



**BANK  
EXAMS  
Today**



**MONTHLY  
ONE-LINER  
GK DIGEST:  
NOVEMBER**



**2020**

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# MONTHLY ONE-LINER GK DIGEST: NOVEMBER 2020

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Shanghai- World's most connected City

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

## NATIONAL NEWS

### India's first seaplane service launched by PM Modi

- 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.

### **Green Delhi App**

- The **Chief Minister of Delhi** launched the Green Delhi mobile application.
- The app is launched for citizens so that they can **bring into the government's notice about the pollution causing activities in the capital.**

### **'Strategic Policy and Facilitation Bureau'**

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

### **Tourist Facilitation Centre-- Kerala**

- The inauguration was done by **Union Minister of State (I/C) for Tourism and Culture, Prahlad Singh Patel.**
- The center is constructed at a cost of **Rs 11.57 crores.**

### **PM Modi laid Foundation Stone for Development projects in Varanasi**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various development projects to be conducted in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.**
- Project costing is **Rs 614 crore.**

### **'AIM-Sirius Innovation Programme 3.0'**

- 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'.
- This programme aims to **develop technological solutions in both web and mobile-based areas for India and Russia.**

### **Pakke Tiger Reserve offers Insurance cover against Covid-19 for Green Soldiers**

- The Pakke Tiger Reserve (PTR) which is in **Arunachal Pradesh offers insurance cover against COVID-19 for "green soldiers".**
- Thus, PTR in Arunachal Pradesh has become first in the **eight-state of the northeast to do so.**

### **Marg ERP partnered with Paytm**

- 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.**

### **Creation of National Database for Unorganised 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.
- The total costing for creating this **database is Rs 650 crore.**

### **Cabinet approved Production-Linked incentive Scheme**

- 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.
- This is extended with an outlay of **Rs 8,100 crore.**

### **'Payout Links' by Paytm**

- 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.**

### **Mission COVID Suraksha**

- 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.

### **'Project Air Care'-- Haryana**

- 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.**

### **Jeevan Seva App**

- 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.
- 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.

### **DIPAM signs agreement with World Bank**

- The **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)** has entered into an agreement with the World Bank.
- They have entered into an agreement so that **World Bank will provide advisory services to DIPAM for asset monetization.**

### **StashFin partners with Visa**

- 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.

### **BRICS Nations adopted Counter Terrorism Strategy**

- 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.

### **'Project Kirana'—Mastercard and USAID**

- **Mastercard and United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** jointly launched 'Project Kirana'.
- Both the entities partnered with each other under **Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative (W-GDP)** to launch this project.

### **Capacity Building Component of PM-FME & GIS ODOP Digital Map of India**

- 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.
- He also launched **GIS One District One Product (ODOP)** Digital Map of India.

### **Indian Railways partnered with Indian School of Business, Hyderabad**

- The Indian Railways collaborated with **Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad.**
- They have joined hands to study an integrated coal-freight optimization model **to increase network throughput and to optimize freight transportation over Indian Railways.**

### **10th National Science Film Festival**

- The 10th edition of **National Science Film Festival** was held from **24th Nov to 27th Nov** in a virtual mode amidst of Coronavirus pandemic.
- The festival was organized by **Vigyan Prasar in partnership with Tripura State Council of Science and Technology.**

### **National Portal for Transgender Persons**

- The **'National Portal for Transgender Persons'** was launched by Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Thaawarchand Gehlot.
- He also launched **'Garima Greh: A Shelter Home for Transgender Persons'** in **Vadodara, Gujarat.**

### **UP Governor gave assent to an Ordinance against Forcible Religious Conversion**

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

- Therefore in this regard, the state cabinet cleared the **'Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020'**.

## **BANKING**

### **'Visa Direct'—By RBL Bank and Visa**

- 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.**
- This 'Visa Direct' will enable **RBL Bank to increase its offerings to fintech firms.**

### **Life + 36 Critical Illness Insurance—Aegon Life Insurance Company Limited**

- Under this insurance, the policyholder will **get the life protection benefit, when diagnosed with any of the 36 critical illnesses.**
- 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.**

### **Visa partners with DigitSecure and HDFC Bank**

- 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.**
- Thus DigitSecure has become the **first company in Asia-Pacific to receive PCI security certification** for deploying this technology.

### **ADB approves loan to Improve Power Distribution in Meghalaya**

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved the loan **to improve and upgrade the power distribution network in Meghalaya.**
- The loan of **USD 132.8 million** is approved by ADB.

### **'ICICI Bank Mine', a Comprehensive Banking Programme**

- ICICI Bank has launched a **comprehensive banking programme** for its millennial customers belonging to the age group of 18 to 35 years.
- The name of a comprehensive banking programme is **'ICICI Bank Mine'**.

### **'Smart Drive Private Car Insurance'**

- The **Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with Bharti AXA General Insurance** to offer comprehensive car insurance.
- The name of the car insurance is **'Smart Drive Private Car Insurance'**.

### **'SmartHub Merchant Solutions 3.0'**

- The private sector bank, **HDFC Bank in partnership with Visa** launched the **'SmartHub Merchants Solutions 3.0'**.
- The solution is termed to be **India's first comprehensive banking and payment solution for merchants.**

**India's GDP at -8.9% for FY 2020—By Moody's Rating Agency**

- The **Moody's Rating Agency** has projected that **GDP of India at -8.9%** for FY 2020.
- Earlier the rating agency projected GDP for India at **-9.6%**.

**SBM Bank India partnered with PayNearby**

- The SBM Bank India, which is the **wholly-owned subsidiary of State Bank of Mauritius** has entered into a partnership with Fintech PayNearby.
- They have partnered to **launch a neo banking platform**.

**'Eva'-- Unique Saving Account for Women**

- The **Eva saving account offers an interest rate of 7%** along with PF waiver, discounted gold rates and 20-25% discount on locker facility.
- Also, the **Equitas Small Finance Bank (ESFB)** has appointed **Smriti Mandhana** as their brand ambassador.

**RBI creates Innovation Hub**

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has set up 'Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH).'
- The **Innovation Hub is set up** for the financial sector's innovation.

**RBI Imposed a moratorium on Lakshmi Vilas Bank**

- 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.

**'Mooh Band Rakho Campaign'—HDFC Bank**

- The **HDFC Bank has launched a campaign** called 'Mooh Band Rakho'.
- The 'Mooh Band Rakho' campaign is launched to **create and spread awareness on cyber fraud and ways to avoid them**.

**India's GDP to contract at 10.3% in FY2021—By Goldman Sachs**

- As per revised data from Goldman Sachs, **India's GDP to contract at 10.3%** for FY 2021.
- For FY 2022, the **Goldman Sachs has projected India's GDP at 13%**.

**'CASA Mobilisation Campaign'—HDFC Bank**

- 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**.

**India's GDP for FY 21 at -6.4%—By Barclays**

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

### **Kotak ESG Opportunities Fund**

- 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 KAMC** will manage the Kotak ESG Opportunities Fund.

### **ADB approved loan for Operational Efficiencies & Resource Planning in WB**

- 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.

### **NSDL Payments Bank partnered with HDFC ERGO**

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

### **SDG Investor Map for India**

- The **Sustainable Development Goal investor map** for India is launched by Invest India and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- The investment opportunity areas focus on **6 critical SDG goals which are defined by the United Nations**.

### **HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank to support SMEs and Start-ups**

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

### **SMS Pay Function —By Yes Bank and Wordline**

- 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**.

### **India's GDP contracts 7.5% in September quarter**

- 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.

### **India's GDP at -10.5% for FY21— By UBS**

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



- The estimation is released by UBS in its **Global Economics and Markets Outlook 2021-2022 report**.

## INDEX AND RANKING

### 5th Public Affairs Index 2020

- The **5th Edition of Public Affairs Index 2020** based on Governance is released.
- The performance parameters for Public Affairs Index 2020 based on Governance are: **Equity, Growth and Sustainability**.

### TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix 2020

- The **TRACE Matrix ranking list** is released by **TRACE International**, which is an anti-bribery standard-setting organisation.
- As per the ranking, India is placed at the position of **77th rank, with a score of 45 in the global list**.

## REPORTS

### IBSA Report on 'Deepening Cooperation in IBSA

- The **India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) report on 'Deepening Cooperation in IBSA: Perspectives from Key Sectors'** was launched.
- It was launched by **Economic Relations Secretary of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Rahul Chhabra**.

## APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Person	Designation
PVG Menon	CEO of Electronics Sector Skill Council of India (ESSCI)
Rajiv Jalota	Chairman of Mumbai Port Trust
Alassane Ouattara	President of Ivory Coast
Duarte Pacheco	30th President of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
Dilip Rath	Board of International Dairy Federation (IDF)
Piercristiano Brazzale	President of International Dairy Federation (IDF)
John Magufuli	President of Tanzania
AK Gupta	MD and CEO of ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL)
Shashi S. Vempati	Head the 4 member committee which will review 'Guidelines on Television Rating Agencies in India'
Indian Army Chief General MM Naravane	Honorary rank to be the General of Nepal Army
Gyanendro Ningombam	President of Hockey India
Mohd Mushtaq Ahmad	Senior Vice President of Hockey India
Joseph Robinette Biden Jr.	46th President of the United States

Kamala Harris	Vice-President of the United States
Vidisha Maitra	United Nations Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha	Chief Information Commissioner of Central information Commission
Rajkummar Rao	Brand Ambassador for Syska Group
Chacha Chaudhary	Brand Ambassador for Namami Gange Project
Akshay Kumar Singh	MD and CEO of Petronet LNG Ltd
Michael Holding	New patron of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) Foundation
Arun Goel	Head the committee set up by GOI to strengthen Capital Goods Sector
Sandip Bhagat	Head the committee to review the frameworks of share-based employee benefits and issue of sweat equity and to suggest policy changes.
R Chandrasekaran	Head the committee which will work to revisit the retail business of engineering tariff.
Nitish Kumar	Chief Minister of Bihar
Sanjay Kumar Mishra	Director of Enforcement Directorate (ED)
Maia Sandu	First Women President of Moldova
Navneet Munot	MD and CEO of HDFC Mutual Funds
Senapathy (Kris) Gopalakrishnan	First Chairperson of the 'Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)'
Rohit Sharma	Brand Ambassador for Financepeer
Smriti Mandhana	Brand Ambassador for Equitas Small Finance Bank (ESFB)
Greg Barclay	Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC)
VK Saraswat	Head the committee formed by NITI Aayog
Lt Gen. Harpal Singh	New Engineer-in-Chief of Indian Army
Major Gen. Rajeev Chaudhary	DG of Border Roads Organisation (BRO)

### AWARDS AND HONOURS

<b>Awards</b>	<b>Awardee</b>
Emmett Leahy Award 2020	Dr Dinesh Katre
Ezhuthachan Puraskaram 2020	Paul Zacharia
JC Daniel Award for lifetime contribution to Malayalam Cinema	Hariharan
JCB Prize in Literature for 2020	S Hareesh
Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2020	Azim Premji
Tata Literature Live Lifetime Achievement Award 2020	Ruskin Bond
Fertiliser Association of India (FAI) Golden Jubilee	Dr K S Subramanian
International Children's Peace Prize 2020	Sadat Rahman
2020 Booker Prize for Fiction	Douglas Stuart
Vatayan Lifetime Achievement Award	Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank

2020 Aditya Vikram Birla Kala Shikhar Puraskar	Naseeruddin Shah
2020 Aditya Vikram Birla Kalakiran Puraskar	Neel Choudhary and Irawati Karnik
2020 AESC (Association of Executive Search and Leadership Consultants) lifetime Achievement Award 2020	Dr Bish Agrawal

**IMPORTANT DAYS**

Date	Day	Theme
1 <sup>st</sup> November 2020	World Vegan Day	--
2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2020	International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalism	--
5 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	World Tsunami Awareness Day	--
6 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict	--
7 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	National Cancer Awareness Day	--
8 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	International Day for Radiology	<b>Theme:</b> 'Radiologists and Radiographers supporting patients during COVID-19'
9 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	National Legal service Day	--
10 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	World Science Day for Peace and Development	<b>Theme:</b> Science for and with Society
11 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	National Education Day	--
12 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	Public Service Broadcasting Day	--
12 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	World Pneumonia Day	--
13 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	National Ayurveda Day	--
13 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	World Kindness Day	<b>Theme:</b> The World We Make-Inspire Kindness'
14 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	World Diabetes Day	<b>Theme:</b> 'The Nurse and Diabetes'
15 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims	<b>Theme:</b> 'First Responders'
15 <sup>th</sup> November to 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2020	National Newborn Week	<b>Theme:</b> 'Quality, Equity, Dignity for every newborn at every health facility and everywhere'
16 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	International Day of Tolerance	--
16 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	National Press Day	--
16 <sup>th</sup> November to 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2020	59 <sup>th</sup> National Pharmacy Week	<b>Theme:</b> Pharmacists: Frontline Health Professionals
17 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	National Epilepsy Day	--
17 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	International Students Day	--
18 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	National Naturopathy Day	--
18 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	World COPD Day	<b>Theme:</b> 'Living Well with COPD-Everybody, Everywhere'

18 <sup>th</sup> November to 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	World Antimicrobial Awareness Week	<b>Theme:</b> 'United to Preserve Antimicrobials'
19 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	World Philosophy Day	--
19 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	World Toilet Day	<b>Theme:</b> 'Sustainable Sanitation and Climate Change'
19 <sup>th</sup> November to 25 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	World Heritage Week	--
20 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	Africa Industrialization Day	<b>Theme:</b> 'Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization in the AfCFTA Era'
20 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	World Children's Day	--
21 <sup>st</sup> November 2020	World Fisheries Day	--
21 <sup>st</sup> November 2020	World Television Day	--
23 <sup>rd</sup> November to 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	Aviation Safety Awareness Week by Airport Authority of India (AAI)	--
25 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women	<b>Theme:</b> 'Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!'
26 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	National Milk Day	--
26 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	Indian Constitution Day or Samvidhan Diwas	--
29 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	Important Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People	--
30 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	Day of Remembrance for all victims of chemical warfare	--

### MOUS SIGNED

#### IISc signs MoU with Indian Oil

- 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.**

#### IREDA signs MoU with MNRE

- The **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)** Limited has signed MoU with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- They have entered into an agreement in order to **frame targets for the year 2020-21.**

#### MoU between India and Spain in Astronomy- Approved by Union Cabinet

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

- The MoU is signed to develop scientific and technical cooperation between both nations in the **Astronomy sector**.

#### **MoU between India and UK in ICT Sector- Approved by Union Cabinet**

- 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.

#### **Prasar Bharti signed MoU with BISAG-N**

- 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.

#### **AAI signed MoU with NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVTN)**

- The **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** has signed MoU with **NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVTN)**, which is the subsidiary of NTPC.
- They have signed MoU to **promote the use of electric vehicles and setting up solar power plants at airports of AAI**.

#### **Four Agreements signed between India and Maldives**

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

#### **EESL signed MoU with DNRE, Goa**

- The **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)** has signed MoU with Department of New & Renewable Energy (DNRE), Goa.
- They have signed MoU to discuss and **plan the implementation of India's first 100 MW decentralized solar convergence project**.

#### **India signs loan agreement with World Bank for transport sector in Meghalaya**

- 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.

#### **GOI signs MoU for Compressed Bio-Gas Plants**

- 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.
- The MoU is signed under **SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation)** initiative.

**Himachal Pradesh joined hands with ADB**

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

**FICCI FLO signs MoU with IESC of IIM Shillong**

- 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.
- The MoU is signed **for the purpose of a mentorship programme for women entrepreneurs.**

**India signs MoU with Finland**

- India and Finland have entered into MoU in the **field of biodiversity conservation and environment protection.**
- The MoU agreement was signed by **Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar and his counterpart Krista Mikkonen of Finland.**

**BSE signs MoU with Mission Youth, Gov. of J&K**

- The BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange Ltd) has signed MoU with **Mission Youth, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.**
- The MoU is signed **to spread financial awareness, support economic development, develop sustainable livelihood in J&K.**

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**DEFENCE**

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**Malabar Naval Exercise 2020**

- 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.**

**'Sagar Kavach'-- A two-day Joint Coastal Security Exercise Commenced**

- The 'Sagar Kavach', **joint coastal security exercise** was launched at Paradip Coast, Odisha.
- The exercise is a joint effort of **Odisha and West Bengal governments.**

**'Bull Strike' -- A Triservice Exercise**

- 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).**

### **Indian Navy launched the fifth Scorpene submarine 'Vagir'**

- The **Indian Navy launched the fifth Scorpene submarine 'Vagir'**. It was launched at Mazagon Dock of south Mumbai.
- 'Vagir' is the part of **six Kalvari class submarine** that is being built in India.

### **India Test Fired Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM)**

- 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.**
- The QRSAM was launched from a **mobile launcher capable of carrying 6 canisterised missiles.**

### **30th Indo-Thai CORPAT**

- The **30th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT)** was held between the Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy.
- It was conducted in the **Andaman sea close to the Strait of Malacca.**

### **SITMEX-2020**

- 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.

### **SIMBEX-20**

- The **27th edition of India- Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise (SIMBEX-20)** is being held from 23rd Nov to 25th Nov 2020.
- It is conducted in the **Andaman Sea between the Indian Navy and Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).**

### **India test fired Brahmos Supersonic Missile**

- The Indian Army successfully test-fired the **land-attack version of Brahmos supersonic missile.**
- The test-firing operation took **place from Andaman and Nicobar Islands** where it successfully hit its target, which was on another island.

### **Defence Ministers meet of India and Vietnam**

- 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 signed an **agreement for enhancing cooperation in Hydrography.**

## **GOVERNMENT SCHEMES**

### **Fortified Rice Distribution Scheme--Chhattisgarh**

- 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.

#### **Swami Atmanand Government English Medium School Scheme--Chhattisgarh**

- 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.

#### **'Parivarthanam Scheme'-- Kerala**

- The **Kerala government has launched 'Parivarthanam Scheme'**, which is a pioneering eco-sustainable programme.
- The scheme is launched for the **betterment of the Fishing Community.**

#### **MNRE Amends Guidelines for PM-KUSUM Scheme**

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

#### **'Bharat Darshan--Dakshin Bharat Yatra'**

- The **'Bharat Darshan--Dakshin Bharat Yatra'** will be started by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).
- It will commence on **12th Dec 2020.**

#### **'Aatma Nirbhar Madhya Pradesh 2023'**

- 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.**

#### **'Local4Diwali' Campaign of Textile Ministry**

- 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.**

#### **PM Modi unveiled 'Statue of Peace'**

- 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).**

#### **3 months SAANS Campaign by MoHFW**

- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** launched a three months SAANS campaign.
- The SAANS signifies **Social Action and Awareness to Neutralize Pneumonia Successfully.**



### **GOI sanctions loan for micro irrigation projects in Tamil Nadu**

- The GOI has sanctioned a loan amount for the **development of micro-irrigation projects in Tamil Nadu.**
- In this regards, GOI has sanctioned a **loan of Rs 3,971 crores at a subsidised interest rate** under micro-irrigation Fund (MIF).

### **Har Ghar Nal Yojana**

- 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.**

### **'Abhayam App'—Andhra Pradesh**

- 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.

### **PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana**

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

### **NAFED's Honey FPO Programs launched by Agriculture Minister**

- The **Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar** launched the five **Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)** programs.
- The programs belong to the **NAFED (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India)** under the **Formation & Promotion of 10,000 FPOs** scheme.

### **Sahakar Pragya Programme**

- The **Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development, Panchayat Raj and Food Processing Industries, Narendra Singh Tomar** launched **Sahakar Pragya Programme.**
- This programme is launched **to train the primary cooperative societies in India.**

### **'Jagananna Thodu'- An interest free Loan Scheme**

- The scheme is an **interest-free benefit service for small 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.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **SERB-POWER Initiative of DST**

- The **Union Minister of Science and Technology, Dr Harsh Vardhan** launched the initiative called SERB-Power.
- The significance of **SERB-POWER is (Science and Engineering and Research Board-Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research).**

### **IITM COVID Game—IIT Madras**

- The 'IITM COVID Game' is developed and launched by the **Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.**
- The game is launched **to create awareness about COVID-19 amongst children.**

### **Accelerator for Electronics Technologies (ACE)--Kerala**

- 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).**

### **AI enabled Solution to Automate Motor claim Settlements**

- HDFC Ergo General Insurance has launched an **Artificial Intelligence (AI) based tool to automate motor claim settlements.**
- The name of the **AI tool by HDFC Ergo is IDEAS** (Intelligent Damage detection Estimation and Assessment Solution).

### **IIT-Madras partnered with DG Takano**

- 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.
- They have collaborated with an aim **to develop new clean water technologies in India.**

### **ISRO launched all Weather Earth Observation Satellite & 9 Customer Satellites**

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has launched all-weather Earth Observation Satellite, **EOS-01 using PSLV-C49 and nine customer satellites.**
- The launching took place from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.**

### **'Covid Shield+'—By Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance**

- The **Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance** launched the insurance products called 'Covid Shield+'.
- The 'Covid Shield+' has a tenure of **1 year with its premium rates starting from Rs 5,329.**

### **Indian Astronomers joined hands with 2020 Physics Nobel Laureate**

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

- They have joined hands to design the **back-end instruments and study possible science prospects** of the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) project.

#### **AGS Transact partnered with Utimaco**

- The **AGS Transact Technologies Limited** partnered with **Utimaco** (based in Germany).
- They have entered into a partnership **for the purpose of Cyber Defence Technology**.

#### **Copernicus Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich Satellite**

- 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.

#### **International version of the UMANG Application**

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** launched the International version of the UMANG application.
- The version is launched in countries like **UK, US, Australia, Canada, Netherlands, UAE, Australia, Singapore and New Zealand**.

#### **Varunastra: The heavy weight torpedo delivered to Indian Navy**

- The **first Production unit of Varunastra** which is the **Heavy Weight Torpedo (HWT)** was delivered to the Indian Navy.
- The Varunastra is developed by the **Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL)** of the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.

#### **India and Israel partners to build future with low carbon and pollution**

- During the digital conference of the **India-led International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, India and Israel entered into a partnership.
- Both **India and Israel** partnered to **reduce the carbon level and pollution in future**.

## **SPORTS**

#### **Sports Ministry to Provide Incentives Under Khelo India Initiative**

- The **Union Minister of Sports, Kiren Rijiju** announced that Sports Minister, GOI will be providing incentives to private academics under Khelo India initiative.
- Around 500 such private academics will **be provided with incentive support**.

**SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES****2020 Annual Political Dialogue between India and GCC Troika**

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

**5th Joint Working Group on Coal between India-Indonesia**

- The meeting for the **5th joint working group on coal between India and Indonesia** was held virtually.
- Indonesia also held presentation talks related to **Coal Policy and Current Coal Business, Deep Seated Coal Potential in their country.**

**First India-Nordic-Baltic Conclave**

- 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).**

**4th High-level meet of the India-OPEC Energy Dialogue**

- 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.

**40th Meet of SAARC Central Bank Governors Meet**

- The meeting was held under the chairmanship of **Reserve Bank of India Governor, Shaktikanta Das.**
- During the meet, **RBI Governor inaugurated the SAARCFINANCE Sync,** which is a closed user group secure communication network.

**Virtual Global Investor Roundtable (VGIR) 2020 Conference**

- The Virtual Global Investor Roundtable (VGIR) 2020 Conference was chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**
- The conference was organized by the **Ministry of Finance in coordination with the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund.**

**Inter-Ministerial Approval Committee Meet**

- **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.

- In this meeting, the minister approved **29 projects leveraging the investment of Rs 443 crores.**

### **Australia-India Water Centre Inaugurated**

- The Australia-India Water Centre was inaugurated **virtually through a webinar held with a view of COVID-19 pandemic.**
- The centre is an initiative of **IIT Guwahati, University of Western Sydney of Australia** and 21 other partners from India and Australia.

### **20th SCO Council of Heads of State Summit**

- The **20th Summit of SCO Council of Heads of State** was held virtually.
- The **Indian delegation was led by PM Narendra Modi** and it was chaired by Vladimir Putin, President of Russia.

### **17th ASEAN-India Virtual Summit**

- The **17th ASEAN-India Summit** was recently held virtually. Prime Minister Narendra Modi co-chaired the summit.
- The summit was chaired by **Prime Minister of Vietnam, Nguyen Xuan Phuc.**

### **15th East Asia Summit 2020**

- 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.
- The Indian side expressed their view on **enhancing cooperation in order to tackle post COVID period.**

### **8th BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial Meeting**

- 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.
- The meeting helped **to strengthen science and technology cooperation among BRICS nations.**

### **'Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)'**

- 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)'.
- The RCEP is the **world's largest trading bloc and the world's biggest free trade deal.**

### **3rd Annual Bloomberg New Economy Forum**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** addressed the 3rd Annual Bloomberg New Economy Forum via video conference.
- The forum was held to discuss ways **to restore the economy which has affected due to pandemic COVID-19.**

### **7th round of FoC between India and Kazakhstan**

- India and Kazakhstan conducted a **7th round of Foreign Office Consultations (FoC) virtually.**
- The nations signed MoU on **'Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of High Impact Community Development Projects in Kazakhstan'**.

### **1st India-Luxembourg Virtual Summit**

- **First India and Luxembourg summit** was held virtually.
- The summit was jointly addressed by **PM Narendra Modi** and by **Prime Minister of Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Xavier Bettel.**

### **33rd Stop TB Partnership Board Meet**

- The 33rd Stop TB Partnership Board meeting was addressed by **Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan via video conference.**
- He also commented about **'TB Harega, Desh Jeetega'** campaign of India.

### **15th G20 Summit**

- 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.**

### **2020 APEC Summit**

- 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'.

### **23rd Bengaluru Tech Summit 2020**

- 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.**

### **RE-Invest 2020**

- The **3rd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo (RE-Invest 2020)** was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The summit is organized by **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** and is held between 26th Nov to 28th Nov 2020.

### **33rd PRAGATI interaction by PM Modi**

- 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.

