meeting observed the participation by OPEC Member countries, Secretary Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and CMD & MDs of India's oil and gas industry.
- The dignitaries discussed assessing COVID-19 induced disruptions of oil supply.
- Indian side urged to OPEC to address the anomalies that are prevalent in differential crude oil prices.
- **Static Part:** About Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC): It was founded in Baghdad, Iraq in 1960. Its HQ is in Vienna, Austria.

### 'SAGAR KAVACH'-- A TWO-DAY JOINT COASTAL SECURITY EXERCISE COMMENCED

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**Current Context:** The 'Sagar Kavach', joint coastal security exercise was launched at Paradip Coast, Odisha.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- The exercise is a joint effort of Odisha and West Bengal governments.
- It is being conducted to prevent a repeat of the Mumbai attacks by sea.
- The exercise includes participation from the Indian Navy, the Indian Coast Guard, the Odisha Police, the local fishermen, the forest department, and the port marine department.
- **Static Part:**
  - Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh.
  - DG of Indian Coast Guard: Krishnaswamy Natarajan

### IIT-MADRAS PARTNERED WITH DG TAKANO

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**Current Context:** The International Centre for Clean Water (ICCW), which is an initiative of IIT Madras has entered into a partnership with a Japanese firm, named DG Takano.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- **They have collaborated with an aim to develop new clean water technologies in India.**
- Both ICCW and DG Takano will work to develop innovative products which will solve current challenges being faced by society and the environment in terms of clean and safe drinking water.
- Both the organisations will work on projects like clean water, water treatment, water security and wastewater.
- They will conduct jointly Research and Developments activities with an aim to implement proven technologies and to conduct field testing of emergent technologies.
- To implement this partnership they will conduct educational training and internship programs.
- Technical support with respect to the analysis of groundwater, clean water, treated water, assessment of water security, selection and development of the most appropriate technology and its implementation, local technical training and maintenance support will be provided by ICCW.
- Also, various water technology solutions of DG Takano will be tested and implemented by ICCW.

### ISRO LAUNCHED ALL WEATHER EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITE & 9 CUSTOMER SATELLITES

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**Current Context:** The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has launched all-weather Earth Observation Satellite, EOS-01 using PSLV-C49 and nine customer satellites.

### KEY FACTS

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- The launching took place from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- **Also, the launch vehicle carried on board an experimental satellite from Lithuania, four marine-based application satellites from Luxembourg, and four remote sensing application based satellites from the United States.**
- The all-weather Earth Observation Satellite, EOS-01 will be used for agriculture, forestry, and disaster management support.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of ISRO: Bengaluru, Karnataka
  - Chairman of ISRO: K. Sivan

### APPOINTMENTS, RESIGNATION AND AMBASSADOR ON 8TH NOVEMBER 2020

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**Current Context: Gyanendro Ningombam:** He is appointed as **President of Hockey India.**

### ABOUT

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- **Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad:** He is appointed as **Senior Vice President of Hockey India.**
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Hockey India: New Delhi
- **Joseph Robinette Biden Jr.:** He is elected to be the **46th President of the United States.** He has replaced Donald Trump.
- **Kamala Harris:** She is elected to be the first black and Indian-American Woman to serve as **Vice-President of the United States.**
- **Vidisha Maitra:** She is elected to the **United Nations Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.**
- **Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha:** He is appointed as the **Chief Information Commissioner of Central information Commission** for a tenure of three years.
- **Hashim Thaci:** He has **resigned** from the post of **President of Kosovo.** Also, **Vjosa Osmani** will work as **acting President of Kosova.**
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Kosova: Pristina
  - Currency of Kosava: Euro
- **Rajkummar Rao:** He is appointed as **Brand Ambassador for Syska Group.**
- **Chacha Chaudhary:** He is appointed as **Brand Ambassador for Namami Gange Project.**

### 40TH MEET OF SAARC CENTRAL BANK GOVERNORS MEET

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**Current Context: The 40th Meeting of the SAARCFINANCE Governors' Group was held virtually.**

### ABOUT MEETING

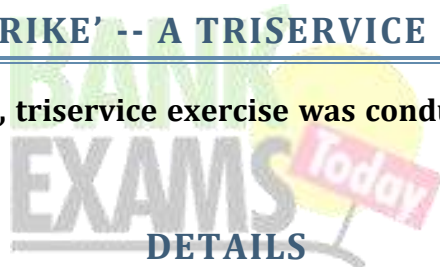
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- **The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Reserve Bank of India Governor, Shaktikanta Das.**
- The current chairmanship of SAARCFINANCE is with Reserve Bank of India.
- The meeting was attended by Governors of SAARC Central Banks.
- **During the meet, RBI Governor inaugurated the SAARCFINANCE Sync, which is a closed user group secure communication network.**
- RBI Governor highlighted to develop close partnership and to boost cooperation among SAARC Member countries in order to fight COVID-19 pandemic situation.
- The dignitaries reviewed the macroeconomic situation in the SAARC region and held discussions about current SAARCFINANCE initiatives.
- **Static Part:** About SAARCFINANCE: It was established in 1998 and it is a network of central bank governors and finance secretaries of the SAARC region.
  - Current Chairmanship of SAARCFINANCE: Reserve Bank of India
  - List of Central Banks in SAARCFINANCE group: Bangladesh Bank, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Da Afghanistan Bank, Maldives Monetary Authority, Nepal Rastra Bank, Reserve Bank of India, Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan, State Bank of Pakistan.

### 'BULL STRIKE' -- A TRISERVICE EXERCISE

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**Current Context:** The 'Bull Strike', triservice exercise was conducted at Teressa Island in Nicobar Group of Islands.



- **It was a three-day Tri-Service Combat Exercise conducted by Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC).**
- In the exercise, three services components of ANC, elements of Indian Army's Parachute Brigade, MARCOS (Marine Commando Force) and Special Forces took participation.
- **Training activities held in the exercise were:** (a) Combat free fall and paradrop from Advanced Airlifter C-130J "Super Hercules" by a company of Para Commando (b) Action by MARCOS of Indian Navy (c) Special Heli Borne Operations (SHBO) by Indian Army Ghatak platoons. (d) Search and Rescue (SAR) operation and medical evacuation procedures.

### PM MODI LAID FOUNDATION STONE FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN VARANASI

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**Current Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various development projects to be conducted in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

### KEY POINTS

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- The development projects are related to agriculture, tourism and infrastructure.
- **Project costing is Rs 614 crore.**
- **The inaugurated projects are:** Upgradation of Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital Ramnagar, sewerage related works, infrastructure facilities for protection and conservation of cows, a housing complex for players in Sampurnanand Stadium, multipurpose seed storehouse and Sarnath Light and Sound show.
- **PM Modi laid the foundation stone for projects like:** Redevelopment of Dashashwamedh Ghat and Khidkiya Ghat, redevelopment of a multipurpose hall in Girija Devi Sanskritik Samkul, building barracks for PAC Police force and repair activities for roads.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Uttar Pradesh: Lucknow
  - CM of Uttar Pradesh: Yogi Adityanath
  - Governor of Uttar Pradesh: Anandiben Mafatbhai Patel

### VIRTUAL GLOBAL INVESTOR ROUNDTABLE (VGIR) 2020 CONFERENCE

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**Current Context:** The Virtual Global Investor Roundtable (VGIR) 2020 Conference was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

#### DETAILS

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- **The conference was organized by the Ministry of Finance in coordination with the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund.**
- The conference was attended by 20 top institutional investors from the US, Europe, Canada, Korea, Japan, Middle East, Australia and Singapore.
- Aim of this conference was to attract investment in the country.
- So the conference allowed a discussion of dialogue between leading global institutional investors, Indian business leaders and the highest decision-makers of GOI and financial market regulators.
- The main focus of the discussion was on India's economic and investment outlook, structural reforms and vision of GOI to make India a USD 5 trillion economy.

### 'PARIVARTHANAM SCHEME'-- KERALA

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**Current Context:** The Kerala government has launched 'Parivarthanam Scheme', which is a pioneering eco-sustainable programme.

#### ABOUT SCHEME

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- **The scheme is launched for the betterment of the Fishing Community.**
- The management and implementation of the scheme will be headed by Kerala State Coastal Area Development Corporation (KSCADC).



## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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- The procurement and processing of fish and quality of fish will be looked after by the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) of Union governments.
- **The 'Parivarthanam Scheme' is launched to improve the livelihood skills of youngsters living along the coastline along with upliftment of the fishing community.**
- The scheme will offer a fixed price to fish-catchers as fair compensation.
- **The scheme also offers employment job opportunities to college dropouts and migrant workforce who returned to their home town due to COVID-19.**
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Kerala: Thiruvananthapuram.
  - CM of Kerala: Pinarayi Vijayan
  - Governor of Kerala: Arif Mohammad Khan

### AAI SIGNED MOU WITH NTPC VIDYUT VYAPAR NIGAM (NVVN)

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**Current Context:** The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has signed MoU with NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN), which is the subsidiary of NTPC.

#### DETAILS

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- **They have signed MoU to promote the use of electric vehicles and setting up solar power plants at airports of AAI.**
- Under this MoU, NVVN will be providing adequate land and rooftop space at free of cost at AAI airports in order to build solar plants.
- The initial phase of MoU will be conducted in airports at Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan, where solar capacity required, is around 55 MW and 8 MW, respectively to become 100 per cent solar-powered airports.
- Also, both AAI and NVVN will support GOI's initiative to adopt electric vehicles by developing a public charging infrastructure.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of AAI: New Delhi
  - Chairman of AAI: Arvind Singh
  - HQ of NTPC: New Delhi

### 'AIM-SIRIUS INNOVATION PROGRAMME 3.0'

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**Current Context:** The Atal Innovation Mission (an initiative of NITI Aayog) in partnership with Russia's Sirius (Scientific International Research In Unique terrestrial Station) launched 'AIM-Sirius Innovation Programme 3.0'.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- **The programme is launched for Indian and Russian school-going children.**

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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- It is the 14-day virtual programme which is the first Indo-Russian bilateral youth innovation initiative.
- **This programme aims to develop technological solutions in both web and mobile-based areas for India and Russia.**
- During this programme, 48 students and 16 educators and mentors will be participating to create 8 virtual products and mobile applications which will help to address global challenges especially for the issues faced in this pandemic period of COVID-19.
- The global challenges will be addressed in the areas like culture, distance education, applied cognitive science, health, sports, chemistry, AI and digital financial assets in the wake of COVID-19.
- The solutions developed in this programme will leverage 21st-century technologies like app development, artificial intelligence, blockchain, cybersecurity, machine learning, data analytics, UI/UX, virtual reality, augmented reality, gamification, 3D design, and rapid prototyping etc.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Russia: Moscow
  - Currency of Russia: Ruble

### 'SMART DRIVE PRIVATE CAR INSURANCE'

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**Current Context: The Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with Bharti AXA General Insurance to offer comprehensive car insurance.**

#### KEY POINTS

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- **The name of the car insurance is 'Smart Drive Private Car Insurance'.**
- This insurance policy offers protection against damage to the vehicle in case of accident, theft, and natural and man-made disasters.
- Also, this insurance policy offers compensation for injury or damages caused to another person or property due to a car accident.
- A personal accident cover is offered to the policyholder. In case of death due to accident, the financial protection is offered to the family through this insurance policy.
- The 'Smart Drive Private Car Insurance' can be purchased from Airtel Thanks app within few minutes without any paper-based processes.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Airtel Payments Bank: New Delhi
  - MD and CEO of Airtel Payments Bank: Anubrata Biswas
  - HQ of Bharti AXA General Insurance: Mumbai
  - MD and CEO of Bharti AXA General Insurance: Sanjeev Srinivasan

### PAKKE TIGER RESERVE OFFERS INSURANCE COVER AGAINST COVID-19 FOR GREEN SOLDIERS

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**Current Context: The Pakke Tiger Reserve (PTR) which is in Arunachal Pradesh offers insurance cover against COVID-19 for "green soldiers".**

### DETAILS

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- **Thus, PTR in Arunachal Pradesh has become first in the eight-state of the northeast to do so.**
- Under this, 57 frontline staff i.e. green soldiers of the PTR park are insured for 9 months against health issues related to coronavirus.
- The insurance amount was paid by Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) which is an NGO with the support from Foundation Serge.
- The insurance coverage is of Rs. 1 lakh each is given and a few who would be retiring soon has been insured for Rs. 50,000.
- **Static Part:**
  - CM of Arunachal Pradesh: Pema Khandu
  - Governor of Arunachal Pradesh: B.D. Mishra.
  - Dams in Arunachal Pradesh: Dibang Dam, Ranganadi Dam and Subansiri Dam

### APPOINTMENTS ON 10TH NOVEMBER 2020

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**Current Context: Akshay Kumar Singh:** He is appointed as **MD and CEO of Petronet LNG Ltd.** He has replaced Prabhat Singh.

### ABOUT

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- **Michael Holding:** He is appointed as **new patron of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) Foundation.**
- **Static Part:**
  - Director of MCC Foundation: Sarah Fane

### INTER-MINISTERIAL APPROVAL COMMITTEE MEET

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**Current Context: Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Minister of Rural Development and Minister of Food Processing Industries, Narendra Singh Tomar** chaired the Inter-Ministerial Approval Committee meeting.

### KEY FACTS

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- **In this meeting, the minister approved 29 projects leveraging the investment of Rs 443 crores.**
- Under this projects, Rs 189 crore was allocated to the Scheme of Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition and Rs 15 crores was allocated to the BFL (Backward and Forward Linkages) scheme which is the part of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana.
- These projects will be generating 15,000 employment opportunities which will be beneficial to around 2 lakh Indian farmers.

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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- The projects will be implemented in 10 Indian states namely, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Kerala, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Telangana, Nagaland.
- These projects are approved with an aim to provide effective and seamless backward and forward integration for the processed food industry by making the availability of the raw material and linkage with the market. Also, these projects will benefit farmers.

### MARG ERP PARTNERED WITH PAYTM

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**Current Context: The Marg ERP, which is the biggest enterprise solutions providers in India has entered into a partnership with Paytm.**

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- **They have partnered to resolve MSMEs payment issues digitally, thus to facilitate seamless transactions for MSMEs.**
- **Under this partnership, both entities will provide a new integrated payments solution called 'MargPay' which is developed by Marg ERP to MSMEs.**
- This payment solution will also help to expand the business of MSMEs in India.
- 'MargPay' payment solution will provide efficient payment transactions in a cost-effective manner which will help MSMEs to keep a track record of payment receipts for the payments made using multiple methods.
- The payment solution helps MSMEs to reconcile all payment transactions.
- Also, merchants will be able to connect 'MargPay' payment solution with less efforts to their billing and accounting system.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Marg ERP Ltd: New Delhi
  - CEO of Marg ERP Ltd: Krishnam Raju D
  - HQ of Paytm: Noida, Uttar Pradesh
  - CEO of Paytm: Vijay Shekhar Sharma

### CREATION OF NATIONAL DATABASE FOR UNORGANISED WORKERS

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**Current Context: The Ministry of Finance has approved the creation of the National Database for Unorganised Workers (NDUW).**

#### KEY FACTS

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- This is the first national database created for migrant workers and unorganised sector workers.
- **It will be created with an aim to give a proper platform to the migrants so that it will become convenient and easy for the government to implement various programmes and schemes to this unorganised sector.**

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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- The database will be developed by the Ministry of Labour and Employment by using Aadhaar Number in which migrant workers and unorganised sector workers will be enrolled.
- This database will help the government to implement schemes, job opportunities in order to maintain the economic life of migrant workers and unorganised sector workers on the proper track.
- Also, in this database, the workers can also elaborate their skill sets in order to get job opportunities.
- **The total costing for creating this database is Rs 650 crore.**
- **Static Part:**
  - Union Minister for Finance: Nirmala Sitharaman
  - Union Minister of State (IC) for Labour and Employment: Santosh Kumar Gangwar

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### FOUR AGREEMENTS SIGNED BETWEEN INDIA AND MALDIVES

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**Current Context: India and Maldives have entered into four agreements during the visit of India's Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla to the Maldives.**

#### DETAILS

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- **Agreement (1):** The grant of \$100 million by India for the Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP). This will allow linkage of Male (Capital of Maldives) with three islands. The total cost of this particular project is \$500 million in which the rest \$400 million will also be provided by India.
- **Agreement (2):** The grant of 1.71 million Maldivian rufiyaas for the purpose of setting up of a plant and soil testing lab.
- **Agreement (3):** The grant of 7.7 million Maldivian rufiyaas to establish a drug detox facility.
- **Agreement (4):** To increase bilateral cooperation in sports and youth affairs.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Maldives: Male
  - Currency of Maldives: Maldivian Rufiyaa

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### 'COVID SHIELD+' — BY EDELWEISS TOKIO LIFE INSURANCE

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**Current Context: The Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance launched the insurance products called 'Covid Shield+'.**

#### KEY POINTS

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- **The 'Covid Shield+' is India's first individual Covid-19 life insurance product.**
- It provides financial protection against the impact of COVID-19.
- It is the new niche product category in the insurance industry, which fulfil the increased protection need of people, which is vital during this pandemic state.
- It is a cost-effective product which requires no medical test and also provides immediate support to the policyholder.

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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- The 'Covid Shield+' has a tenure of 1 year with its premium rates starting from Rs 5,329.
- It offers a critical illness benefit of minimum Rs 10 lakh post-24-hour ICU or HDU hospitalization owing to Covid-19.
- Also if diagnosed with COVID-19, the product also triggers minimum enhanced term cover worth Rs25 lakh sum assured.
- People belonging to the age group of 18 to 65 years can opt for this insurance product.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance: Mumbai
  - MD and CEO of Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance: Sumit Rai

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### AUSTRALIA-INDIA WATER CENTRE INAUGURATED

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**Current Context:** The Australia-India Water Centre was inaugurated virtually through a webinar held with a view of COVID-19 pandemic.

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#### DETAILS

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- **The centre is an initiative of IIT Guwahati, University of Western Sydney of Australia and 21 other partners from India and Australia.**
- The water centre is developed with an aim to enhance water security which is the critical challenge faced by both India and Australia.
- So both nations agreed to enhance cooperation in this sector in order to improve water management and sustainable economic development.
- The Australia-India Water Centre will allow the collaboration work in water research activities along with joint Master's level programme in water future.
- This water centre will conduct programmes, training and workshops for students, staff and government agencies.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Australia: Canberra
  - Currency of Australia: Australian Dollar

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### CABINET APPROVED PRODUCTION-LINKED INCENTIVE SCHEME

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**Current Context:** The Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs has approved the Continuation and Revamping of the Scheme for Financial Support to Public-Private Partnership in Infrastructure Viability Gap Funding Scheme till 2024-25.

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#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- **This is extended with an outlay of Rs 8,100 crore.**
- This will help to promote and strengthen PPP (Public-Private Partnership) in the social and economic infrastructure domain.

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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- This financial support will allow proper operation and maintenance, efficient creation of assets and will make the socially essential projects commercially viable.
- This grant amount will help to develop water supply, wastewater treatment, Health and Education sectors.
- Also, the committee said that the centre will provide 30% of the total project cost while the state governments and sponsoring ministry will have to provide additional support of up to 30% of the total project cost.

### APPOINTMENTS ON 12TH NOVEMBER 2020

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**Current Context: Arun Goel:** He is appointed to **head the committee set up by GOI to strengthen Capital Goods Sector**. He is serving as secretary of Department of Heavy industries in Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise.

### ABOUT

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- **Static Part:**
  - Union Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise: Prakash Javadekar
- **Sandip Bhagat:** He is appointed to **head the committee to review the frameworks of share-based employee benefits and issue of sweat equity and to suggest policy changes**. The committee is set up by SEBI (Securities Exchange Board of India).
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of SEBI: Mumbai
  - Chairman of SEBI: Ajay Tyagi
- **R Chandrasekaran:** He is appointed to **head the committee which will work to revisit the retail business of engineering tariff**. The committee is set up by IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India).
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of IRDAI: Hyderabad
  - Chairman of IRDAI: Dr Subhash C Khuntia

### 'SMARTHUB MERCHANT SOLUTIONS 3.0'

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**Current Context:** The private sector bank, HDFC Bank in partnership with Visa launched the 'SmartHub Merchants Solutions 3.0'.

### KEY POINTS

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- **The solution is termed to be India's first comprehensive banking and payment solution for merchants.**
- The 'SmartHub Merchants Solutions 3.0' allows merchants and self-employed professionals to open a current account instantly and to accept payments in-store and in an online way.

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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- This solution will prove beneficial to 20 million small & medium merchants and self-employed professionals.
- The solution is available in the form of app-based, web-based and in range of PoS devices.
- It allows payment collection through Bharat QR, Aadhaar Pay, UPI, SMS, Google Pay, Credit cards and debit cards etc.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of HDFC Bank: Mumbai
  - MD and CEO of HDFC Bank: Sashidhar Jagdishan
  - HQ of Visa: California, US
  - Chairman and CEO of Visa: AlfredF Kelly Jr.

### IBSA REPORT ON 'DEEPENING COOPERATION IN IBSA

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**Current Context:** The India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) report on 'Deepening Cooperation in IBSA: Perspectives from Key Sectors' was launched.

#### KEY POINTS

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- It was launched by Economic Relations Secretary of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Rahul Chhabra.
- The report was drafted by the second batch of the fellows of the IBSA Visiting Fellow Program.
- The report was drafted by analyzing and performing research on cooperation at the UN in areas like Traditional Medicine, Intellectual Property Rights, and Financial Sector Cooperation & Trade in Banking Services & Energy.

### INDIAN ASTRONOMERS JOINED HANDS WITH 2020 PHYSICS NOBEL LAUREATE

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**Current Context:** Indian astronomers have collaborated with Prof. Andrea Ghez, who is 2020 Physics Nobel Laureate.

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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- They have joined hands to design the back-end instruments and study possible science prospects of the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) project.
- The TMT is considered to be extremely large telescope (ELT) which will be installed at Maunakea on the island of Hawaii.
- Basically, the TMT project is an international collaborative project of CalTech, Universities of California, Canada, Japan, China, and India.
- This project aims to revolutionize the understanding of the universe and the enigmas in it.
- **Name of Indian astronomers who collaborated with Prof. Andrea Ghez are:** Dr Annapurni Subramaniam, Director of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) and Dr Shashi Bhushan Pandey, a scientist at Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES).



### 20TH SCO COUNCIL OF HEADS OF STATE SUMMIT

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**Current Context:** The 20th Summit of SCO Council of Heads of State was held virtually.

#### KEY FACTS

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- **The Indian delegation was led by PM Narendra Modi and it was chaired by Vladimir Putin, President of Russia.**
- In the meet, PM Modi addressed that India being a non-permanent member of UNSC, beginning from 1st Jan 2021, will work by focusing on the theme of 'reformed multilateralism'.
- This will help to bring a positive impact to achieve desirable changes in global governance.
- He also highlighted that India will strengthen the connectivity and collaboration in SCO in its initiatives like International North-South Transport Corridor , Chabahar Port and Ashgabat Agreement.
- He also mentioned that India's pharma sector supported with essential medicines supply to more than 150 nations during COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Static Part:**
  - Secretariat of SCO: Beijing, China

### 'PAYOUT LINKS' BY PAYTM

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**Current Context:** The 'Payout Links' platform is launched by Paytm.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- **It is basically launched for businesses with an aim to allow them to instantly process payouts i.e. payments to their customers, employees and vendors without collecting their bank details.**
- The Payout Links will help business belonging to the sectors like gaming, retail, manufacturing, exports and e-commerce.
- With the help of this platform, incentives or refunds can be sent to the customer's bank accounts or wallet accounts in a seamless manner.
- For this purpose, the sender of payments has to create a payout link and must share it with customers, vendors and employees.
- On opening the link by the receiver, a list of saved documents is displayed like Paytm wallet, Paytm UPI, connected bank accounts. From these displayed options, the receiver has to select the mode of reception of payments.
- Thus 'Payout Links' platform allows the receiver to have control in selecting accounts for payments reception and thus can maintain privacy with respect to bank details.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Paytm: Noida, Uttar Pradesh
  - CEO of Paytm: Vijay Shekhar Sharma

### MISSION COVID SURAKSHA

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**Current Context:** Union Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman launched the Mission COVID Suraksha.

#### KEY POINTS

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- For this mission, the GOI has inducted Rs 900 crores.
- The inducted amount will be utilized for the research and development of COVID-19 vaccines in India.
- The Mission COVID Suraksha is one of the parts of a stimulus package of worth Rs 2.65 lakh crores.
- Also, FM made an announcement to induct Rs 10,000 crores for PM Garib Kalyan Rozgar Yojana with an aim to increase employment.

### INDIA'S GDP AT -8.9% FOR FY 2020—BY MOODY'S RATING AGENCY

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**Current Context:** The Moody's Rating Agency has projected that GDP of India at -8.9% for FY 2020.

#### KEY FACTS

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- Earlier the rating agency projected GDP for India at -9.6%.
- Also, Moody's rating agency has redefined India's GDP growth for FY 2021 at 8.6%, which initially was 8.1%.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Moody's: New York
  - President and CEO of Moody's: Raymond W. Mc Daniel Jr.

### 'PROJECT AIR CARE'-- HARYANA

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**Current Context:** The Haryana Government has launched 'Project Air Care'.

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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- **This project is launched with an aim to combat air pollution in Gurgaon.**
- Under this project, 65 Wing Augmentation Air Purifying Units (WAYU) will be set up having high AQI (Air Quality Indices) which will help to improve the quality of air in Gurgaon.
- The air purifiers are developed by CSIR-NEERI and by IIT-Bombay.
- The 'Project Air Care' is the joint initiative of Gurgaon Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) and by GSK.
- **Static Part:**
  - CM of Haryana: Manohar Lal Khattar
  - Governor of Haryana: Satyadev Narayan Arya

### AGS TRANSACT PARTNERED WITH UTIMACO

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**Current Context:** The AGS Transact Technologies Limited partnered with Utimaco (based in Germany).

#### DETAILS

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- **They have entered into a partnership for the purpose of Cyber Defence Technology.**
- The Cyber Defence Technology will offer high-security level for digital payment based transactions and will offer automated solutions to firms and organisations like banking, retail etc in India and South East Asia region.
- They will offer crypto key security solutions to the organisations.
- This cybersecurity solution will be offered on the hosted model and on the sales model.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of AGS Transact Technologies Limited: Mumbai
  - HQ of Utimaco: Aachen, Germany

### INDIAN NAVY LAUNCHED THE FIFTH SCORPENE SUBMARINE 'VAGIR'

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**Current Context:** The Indian Navy launched the fifth Scorpene submarine 'Vagir'. It was launched at Mazagon Dock of south Mumbai.

#### KEY POINTS

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- The 'Vagir' Scorpene submarine has the capability to handle missions like anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, mine laying, intelligence gathering and area surveillance.
- 'Vagir' is the part of six Kalvari class submarine that is being built in India.
- They are designed by the French Navy and an energy company DCNS.
- They are built under Project-75 of Indian Navy.
- Basically, the name 'Vagir' is named after the Sand Fish, which is the deep-sea predator in the Indian Ocean.
- The first 'Vagir' was from Russia and was commissioned in 1973.
- The Scorpene submarine type has additional air-independent propulsion which allows the non-nuclear submarines to operate without accessing atmospheric or surface oxygen.

### MNRE AMENDS GUIDELINES FOR PM-KUSUM SCHEME

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**Current Context:** The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has amended the implementation guidelines of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyaan (PM-KUSUM) Scheme.

### ABOUT

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- The PM KUSUM Scheme is meant for the Indian farmers which aim to install solar pumps, grid-connected solar and other renewable power plants across the country.
- **Components of PM-KUSUM Scheme: (Components A):** Installation of Decentralized Ground Mounted Grid Connected Renewable Power Plants.
- **(Components B):** Installation of standalone Solar-Powered Agriculture Pumps.
- **(Components C):** Solarisation of grid-connected agriculture Pumps.
- **Amendments made in each component are: (Components A):** Solar plants can now also be installed on Pasturelands and marshy lands of farmers. The solar power projects smaller than 500 kW will also be allowed, considering the increasing participation of small farmers. The completion period is increased from 9 to 12 months. No penalty for the shortfall in a generation.
- **(Components B):** The CFA will be allowed for solar pump capacity of higher than 7.5 HP. A separate bid price for solar water pumping system with Universal Solar Pump Controller (USPC) will be invited and subsidy will be made available for these pumps as per the benchmark price of solar pumps without USPC.
- **(Components C):** MNRE will keep 33% of eligible service charges for national Information Education and Communication (IEC) activities. The provisions are made for the release of Service charges to implement agencies for preparatory activities.
- **Static Part:**
  - **PM-KUSUM Scheme:** It was approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 19th Feb 2019 and has the target to set up solar and other renewable power plants of capacity of 25,750 MW by 2022.
  - **Union Minister of State (IC) of New and Renewable Energy:** Raj Kumar Singh

### 'BHARAT DARSHAN-DAKSHIN BHARAT YATRA'

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**Current Context:** The 'Bharat Darshan-Dakshin Bharat Yatra' will be started by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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- **It will commence on 12th Dec 2020.**
- The journey will start from Hyderabad and Secunderabad from 12th Dec to 18th Dec 2020.
- **Theme for yatra is:** 'Show India to Indians'
- The boarding and de-boarding facility of this tourist train will be available at Secunderabad, Khammam, Nellore, Vijayawada, Warangal, Ongole, and Renigunta.
- The tourist train will be having 12 sleeper coaches, one 3-tier AC coach and a pantry car.
- The fare amount for sleeper coaches will be Rs 7,140 and for three-tier AC will be Rs 8,610.

### 'AATMA NIRBHAR MADHYA PRADESH 2023'

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**Current Context :** The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh launched a roadmap to 'Aatma Nirbhar Madhya Pradesh 2023'.

### KEY POINTS

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- **The roadmap for this initiative focuses on health and education in the state.**
- To frame the roadmap, four seminars were conducted related to physical infrastructure, good governance, health and education
- On basis of inputs received from these seminars, the roadmap for 'Aatma Nirbhar Madhya Pradesh 2023' was framed
- Under this initiative, a network of hospitals will be established in Madhya Pradesh which will focus on improving the health sector
- The initiative also focuses on economy and employment development
- It also aims to develop small and cottage industries of the state
- During the launching ceremony, CM transferred interest-free loan of Rs 10,000 under Mukhya Mantri rural Street Vendor Loan Scheme. Under the scheme, the state government will bear 14% interest subsidy per loan beneficiary (for loans upto Rs 10,000).
- **Static Part:**
  - CM of Madhya Pradesh: Shivraj Singh Chouhan
  - Governor of Madhya Pradesh: Anandiben Patel

### 'LOCAL4DIWALI' CAMPAIGN OF TEXTILE MINISTRY

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**Current Context:** The Textile Ministry launched 'Local4Diwali' campaign for Diwali. The campaign is launched with a moto to promote the Indian handicraft, which is India's cultural heritage and a source of income to people.



- Also, as per data, the sector of handicraft is a major background responsible for women empowerment as 55% of workers and artisans belonging to this sector are women.
- **The campaign is launched to motivate people to purchase or gift Indian handicraft products on this Diwali festive season.**
- This will boost the handicraft sector and will thus help artisans to increase their income.
- Thus this due to this campaign, the sales and promotion of handicraft will increase.
- After the promotion of the idea of 'Vocal for Local' by PM Modi, every sector is working to promote and boost local businesses and strengthen the moto of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- **Static Part:**
  - Ministry of Textiles: Smriti Zubin Irani

### 17TH ASEAN-INDIA VIRTUAL SUMMIT

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**Current Context:** The 17th ASEAN-India Summit was recently held virtually. Prime Minister Narendra Modi co-chaired the summit.

### ABOUT SUMMIT

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- **The summit was chaired by Prime Minister of Vietnam, Nguyen Xuan Phuc.**
- Vietnam is the current chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- At this summit, India declared a contribution of USD 1 million to Covid-19 ASEAN Response Fund.
- The overall focus of the summit was on tackling pandemic COVID-19, solve regional and international issues of common interest related to South China Sea and Terrorism.
- During this summit, both dignitaries welcomed the adoption of new ASEAN-India Plan of Action for 2021-25.
- **Static Part:**
  - About ASEAN: Members of ASEAN are Brunei, Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.
  - 2020 Chairmanship for ASEAN: Vietnam
  - Capital of Vietnam: Hanoi
  - The currency of Vietnam: Vietnamese dong

### JEEVAN SEVA APP

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**Current Context: The Jeevan Seva App is launched by Satyendar Jain, who is the Health Minister of Delhi. The app is launched to offer safe and timely transportation of Corona patients to the healthcare facilities and hospitals.**

### DETAILS

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- **For this initiative, the Government of Delhi partnered with EVERA, which is an EV cab facility. This facility was launched by Prakriti E-Mobility Pvt Ltd.**
- The app will allow the transport of not so critical coronavirus patients to and from their homes, hospitals or health care centers from any location in Delhi at free of cost and in a timely and safe manner.
- The cab service under this app is available for 24 hours.
- The EV cab which will be used for transportation will provide zero pollution and zero-emission transport facility.
- Also after each ride, the cabs will be properly sanitized.
- **Static Part:**
  - CM of Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal
  - Lieutenant Governor of Delhi: Anil Baijal

### INDIA TEST FIRED QUICK REACTION SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE (QRSAM)

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**Current Context: India conducted a successful test firing of all-weather Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air-Missiles (QRSAM). It was test-fired from Chandipur Test Fire Range, off the Odisha coast.**

### HIGHLIGHTS

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- The QRSAM is the canister-based system, having a range of 30km and is capable of the striking aerial target at a height of 15 km.
- It is propelled by a single stage solid propellant rocket motor.
- It is developed by using all indigenous subsystems.
- The QRSAM was launched from a mobile launcher capable of carrying 6 canisterised missiles.
- It achieved the major milestone by a direct hit on to a Banshee Pilotless Target aircraft at medium range and medium altitude.
- It is developed by DRDO, Bharat Dynamics and Bharat Electronics Limited.

### 15TH EAST ASIA SUMMIT 2020

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**Current Context:** The Union Minister of External Affairs, Dr. S Jaishankar attended the 15th East Asia Summit. The summit was chaired by Prime Minister of Vietnam, Nguyen Xuan Phuc.

### ABOUT SUMMIT

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- The Indian side expressed their view on enhancing cooperation in order to tackle post COVID period.
- The Union Minister also highlighted to increase international cooperation in order to fight terrorism, climate change and pandemics.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Vietnam: Hanoi
  - Currency of Vietnam: Vietnamese dong

### SPORTS MINISTRY TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES UNDER KHELO INDIA INITIATIVE

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**Current Context:** The Union Minister of Sports, Kiren Rijiju announced that Sports Minister, GOI will be providing incentives to private academics under Khelo India initiative.

### KEY POINTS

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- Around 500 such private academics will be provided with incentive support.
- For this purpose, the private academics are to be graded into different categories based on the quality of achievement of the players.
- Initially, under this initiative, monetary assistance will be provided to 14 Olympic sports disciplines.
- The 14 priority disciplines which are selected for excellence in the Olympics 2028 are eligible to receive support.
- The incentive will help private academics to improve their resources, infrastructure and Sports Sciences.

### PM MODI UNVEILED 'STATUE OF PEACE'

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**Current Context:** India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled 'Statue of Peace' The 'Statue of Peace' is unveiled to mark the 151st birth anniversary of Jain Acharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj.

#### KEY FACTS

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- The 'Statue of Peace' was unveiled in **Pali district of Rajasthan** via video conference.
- It is 151 inches tall and made up of Ashtadhatu (an octo-alloy).
- **Static Part:**
  - CM of Rajasthan: Ashok Gehlot
  - Governor of Rajasthan: Kalraj Mishra

### 8TH BRICS SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION MINISTERIAL MEETING

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**Current Context:** The 8th BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Ministerial Meeting was held virtually. The Indian side was represented by Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan.

#### ABOUT MEETING

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- The meeting helped to strengthen science and technology cooperation among BRICS nations
- The meeting was chaired under Russian Federation as Russia is the chair holder for BRICS 2020
- The meeting observed the adoption of BRICS STI Declaration 2020.
- While addressing the meeting, Dr Harsh Vardhan mentioned his view to developing cooperation to tackle COVID-19 pandemic
- He also highlighted that 'COVID 19 pandemic has been a test, demonstrating that multilateral cooperation is the key to overcoming such global challenges
- He assured that India will also support scientific activities under BRICS MoU on Science, Technology and Innovation.

### 3 MONTHS SAANS CAMPAIGN BY MOHFW

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**Current Context:** The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched a three months SAANS campaign.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- **The SAANS signifies Social Action and Awareness to Neutralize Pneumonia Successfully.**
- **This campaign is launched to reduce death because of pneumonia in children.**
- Under this campaign, people will be made aware of symptoms of childhood pneumonia.



## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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- The aim of this campaign is to reduce less than 5 deaths due to pneumonia, per 1000 live births, to less than 3 deaths by 2025.
- **Static Part:**
  - Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare: Dr Harsh Vardhan

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### SBM BANK INDIA PARTNERED WITH PAYNEARBY

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**Current Context:** The SBM Bank India, which is the wholly-owned subsidiary of State Bank of Mauritius has entered into a partnership with Fintech PayNearby.

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#### KEY POINTS

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- **They have partnered to launch a neo banking platform.**
- They signed MoU for same and are set to build an open banking network which will offer basic banking solutions and other advance services to the customers.
- Through the PayNearby's network, the SBM India will offer a complete suite of digital and assisted banking solutions.
- Both the entities also partnered to launch Nivesh which is a unique Goal Based Recurring Deposit Platform.
- **Static Part:** Neo Bank: It is that type of bank, which is operated exclusively online i.e. the customer does not have to visit a bank or its branches for banking solutions. It is also known as an online bank, internet-only bank, virtual bank or digital bank.
  - HQ of SBM India: Mumbai
  - MD and CEO of SMB India: Sidharth Rath
  - PayNearby belongs to Nearby Technologies, HQ of Nearby Technologies: Mumbai

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### DIPAM SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH WORLD BANK

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**Current Context:** The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) has entered into an agreement with the World Bank.

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#### KEY FACTS

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- **They have entered into an agreement so that World Bank will provide advisory services to DIPAM for asset monetization.**
- DIPAM works to handle the Indian government's disinvestment programme. It facilitates monetization of non-core assets of government CPSEs under strategic disinvestment or closure and enemy property of the value of Rs 100 crores and above. It is basically having a framework for monetizing non-core assets.
- Under this agreement, the World Bank will provide its advisory services for asset monetization under its advisory project.
- The World Bank's advisory project is approved by the Finance Ministry.

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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- This advisory project will study and analyze public asset monetization and then it will set a mark of its standard institutional model against best international practices.
- This will help to develop operational guidelines and structures along with improving the capacity building.
- This partnership will also help to unlock the value of the unused or marginally used assets, which will boost financial resources for further investments and growth.
- And the amount which will be raised through the sale of non-core assets will be counted as a part of the disinvestment proceeds.

### APPOINTMENTS AND EXTENSION ON 17TH NOVEMBER 2020

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**Current Context: Nitish Kumar:** He is sworn in as **Chief Minister of Bihar** for 7th term. He belongs to the Janta Dal (United).

#### ABOUT

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- **Static Part:**
  - Governor of Bihar: Phagu Chauhan
- **Sanjay Kumar Mishra:** His tenure to be the Director of Enforcement Directorate (ED) is increased by one year by Union Government.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of ED: New Delhi

### 'REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (RCEP)'

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**Current Context: The 10 members of the ASEAN and FTA partners China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand to sign the 'Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)'.**

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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- **The RCEP is the world's largest trading bloc and the world's biggest free trade deal.**
- This was signed on the sidelines of the 37th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit (Hosted by Vietnam).
- RCEP is basically an agreement between ASEAN members and FTA.
- This agreement will help to create an integrated market with 15 countries, which will enable the availability of products and services of each country within the agreement available across the region.
- RCEP will focus on trading activities, investments, intellectual property, dispute settlement, e-commerce, SMEs and economic cooperation.
- Also, the nations in this agreement will have to ratify and analyze the RCEP within 2 years in order to make it effectively work.

### STASHFIN PARTNERS WITH VISA

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**Current Context:** StashFin, which is the Singapore-based neo banking startup has entered into a partnership with Visa.

#### KEY POINTS

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- **They have partnered with an aim to launch co-branded prepaid cards with credit lines.**
- **They have also partnered to expand digital banking solution and experience to the customers.**
- The StashFin Credit Line prepaid card which is powered by Visa is developed with a defined resolution for salaried and self-employed professionals.
- These cards can be used at ATMs and physical merchant locations as well as in Visa accepted online modes.
- These cards act as a personal overdraft facility and allow customers to opt for loans between Rs 25,000 and Rs 3 lakh, depending on their credit profile. On the credit line card, customers will have to repay the loan within 12-18 months, unlike credit cards, which will allow them to be financially disciplined.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of StashFin: New Delhi
  - HQ of Visa: California, US

### 'EVA'-- UNIQUE SAVING ACCOUNT FOR WOMEN

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**Current Context:** The Equitas Small Finance Bank (ESFB) has launched a savings account for women.

#### DETAILS

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- **The name of the saving account is 'Eva', which is the unique savings account, which addresses the well-being of Indian women in every aspect such as health, wealth and prosperity.**
- The Eva saving account offers an interest rate of 7% along with PF waiver, discounted gold rates and 20-25% discount on locker facility.
- It also offers free health check-up and unlimited teleconsultation with women doctors, gynaecologists and mental health experts.
- The saving account is available for salaried women, homemakers, businesswomen, senior citizens, transwomen as well as non-resident women.
- The account is available with no maintenance charges.
- **Also, the Equitas Small Finance Bank (ESFB) has appointed Smriti Mandhana as their brand ambassador.**
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of ESFB: Chennai, TN
  - MD and CEO of ESFB: Vasudevan P N

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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- Tagline of ESFB: It's Fun Banking

### RBI CREATES INNOVATION HUB

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**Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up 'Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH).'**

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- **The Innovation Hub is set up for the financial sector's innovation.**
- The innovation in the financial sector will take place with the help of technology.
- For this purpose, the RBIH will coordinate with financial sector institutions, technology industry and academic institutions for the purpose exchange of ideas and develop the prototypes related to financial sector innovation.
- Also, RBI has appointed **Senapathy (Kris) Gopalakrishnan**, who is co-founder and former co-chairman of Infosys to be the **first Chairperson of the RBIH**. The whole RBIH will be managed by 10 members.
- The aim of RBIH is to develop an eco-system which will promote access to financial services and products.
- The unit will develop internal infrastructure which will help to conduct fintech research.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
  - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das.
  - Deputy Governors of RBI: BP Kanungo, MK Jain, MD Patra and Rajeshwar Rao.

### APPOINTMENTS AND BRAND AMBASSADOR ON 18TH NOVEMBER 2020

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**Current Context: Maia Sandu:** She is appointed as **First Women President of Moldova**.

#### ABOUT

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- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Moldova: Chisinau
  - Currency of Moldova: Moldovan Leu
- **Navneet Munot:** He is appointed as **MD and CEO of HDFC Mutual Funds**. He has replaced Milind Barve. Currently, Navneet Munot is the Executive Director and Chief Investment Officer of SBI Funds Management.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of HDFC Mutual Funds and SBI Funds Management: Mumbai
- **Senapathy (Kris) Gopalakrishnan:** He is appointed as **first Chairperson of the 'Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)'**.
- **Rohit Sharma:** He is appointed as **Brand Ambassador for Financepeer**, which is the Google incubated education free financing company.

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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- **Smriti Mandhana:** She is appointed as **Brand Ambassador** for **Equitas Small Finance Bank (ESFB)**.

### BRICS NATIONS ADOPTED COUNTER TERRORISM STRATEGY

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**Current Context:** The BRICS Nations has adopted the counter-terrorism strategy with an aim to tackle effectively terrorism in the nations.

#### DETAILS

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- The new counter-terrorism strategy adopted is based on principles like Respect to the sovereignty of BRICS Nations, Commitment to International Laws, Coordinate roles of UN, Consideration of members countries' priorities and national interests and to adopt and follow proper approach to tackle terrorism.
- **The strategy will work to achieve goals like:** To implement UNSC Resolutions, To broader counter-terrorism operation with G20 and FATF, To counter global threats on UN Charter and to increase sharing of information about the terrorist organisation which are listed by UNSC.

### RBI IMPOSED A MORATORIUM ON LAKSHMI VILAS BANK

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**Current Context:** The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a moratorium on Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB).



- **The moratorium is applied for a period of 1 month.**
- RBI has put a restriction of Rs 25,000 on withdrawals from the bank, due to serious deterioration in lender's financial position.
- Also, the RBI has superseded the BODs of LVB for 1 month. For this, RBI has appointed T N Manoharan as Administrator of LVB.
- This moratorium is imposed under section 45 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- **Also, RBI has released a draft describing a scheme of amalgamation for LVB with DBS Bank India Ltd.**
- The central bank aims to complete this merger process before the moratorium period ends.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
  - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das.
  - Deputy Governors of RBI: BP Kanungo, MK Jain, MD Patra and Rajeshwar Rao.
  - HQ of LVB: Chennai, Tamil Nadu

### 'MOOH BAND RAKHO CAMPAIGN'—HDFC BANK

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**Current Context:** The HDFC Bank has launched a campaign called 'Mooh Band Rakho'.

### KEY POINTS

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- **The 'Mooh Band Rakho' campaign is launched to create and spread awareness on cyber fraud and ways to avoid them.**
- The campaign is launched on the occasion of International Fraud Awareness Week 2020, which is observed from 15th Nov to 21st Nov 2020.
- The campaign aims to protect every citizen from cyber frauds.
- This campaign is important because, due to COVID-19 pandemic, every individual is making use of online banking transactions in order to maintain social distancing and to stay protected from getting infected with coronavirus
- The 'Mooh Band Rakho' will spread the awareness about not to share card details like CVV (Card Verification Value) number, the Expiry date of cards, OTP details, login IDs of net banking to anyone.
- Initially, the bank launched this campaign to fight against COVID-19, but now the bank has extended the aim of this campaign to fight against cyber frauds.
- In this regards, the bank will also be conducting 1000 workshops in the next four months across the country to spread awareness about cyber frauds and how to stay protected from them.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of HDFC Bank: Mumbai
  - MD and CEO of HDFC Bank: Sashidhar Jagdishan
  - Tagline of HDFC Bank: We Understand Your World

### 3RD ANNUAL BLOOMBERG NEW ECONOMY FORUM

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**Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 3rd Annual Bloomberg New Economy Forum via video conference.**

### KEY DETAILS

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- **The forum was held to discuss ways to restore the economy which has affected due to pandemic COVID-19.**
- The inaugural part of the forum was held in Singapore, followed by a second edition in Beijing.
- The dignitaries discussed global economic management, trade and investment, technology, urbanisation, capital markets, climate change and inclusion.
- **Other speakers who addressed the forum were:** Director-general of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair, former US President Bill Clinton, Microsoft founder Bill Gates, and Secretary-General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres.

### EESL SIGNED MOU WITH DNRE, GOA

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**Current Context: The Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) has signed MoU with Department of New & Renewable Energy (DNRE), Goa.**

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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- **They have signed MoU to discuss and plan the implementation of India's first 100 MW decentralized solar convergence project.**
- This project comes under Convergence energy Services Limited, Goa.
- Both EESL and DMRE will conduct studies to implement decentralized solar energy project.
- The project will prove helpful to provide clean affordable and reliable power.
- EESL will implement the project on government lands to be used for agricultural pumping.
- This will help to replace 6300 agricultural pumps with Bureau of Energy Efficiency Star rate and will install 16 lakh LEDs for domestic household purpose.

### INDIA'S GDP TO CONTRACT AT 10.3% IN FY2021—BY GOLDMAN SACHS

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**Current Context:** The Goldman Sachs has revised the GDP forecast for India for FY 2021.

### DETAILS

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- **As per revised data from Goldman Sachs, India's GDP to contract at 10.3% for FY 2021.**
- The earlier projection was 14.8%.
- **For FY 2022**, the Goldman Sachs has projected India's GDP at 13%.
- Also, Goldman Sachs projects a normalisation in the government containment policies and travel restrictions by mid-2022 after the COVID-19 vaccine is discovered and distributed.

### 7TH ROUND OF FOC BETWEEN INDIA AND KAZAKHSTAN

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**Current Context:** India and Kazakhstan conducted a 7th round of Foreign Office Consultations (FoC) virtually.

### HIGHLIGHTS

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- India was represented by Vikas Swarup, Secretary (West) and Kazakhstan were represented by Shakhtrat Nuryshev, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan.
- The dignitaries discussed bilateral cooperation related to their Strategic Partnership.
- They held a discussion about the economy of nations, energy, defence, space and cultural cooperation.
- They also assured to combat COVID-19 with cooperation between them.
- They also agreed to deepen cooperation in the multilateral arena, including during the forthcoming stint of India in the UN Security Council for the period 2021-22.
- **The nations signed MoU on 'Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of High Impact Community Development Projects in Kazakhstan'.**
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Kazakhstan: Nur-Sultan
  - Currency of Kazakhstan: Kazakhstani Tenge

### 'CASA MOBILISATION CAMPAIGN'—HDFC BANK

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**Current Context:** The Karnataka Bank has launched CASA (Current Account Saving Account) Mobilisation Campaign for FY 2021.

#### KEY FACTS

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- The campaign is conducted from 17th Nov 2020 to 4th March 2021.
- This campaign aims to provide banking services to the unbanked sections of the country.
- The campaign will help to promote digitally powered CASA products of the bank.
- The campaign is launched to mobilize over 4.10 lakh current and savings accounts with an accretion of 650 crores of business.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Karnataka Bank: Manglore, Karnataka
  - MD and CEO of Karnataka Bank: Mahabaleshwara M S
  - Tagline of Karnataka Bank: Your Family Bank Across India

### TRACE BRIBERY RISK MATRIX 2020

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**Current Context:** The TRACE Matrix ranking list is released by TRACE International, which is an anti-bribery standard-setting organisation.

#### DETAILS

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- **As per the ranking, India is placed at the position of 77th rank, with a score of 45 in the global list.**
- It measures business bribery risk in 194 countries, territories, and autonomous and semi-autonomous regions.
- **The top positions for highest commercial bribery risk are marked by:** North Korea, Turkmenistan, South Sudan, Venezuela and Eritrea.
- **The lowest position for commercial bribery risk is marked by:** Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden and New Zealand.
- **The factors considered for ranking are:** Business interactions with government, anti-bribery deterrence and enforcement, government and civil service transparency, the role of the media and capacity for civil society oversight.

### INDIA SIGNS LOAN AGREEMENT WITH WORLD BANK FOR TRANSPORT SECTOR IN MEGHALAYA

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**Current Context:** India has entered into an agreement with World Bank to modernise transport sector in Meghalaya.



### KEY POINTS

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- **They have signed an agreement of USD 120 million.**
- **With the help of this fund, improvement in 300km strategic road segment will take place with the help of climate-resilient and nature-based solutions.**
- Due to this improvement in the transport sector, Meghalaya will emerge as a leading hub of trade with Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh.
- This project will uplift sectors like small scale industries, agriculture areas, tourism, health and education centres in Meghalaya.
- Also, access to a health facility will improve because of efficient road connectivity.
- Around 500,00 people of the state will get the benefit of this improved roads connectivity.
- This fund will help to boost the 'Restart Meghalaya Mission'.
- **Static Part:**
  - CM of Meghalays: Conrad Kongkal Sangma
  - Governor of Meghalaya: Satya Pal Malik

### INDIA'S GDP FOR FY 21 AT -6.4%—BY BARCLAYS

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**Current Context:** Barclays, an Investment bank has revised India's GDP forecast for FY 2020-21.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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- **As per Barclays, India's revised GDP forecast is at -6.4% for FY 2020-21.**
- The earlier estimation was 6%.
- Also the investment bank, Barclay has predicted growth forecast to 8.5% for FY 2021-22, which was earlier predicted to be at 7%.

### 1ST INDIA-LUXEMBOURG VIRTUAL SUMMIT

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**Current Context:** First India and Luxembourg summit was held virtually.

### ABOUT

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- **The summit was jointly addressed by PM Narendra Modi and by Prime Minister of Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Xavier Bettel.**
- Both the nations appreciated each other for the launch of four Luxembourg satellites by ISRO in 2019.
- Also, PM Narendra Modi welcomed and appreciated the decision of Luxembourg to join the International Solar Alliance.
- Also, Luxembourg announced its full support to India for United Nations Security Council (2021-22).
- Both the nations agreed to increase cooperation in the sectors like trade, finance, space, ICT, sustainable development, renewable energy and solving climate change issues.

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Luxembourg: Luxembourg City
  - Currency of Luxembourg: Euro

### 'PROJECT KIRANA'—MASTERCARD AND USAID

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**Current Context: Mastercard and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) jointly launched 'Project Kirana'.**

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- Both the entities partnered with each other under Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative (W-GDP) to launch this project.
- **'Project Kirana' aims to uplift women entrepreneurs.**
- It is basically a two-year programme which is launched in cities of Uttar Pradesh like Kanpur, Lucknow and Varanasi.
- 'Project Kirana' will help women, entrepreneurs, to increase revenue, digital payments and expand financial inclusion.
- It will also help women entrepreneurs with digital literacy and financial literacy initiatives along with improvement in business management skills in them.
- The programme will be implemented and executed by DAI Digital Frontiers and ACCESS Development Services.
- The programme will increase revenues and digital payment process adoption of Kirana shops which are owned by women.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Mastercard: New York, US

### CAPACITY BUILDING COMPONENT OF PM-FME & GIS ODOP DIGITAL MAP OF INDIA

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**Current Context: The Capacity building Component of the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises scheme (PM-FME) was launched by Union Minister of Food Processing Industries, Narendra Singh Tomar.**

#### KEY POINTS

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- **He also launched GIS One District One Product (ODOP) Digital Map of India.**
- **Capacity building Component of the PM-FME:** This component will provide training sessions to food processing entrepreneurs, SHGs, Farmers Producer Organisation (FPOs), Cooperatives and stakeholders who are linked with PM-FME Scheme.
- The training sessions will be given to master trainers in an online mode or by classroom lecture sessions and in the form of demos. Then the master trainers will be responsible to train district-level trainers who will further be training the beneficiaries. The training to the masters will be

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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provided by the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) and Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology (IIFPT).

- **GIS ODOP Digital Map of India:** It will provide details of ODOP products and will allow stakeholders to perform value chain development. The digital map will also offer an indication of tribal, SC, ST and aspirational districts.

### 33RD STOP TB PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEET

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**Current Context:** The 33rd Stop TB Partnership Board meeting was addressed by Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan via video conference.

#### KEY FACTS

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- The addressed by highlighting the need to create a mass movement for the elimination of TB with strategized advocacy, thought leadership, disruptive social entrepreneurship, powerful, societal and political commitment.
- He also commented about 'TB Harega, Desh Jeetega' campaign of India.
- The 'TB Harega, Desh Jeetega' campaign aims to achieve SDG related to TB by 2025, five years ahead of the global target of 2030.
- He also mentioned GOI's efforts on increasing TB notifications and creating its awareness and also explained how India has managed to close the gap in 'Missing million TB cases'.

### GOI SANCTIONS LOAN FOR MICRO IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN TAMIL NADU

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**Current Context:** The GOI has sanctioned a loan amount for the development of micro-irrigation projects in Tamil Nadu.

#### DETAILS

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- **In this regards, GOI has sanctioned a loan of Rs 3,971 crores at a subsidised interest rate under micro-irrigation Fund (MIF).**
- The MIF is created by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for implementing micro-irrigation projects.
- In FY 2019-20, GOI created MIF with a Corpus of Rs 5,000 crores with an aim to provide subsidized loan for Indian states for increasing their coverage of micro-irrigation.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of NABARD: Mumbai
  - Chairman of NABARD: Dr G.R. Chintala
  - Lakes in Tamil Nadu: Berijam Lake, Kaliveli Lake, Kaveripakkam Lake, Kodaikanal Lake, Ooty Lake, Perumal Eri, Sholavaram Lake, Singanallur Lake, Veeranam Lake

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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### 30TH INDO-THAI CORPAT

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**Current Context:** The 30th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) was held between the Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- **It was conducted in the Andaman sea close to the Strait of Malacca.**
- India was represented by INS Karmuk.
- Thailand was represented by Frigate HTMS Kraburi and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft.
- Aim of CORPAT is to keep the Indian Ocean safe and secure for the purpose of commercial shipping and international trade.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Thailand: Bangkok
  - Currency of Thailand: Thai Bhat

### SITMEX-2020

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**Current Context:** The SITMEX-2020 is the trilateral naval exercise conducted by India, Singapore and Thailand.

#### KEY POINTS

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- **The SITMEX 2020 was held in Andaman sea.**
- The exercise followed a 'non-contact, at sea only format' because of the pandemic COVID-19 and to follow the restrictions related to social distancing for same.
- The Indian Navy was represented by INS Karmuk and INS Kamorta.
- The Singapore Navy was represented by RSS Intrepid and RSS Endeavour.
- The Thailand Navy was represented by a Chao class frigate HTMS Kraburi.
- The SITMEX 2020 aims to consolidate interoperability between the three navies of India, Singapore and Thailand.
- The exercise also boost multifaceted Maritime operations between the nations.
- **Static Part:**
  - Currency of Singapore: Dollar

### KOTAK ESG OPPORTUNITIES FUND

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**Current Context:** The Kotak ESG Opportunities Fund is launched by Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company Limited (KMAMC).

#### KEY FACTS

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- The Kotak ESG Opportunities Fund is an open-ended equity scheme.

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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- **The fund will focus on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors and on Principles for Responsible Investing (PRI).**
- **Harsha Upadhyaya, CIO (Chief Investment Officer)- Equity and President of KMAMC will manage the Kotak ESG Opportunities Fund.**
- The Kotak ESG Opportunities Fund will make an investment in companies by considering financial parameters and non-financial parameters like ESG which will be the part of its research in which it will identify material risks and growth opportunities.
- The fund will analyse how companies make money and how much money the company makes.
- The fund will make usage of Sustainalytics ESG Risk Rating.
- This fund will help investors to seek long term growth.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of KMAMC: Mumbai
  - MD of KMAMC: Nilesh Shah

### COPERNICUS SENTINEL-6 MICHAEL FREILICH SATELLITE

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**Current Context: NASA successfully launched the Copernicus Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich satellite.**

#### DETAILS

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- **The satellite is launched to monitor the global sea level.**
- It is developed by European Space Agency (ESA), NASA, European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (Eumetsat), the USA's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), France's National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) and EU.
- It was launched in SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Space Launch Complex 4E at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.
- It will perform sea-level observations and accordingly will provide measurements on global sea-level rise.
- The satellite is named after Michael Freilich, who is an Earth scientist.

### GOI SIGNS MOU FOR COMPRESSED BIO-GAS PLANTS

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**Current Context: The Government of India has entered into MoU with leading oil and gas marketing companies with an aim to set up Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) Plants all over India.**

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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- **The MoU is signed under SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) initiative.**
- The Compressed Bio-Gas Plants developed under this MoU will allow the generation of biogas from crop waste.
- Under this MoU, around 900 Compressed Bio-Gas Plants will be setup.

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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- Initially, the GOI signed MoU for setting up of 600 CBG Plants. And currently, 1500 plants are under execution process.
- Also, GOI has set a target to set up around 5000 CBG plants by 2023-34.
- The biogas generated from these CBG plants will be used for automobiles.
- **The MoU was signed with the companies like:** JBM Group, Adani Gas, Torrent Gas and Petronet LNG, Indian Oil, Praj Industries, CEID Consultants & Bharat Biogas Energy.
- **Static Part:**
  - Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel: Dharmendra Pradhan

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### 1ST FISHERIES AWARD

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**Current Context:** The Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying presented the Fisheries Sector Award on the occasion of the 'World Fisheries Day'.

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#### ABOUT

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- The awards were given to recognize the achievements in the associated field and their contribution to the growth of the fisheries sector.
- **The Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying awarded best performing States, Organisations and Districts for 2019-2020.**
- **Category of Top States:** Odisha (Marine States), Uttar Pradesh (Inland States) and Assam (Hilly and NE states ).
- **Category of Top Organisations:** Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation Ltd. (Marine), Telangana State Fishermen Cooperative societies Federation Ltd (Inland) and Assam Apex Cooperative Fish Marketing and Processing Federation Ltd ( Hilly region).
- **Category of Top Districts:** Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh (Marine District), Kalahandi, Odisha (Inland District) and Nagaon, Assam (Hilly and NE District).
- **Static Part:**
  - Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying: Giriraj Singh

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### 15TH G20 SUMMIT

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**Current Context:** The 15th edition of G20 Summit was held through video conference.

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#### KEY POINTS

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- **The summit was held under the chairmanship of Saudi Arabia.** King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud chaired the summit.
- **The Indian side was addressed by PM Narendra Modi.**
- The summit held the focus on developing an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future by safeguarding the planet.
- PM Narendra Modi addressed by highlighting the need for economic recovery in Post COVID-19 era. He mentioned the importance and adoption of effective global governance.

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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- He also highlighted the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.
- He mentioned India's agenda to follow 'Reform-Perform-Transform' strategy.
- **Static Part:** The members of the G20 are: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, and the European Union.

### ADB APPROVED LOAN FOR OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES & RESOURCE PLANNING IN WB

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**Current Context:** The Asian Development Bank has approved loan to have operational efficiencies and resource planning and management in West Bengal.

#### KEY FACTS

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- **The loan amount approved is USD 50 million.**
- This amount will be used to integrate financial and information system along with the expansion of automation reforms in state government's operation.
- This will thus help to strengthen the delivery of public services and will create fiscal saving.
- Also, this loan amount will be supplemented by USD 350,000 technical assistance grant. This will help for capacity building and monitor IFMS (Integrated Financial Management System) reforms.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of ADB: Mandaluyong, Philippines
  - President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa
  - Folk Dance of West Bengal: Ganbhira Dance, Kathi Dance and Domni

#### SIMBEX-20

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**Current Context:** The 27th edition of India- Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise (SIMBEX-20) is being held from 23rd Nov to 25th Nov 2020.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- **It is conducted in the Andaman Sea between the Indian Navy and Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).**
- India is represented by INS Rana along with integral Chetak helicopter and indigenously built corvettes Kamorta and Karmuk. Also, INS Sindhuraj and P8I maritime aircraft are part of this exercise.
- Singapore is represented by 'Formidable' Class frigates 'Intrepid' and 'Steadfast' along with S70B helicopter and Endurance' Class Landing Ship Tank.
- **Static Part:**
  - Currency of Singapore: Dollar
  - Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh

## 2020 APEC SUMMIT

**Current Context:** The 2020 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit was hosted by Malaysia virtually.

### KEY POINTS

- It was held under the chairmanship of PM of Malaysia, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.
- In the summit, the nations adopted APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040, which aims to develop a peaceful Asia Pacific community by 2040.
- The summit also observed the replacement of 1994 Bogor Goals with post-2020 vision.
- The dignitaries assured to deepen cooperation in the sectors like trade and investment, innovation and digitalization.
- **The theme for APEC 2020 Summit:** 'Optimising Human Potential towards a Resilient Future of Shared Prosperity: Pivot. Prioritise. Progress'.
- **Static Part:** Members of APEC: Australia, Brunei, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Chile, Japan, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russia, Thailand, Singapore, Taiwan and the United States of America.
  - Capital of Malaysia: Kaula Lumpur
  - Currency of Malaysia: Malaysian Ringgit

## HIMACHAL PRADESH JOINED HANDS WITH ADB

**Current Context:** The Government of Himachal Pradesh has entered into a partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the purpose of improvement of infrastructure facilities.

### KEY FACTS

- **Both the state government and ADB will work to improve the infrastructure in the Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh (HP).**
- The foundation stone for the same was led by CM of HP.
- **The total estimated cost for infrastructure activities is Rs 15 crore out of which Rs 9 crore will be offered by ADB and the rest amount by the state government.**
- Also, CM of HP inaugurated a Primary Healthcare Centre (PHC) in Pandoh area and a vehicle parking building named Bhimakali at Mandi town.
- Also, a lift water supply scheme from Kangnidhar to Dudar Bharaun in gram panchayat Dudar Bharaun of Tehsil Sadar was inaugurated by CM.
- The foundation stone to build a new building of government primary school located at Bal Mani (U-block) was led by CM.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of ADB: Mandaluyong, Philippines
  - President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa
  - CM of HP: Jai Ram Thakur
  - Governor of HP: Bandaru Dattatreya



## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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- Lakes in HP: Pandoh Lake, Prashar Lake, Brighu Lake, Dhankar Lake, Nako Lake, Rewalsar Lake

### 23RD BENGALURU TECH SUMMIT 2020

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**Current Context:** The 23rd edition of Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi virtually.

#### ABOUT MEETING

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- **Theme for BTS 2020:** 'Next is Now'.
- The Summit was organized by Karnataka Government, Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS), Karnataka Government's vision group on IT, Biotechnology and Startup, Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) and MM Active Sci-Tech Communications.
- The main focus of the summit was on technology and its related innovations in the fields of IT, Electronics and Biotechnology.
- The summit also focused on technology usage in the areas like aerospace, defence, healthcare, startups etc.

#### INTERNATIONAL VERSION OF THE UMANG APPLICATION

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**Current Context:** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology launched the International version of the UMANG application.

#### DETAILS

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- **The version is launched in countries like UK, US, Australia, Canada, Netherlands, UAE, Australia, Singapore and New Zealand.**
- The version is launched on the occasion of completion of three years of UMANG App.
- UMANG signifies Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance.
- To launch this international version, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology collaborated with the Ministry of External Affairs.
- The aim behind launching an international version of UMANG App is to promote Indian culture in the rest of the world.
- Also with this app, Common Services Centres (CSCs) are also integrated. The app is integrated with MD (Indian Meteorological Department) services.
- **Static Part:**
  - Union Minister Electronics and Information Technology: Ravi Shankar Prasad
  - Union Minister of External Affairs: Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

### HAR GHAR NAL YOJANA

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**Current Context:** The 'Har Ghar Nal Yojana' (tap water to every household) is launched by PM Narendra Modi.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- It is basically rural drinking water supply project and was launched in Mirzapur and Sonbhadra districts of Uttar Pradesh.
- The project aims to provide tap water connections to around 2,995 villages which will benefit 42 lakh people.
- **The estimated cost for 'Har Ghar Nal Yojana' Rs 5,555.38 crore.**
- Out of this total amount of Rs 3212.18 crore will be utilized in Sonbhadra and Rs 2343.20 crore will be utilized in Mirzapur.
- The scheme will be completed in the next two years.
- **Static Part:** Thermal Power Plant in UP: Rihand Super Thermal Power Project, Anpara Thermal Power Station, Feroze Gandhi Unchahar Thermal Power Plant, Obra Thermal Power Project, Rosa Power Plant.

### VARUNASTRA: THE HEAVY WEIGHT TORPEDO DELIVERED TO INDIAN NAVY

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**Current Context:** The first Production unit of Varunastra which is the Heavy Weight Torpedo (HWT) was delivered to the Indian Navy.

#### KEY FACTS

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- The announcement for the same was made by Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
- **The Varunastra is developed by the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).**
- For the mass production of Varunastra, the Defence Ministry had awarded a contract of Rs 1,187 crore.
- The Varunastra is a ship-launched, heavyweight, electrically-propelled anti-submarine torpedo.
- It has the capability to target quiet submarines and can be fired from all ASW ships capable of firing heavyweight torpedoes.
- Its operational range is 40 km and the maximum depth is 400 metres.
- It is known to be the only torpedo in the world to have a GPS-based locating aid.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of DRDO: New Delhi
  - Chairman of DRDO: Dr G. Satheesh Reddy
  - HQ of BDL: Hyderabad, Telangana

### FICCI FLO SIGNS MOU WITH IESC OF IIM SHILLONG

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**Current Context:** The Women's wing of FICCI (Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry) named as FLO (FICCI Ladies Organisation) has entered into MoU with IESC (Incubation and Enterprise Support Center) of IIM Shillong.

#### KEY POINTS

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- **The MoU is signed for the purpose of a mentorship programme for women entrepreneurs.**
- Under this MoU contract, FLO will create an independent Entrepreneurial Ecosystem which will help to empower women and transform them to become job creators.
- The Entrepreneurial Ecosystem of FLO will identify potential based startups and will provide them with the necessary support and guidance.
- This support and guidance will help to build initial startup cost and will thus help to establish a business in a short time span.
- **Static Part:**
  - President of FLO: Jahnabi Phookan
  - HQ of FICCI: New Delhi
  - President of FICCCI: Sangita Reddy

### NSDL PAYMENTS BANK PARTNERED WITH HDFC ERGO

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**Current Context:** The NSDL Payments Bank Limited has entered into a partnership with HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company.

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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- **They have entered into a partnership with an aim to offer general insurance products to customers through NSDL Jiffy, which is a mobile bank application.**
- This partnership will help to integrate NSDL Payment Bank's network and HDFC's innovation pipeline which will contribute to the financial inclusion in the country.
- This partnership will offer financial protection under one roof with complete financial security.
- The partnership will be the one-stop-shop platform for all banking and insurance transactions for the customers.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of NSDL Payments Bank Limited: Mumbai
  - Chairman of NSDL Payments Bank Limited: G V Nageswara Rao
  - HQ of HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company: Mumbai
  - Chairman of HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company: Deepak Parekh

### 'ABHAYAM APP'—ANDHRA PRADESH

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**Current Context:** The Andhra Pradesh Government launched 'Abhayam App'.

### DETAILS

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- **The app is launched for the safety of women travellers through Auto and Taxi.**
- With the help of this app, women will be able to raise an alarm during any emergency case.
- The 'Abhayam App' is basically a first IoT based women safety project app.
- During the first phase, 1000 autos and rickshaws are equipped with GPS and IoT based devices which are linked to this app in Visakhapatnam.
- The transport department of the state will manage the operation of the app.
- **Static Part:** Stadium in AP: Visakhapatnam ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium, Indira Gandhi Stadium, Indira Priyadarsini Stadium
  - Thermal Power Plant in AP: Simhadri Super Thermal Power Plant, Ennore Thermal Power Station

### PM JEEVAN JYOTI BIMA YOJANA

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**Current Context: The PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) is launched by India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) in partnership with PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited.**

### HIGHLIGHTS

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- The PMJJBY offers protection and financial security to the underprivileged and poor who are living in unbanked and remote areas of the country.
- This low-cost insurance scheme will offer a life cover to the family in case of the death of the insured member due to any reason.
- The insurance scheme is for anyone who is having a saving account in IPPB.
- The scheme offers maximum coverage of Rs 2 lakhs.
- The annual premium amount for this scheme is Rs 330.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of IPPB: New Delhi
  - Tagline of IPPB: Aapka Bank, Aapke Dwar
  - MD and CEO of IPPB: J. Venkatramu
  - HQ of PNB MetLife: Mumbai
  - Tagline of PNB MetLife: Milkar Life Aage Badhaein
  - MD and CEO of PNB MetLife: Ashish Kumar Srivastava

### INDIA TEST FIRED BRAHMOS SUPERSONIC MISSILE

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**Current Context: The Indian Army successfully test-fired the land-attack version of Brahmos supersonic missile.**

### KEY POINTS

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- **The test-firing operation took place from Andaman and Nicobar Islands** where it successfully hit its target, which was on another island.
- This the land-attack version of Brahmos supersonic missile's range has been extended to 450 km.
- Its speed is also increased to 2.8 Mach which is three times the speed of sound.
- The missile is developed by DRDO and NPOM of Russia.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of DRDO: New Delhi
  - Chairman of DRDO: Dr G. Satheesh Reddy

### SDG INVESTOR MAP FOR INDIA

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**Current Context: The Sustainable Development Goal investor map for India is launched by Invest India and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).**

### KEY FACTS

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- The goal investor map describes around 18 investment opportunity areas in India.
- The investment opportunity areas focus on 6 critical SDG goals which are defined by the United Nations.
- The six critical SDG goals highlighted in the goal investor map are Healthcare, education, financial services, agriculture and allied activities, renewable energy and alternative and sustainable environment.
- The SDG goal investor map will help India to achieve its target of SDG and will help to reduce the SDG finance gap.
- **Static Part:**
  - CEO and MD of Invest India: Deepak Bagla

### INDIAN RAILWAYS PARTNERED WITH INDIAN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, HYDERABAD

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**Current Context: The Indian Railways collaborated with Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad.**

### DETAILS

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- **They have joined hands to study an integrated coal-freight optimization model to increase network throughput and to optimize freight transportation over Indian Railways.**
- In this partnership, the ISB will perform scientific analysis in order to explore new avenues for railways which will improve freight traffic.
- The optimized model will also fulfil the demand-supply variations effectively and will thus improve the performance of the network.

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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- The partnership will result in the adoption of Freight Operations Information System (FOIS) due to which entire data of freight services will be made digitally available.
- The FOIS will be effectively utilized for the demand estimation as well as to develop a model to supply the rakes to meet the needs of the industry.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ Indian Railways: New Delhi
  - Chairman of Indian Railway Board: V K Yadav

### APPOINTMENTS ON 26TH NOVEMBER 2020

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**Current Context: Greg Barclay:** He is elected to the **Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC)**. He has replaced Shashank Manohar. Mr Barclay is also Director of New Zealand Cricket (NZC).

### ABOUT

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- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of ICC: Dubai: UAE
  - CEO of ICC: Manu Sawhney
- **VK Saraswat:** He is appointed to head the committee formed by NITI Aayog. The committee will explore the technological and commercial factors of Virgin Hyperloop Technology in India.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of NITI Aayog: New Delhi
  - Chairman of NITI Aayog: Narendra Modi
  - CEO of NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant

### 10TH NATIONAL SCIENCE FILM FESTIVAL

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**Current Context: The 10th edition of National Science Film Festival was held from 24th Nov to 27th Nov in a virtual mode amidst of Coronavirus pandemic.**

### HIGHLIGHTS

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- **The festival was organized by Vigyan Prasar in partnership with Tripura State Council of Science and Technology.**
- The festival showcased the science-based films made by professionals, amateur and student filmmakers.
- These films were based on various themes like Science and technology, environment, agriculture, renewable energy, water management, health and drugs and technological innovations.
- The festival was inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister of Tripura Jishnu DevVerma.
- The National Science Film Festival is held with an aim to promote science culture in India.
- Around 372 films were enrolled for showcasing in the festival. Out of which 115 films were shortlisted by the jury members to be screened during the festival.

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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- The films were in languages like Hindi, English, Urdu, Malayalam, Kashmiri, Bengali, Marathi, Punjabi and Tamil.
- The films were in the form of documentaries, biography, short films, docu-dramas, science fiction and animation films.

### HDFC BANK AND ICICI BANK TO SUPPORT SMES AND START-UPS

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**Current Context:** India two major private sector banks, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank have collaborated to support SMEs and Star-ups in India.

#### KEY POINTS

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- **Under this partnership, ICICI Bank will motivate various Start-ups and SMEs or MSMEs to enrol themselves with an aim to get support and financial facilities to/from HDFC Bank.**
- For this purpose, both HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank will conduct awareness camps, interactive sessions, seminars and business events.
- Under this partnership, HDFC Bank will offer the facility of bank accounts to startups which are supported by 'Inventivepreneur'.
- It will also offer business support in the form of shared workplaces, digital marketing, web services, patent filing, content writing, tax and other legal advisory support to the start-ups and SMEs which are recommended by ICICI Bank.
- ICICI Bank will evaluate and analyze the performance of SMEs and Start-ups.
- It will also support them to find business solutions and industry connections.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank: Mumbai
  - MD and CEO of HDFC Bank: Sashidhar Jagdishan
  - MD and CEO of ICICI Bank: Sandeep Bakhshi

### RE-INVEST 2020

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**Current Context:** The 3rd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo (RE-Invest 2020) was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

#### DETAILS

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- **The theme for RE-Invest 2020:** 'Innovations for Sustainable Energy Transition'.
- **The summit is organized by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** and is held between 26th Nov to 28th Nov 2020.
- The summit will observe the discussions related to renewables and future energy choices along with various exhibitions from manufacturers, developers, investors and innovators.
- The summit will be attended by 75 international ministerial delegations, 1,000 global industry leaders and 50,000 delegates.

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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- The summit is organized to provide an international platform for investment promotion in the renewable energy sector and to increase the development and deployment of renewable energy.
- The summit will also build relations between Indian energy stakeholders and the global investment community.
- **Static Part:**
  - Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy (IC): Raj Kumar Singh

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### NATIONAL PORTAL FOR TRANSGENDER PERSONS

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**Current Context: The 'National Portal for Transgender Persons' was launched by Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Thaawarchand Gehlot.**

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#### KEY FACTS

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- **He also launched 'Garima Greh: A Shelter Home for Transgender Persons' in Vadodara, Gujarat.**
- **'National Portal for Transgender Persons':** This portal will help the transgender to apply for an identity card and a certificate in an online manner. The portal is developed under Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2020. The portal will help transgenders to get the identity cards in their self-perceived identity which is an important provision of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.
- **'Garima Greh: A Shelter Home for Transgender Persons':** It will be managed by Lakshya Trust which is a community based organisation which is run by Transgenders. It will offer shelter facility, food and healthcare facilities to transgender.

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### INDIA SIGNS MOU WITH FINLAND

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**Current Context: India and Finland have entered into MoU in the field of biodiversity conservation and environment protection.**

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#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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- The MoU agreement was signed by Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar and his counterpart Krista Mikkonen of Finland.
- Under this MoU, both India and Finland will share best practices and solutions which will help to tackle air and water pollution, waste management, low carbon solutions, sustainable management of natural resources and promotion of circular economy.
- They will also work to develop technological, scientific and management based capabilities which will conserve the biodiversity and will enhance environmental protection.
- They will conserve the biodiversity on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit by promoting sustainable development.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Finland: Helsinki



## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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- Currency of Finland: Euro

### NAFED'S HONEY FPO PROGRAMS LAUNCHED BY AGRICULTURE MINISTER

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**Current Context:** The Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar launched the five Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) programs.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- **These FPOs programs are launched with respect to the production of honey.**
- **The programs belong to the NAFED (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India) under the Formation & Promotion of 10,000 FPOs scheme.**
- It is launched in 5 Indian States namely, West Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- The aim behind this launch is to promote FPO which will result in agricultural reforms in India.
- The program will be executed in East Champaran (Bihar), Morena (Madhya Pradesh), Bharatpur (Rajasthan), Mathura (Uttar Pradesh) and Sunderbans (West Bengal).
- The NAFED will support to establish Honey FPO Programme in these 5 states. It will promote formation and promotion of FPOs of beekeepers and honey collectors with the help of Cluster Based Business Organisation (CBBO) and Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals (ISAP).
- Also, NAFED will help in branding and marketing strategies for honey along with exploration of the overseas market.
- This initiative will prove beneficial to around 4000-5000 beekeepers and honey collectors.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of NAFED: New Delhi

### INDIA AND ISRAEL PARTNERS TO BUILD FUTURE WITH LOW CARBON AND POLLUTION

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**Current Context:** During the digital conference of the India-led International Solar Alliance (ISA), India and Israel entered into a partnership.

#### KEY POINTS

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- **Both India and Israel partnered to reduce the carbon level and pollution in future.**
- The Indian delegation was led by PM Narendra Modi and Israel was represented by its PM Benjamin Netanyahu.
- Israel PM Benjamin Netanyahu, also mentioned that solar energy would constitute over 25% of his country's energy supply by 2030.
- He also mentioned the need to overcome the obstacles in the usage of solar energy by ensuring the supply on days when there is no sun.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Israel: Jerusalem

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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- Currency of Israel: Israeli Shekel
- HQ of ISA: Gurugram, Haryana

### SMS PAY FUNCTION —BY YES BANK AND WORDLINE

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**Current Context:** Yes Bank has entered into a partnership with Worldline to launch SMS Pay function.

#### KEY FACTS

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- The SMS Pay function is launched on PoS (Point of Sale) terminals.
- **The function enables merchants to perform contactless and remote payment transactions in a safe and secured manner.**
- The aim behind launching SMS Pay function by Yes Bank is to support small and medium businesses sectors.
- This function allows performing payments against invoices by entering the amount and contact details of customers in the PoS machine.
- After entering the details, an SMS will be triggered on the customer's mobile number with a payment link which will allow payment in a secure manner through domestic debit and credit cards.
- And once the payment is complete, charge slip is generated from the POS machine and merchant can deliver goods or services.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Yes Bank: Mumbai
  - MD and CEO of Yes Bank: Prashant Kumar
  - Tagline of Yes Bank: Experience our Expertise
  - HQ of Wordline: Bezos, France

### APPOINTMENTS ON 28TH NOVEMBER 2020

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**Current Context: Roch Marc Christian Kabore:** He won the Presidential election for 2nd term of Burkina Faso and thus will be appointed as President for a tenure of next 5 years.

#### ABOUT

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- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Burkina Faso: Ouagadougou
  - Currency of Burkina Faso: West African CFA Franc
- **Lt Gen. Harpal Singh:** He is appointed as new Engineer-in-Chief of Indian Army. Initially, he was serving as DG of Border Roads Organisation.
- **Static Part:**
  - Chief of Army Staff: Gen. MM Naravane
- **Major Gen. Rajeev Chaudhary:** He is appointed as DG of Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of BRO: New Delhi

### SHANGHAI- WORLD'S MOST CONNECTED CITY

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**Current Context:** The International Air Transport Association (IATA) declared that Shanghai is the most connected city in the world.

#### KEY POINTS

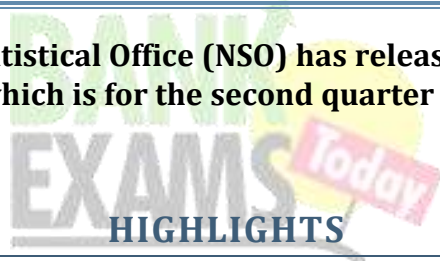
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- The other three other cities such as Beijing, Chengdu and Guangzhou are also the most connected city in the world at second, third, fourth positions respectively.
- Shanghai has replaced London from this IATA rank spot. Now London is marked at 8th position in the most connected cities in the world by IATA.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of IATA: Montreal, Canada

### INDIA'S GDP CONTRACTS 7.5% IN SEPTEMBER QUARTER

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**Current Context:** The National Statistical Office (NSO) has released the data describing that India's GDP for July-September period, which is for the second quarter contracted at 7.5%, in comparison to the same period last year.



- Due to coronavirus, there was a contraction of 23.9% in the GDP for the April-June quarter as compared to the same period a year ago.
- With this estimation, NSO confirmed that India's economy has entered into recession due to two successive quarters of contraction.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of NSO: New Delhi
  - Chairman of NSO: Prof. Bimal K. Roy

### 33RD PRAGATI INTERACTION BY PM MODI

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**Current Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired and interacted the 33rd PRAGATI Meet.

#### KEY POINTS

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- **The PRAGATI stands for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation.** It allows pro-active governance and timely implementation of projects along with addressing the grievances of a common man.
- **The meet was held to review the projects and programmes undertaken by PRAGATI.**

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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- **During this meet projects worth Rs 1.41 lakh crore were reviewed which are conducted in 10 states and UTs of India.** These projects are held in Odisha, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir and Dadar and Nagar Haveli.
- The projects are owned and managed by DPIIT, Ministry of Railways, Power Minister and Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways.
- **The dignitaries also discussed grievances related to coronavirus, PM Awas Yojana and PM SVANidhi.**
- PM Modi also suggested developing State Export Strategy to every state. And also motivated to complete the project works before time.
- **Static Part:**
  - PRAGATI: It was launched in 2015.

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### DEFENCE MINISTERS MEET OF INDIA AND VIETNAM

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**Current Context: India and Vietnam held the bilateral defence dialogue in a virtual mode.**

#### KEY FACTS

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- **India was represented by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Vietnam was represented by General Ngo Xuan Lich, Minister of National Defence of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.**
- Both the nations discussed ongoing defence sector projects and they assured to deepen cooperation to have the defence industry capability and capacity building.
- They also assured to work collaboratively in UN Peacekeeping Operations.
- India assured to build the institutionalized framework agreement in the near future and also assured to offer guidance to provide training for all three services of the Vietnam defence sector in Indian defence institutions.
- **Both the nations signed an agreement for enhancing cooperation in Hydrography.**
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Vietnam: Hanoi
  - Currency of Vietnam: Vietnamese Dong

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### SAHAKAR PRAGYA PROGRAMME

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**Current Context: The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development, Panchayat Raj and Food Processing Industries, Narendra Singh Tomar launched Sahakar Pragya Programme.**

#### DETAILS

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- **This programme is launched to train the primary cooperative societies in India.**
- This programme includes 45 new training modules of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: November 2020

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- The training modules will be delivered at Lakshmanrao Inamdar National Cooperative Research and Development Academy (LINAC).
- This programme will help to develop the training capacity of NCDC through a network of eighteen regional training centres.
- **The 45 training modules are supported by:** NCDC Schemes, 10,000 FPOs, Agri Infra Fund Scheme, PM-FME Scheme, Fisheries Infra Dev Fund Scheme and PM Matsya Sampada Scheme.

### BSE SIGNS MOU WITH MISSION YOUTH, GOV. OF J&K

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**Current Context:** The BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange Ltd) has signed MoU with Mission Youth, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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- **The MoU is signed to spread financial awareness, support economic development, develop sustainable livelihood in J&K.**
- The MoU was signed by the representatives of BSE and CEO, Mission Youth Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah. During the signing ceremony of MoU, Lt Governor of J&K, Manoj Sinha was also present.
- The BSE and J&K government are working together to develop skills in the youths of J&K so that they can build their career in BFSI (Banking, Financial Services and Insurance).
- During the first phase of this MoU, around 400 youths will be trained which will allow an easy transition of them from the classroom to the workplace.
- The youths will undergo training sessions on financial awareness, courses related to banking and financial markets. They will also be trained with programs under mutual funds.
- Also, the youths will be enrolled in the BSE Star Mutual Fund Platform.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of BSE: Mumbai
  - MD and CEO of BSE: Ashiskumar Chauhan

### INDIA'S GDP AT -10.5% FOR FY21— BY UBS

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**Current Context:** As per the report from UBS, India's real GDP to contract by 10.5% for FY 2020-21.

#### KEY FACTS

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- The estimation is released by UBS in its Global Economics and Markets Outlook 2021-2022 report.
- Also is has estimated that India's real GDP growth to rebound to 10% in FY 2022.
- The report describes that India's GDP to stable at 6.2% YoY in FY 2023.

### UP GOVERNOR GAVE ASSENT TO AN ORDINANCE AGAINST FORCIBLE RELIGIOUS CONVERSION

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**Current Context:** Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Anandiben Patel gave assent to an ordinance against forcible or "dishonest" religious conversions.

#### DETAILS

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- **Therefore in this regard, the state cabinet cleared the 'Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020'.**
- This ordinance aims to control and limit the forcible or "dishonest" religious conversions including those for the purpose of marriage.
- This ordinance will prohibit conversion of religion through force, frauds, under influence or misrepresentation.
- **As per the ordinance, the marriage will be declared as null if the moto of marriage was to change the religion of girls.**
- The offenders on doing so will have to undergo a jail punishment of up to 10 years.
- If a minor woman or person belonging to SC or ST are converted by unlawful measures, the punishment of jail for minimum 3 years along with the fine amount of Rs 25,000 is declared.
- As per the ordinance, individuals who wish to change religion after marriage will have to apply for same at district magistrate office.
- **Static Part:** Wild Life Sanctuaries in UP: Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, Chandra Prabha Wildlife Sanctuary, Ranipur Wildlife Sanctuary, Kachhua Sanctuary, Vijai Sagar Sanctuary, Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary, Lakh Bahosi Sanctuary

### 'JAGANANNA THODU' - AN INTEREST FREE LOAN SCHEME

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**Current Context:** The Government of Andhra Pradesh launched the 'Jagananna Thodu' Scheme.

#### ABOUT SCHEME

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- **The scheme is an interest-free benefit service for small traders and street vendors.**
- The fund allotted for this scheme is Rs 905 crores and is said to benefit around 9.05 lakh traders and street vendors.
- Under this scheme, an **interest-free loan of Rs 10,000** will be offered to small traders and street vendors in their bank account.
- Also, the QR based smart ID cards will be given to them to avail various benefits.
- Enrollment for the scheme can also be done by dialling toll-free number 1902.
- The scheme will be managed and monitored by SERP (Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty) and MEPMA (Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas).