

PIB SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 2020

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PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT

- President Ram Nath Kovind addressed the nation on the occasion of "Constitution Day" on November 26. This was the 71st anniversary of the adoption of our Constitution. It was on 26th November, 1949 that the Indian Constitution was adopted and it came into force on 26th January 1950. This day was celebrated as National Law Day but is being observed as the Constitution Day since 2015.
- President inaugurated the 80th All India Presiding Officers' Conference on Constitution Day.

VICE PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu virtually inaugurated 'International Satavadhanam' event. It is a literary feat.

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the Virtual Global Investor Roundtable (VGIR) that was organized by the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund and the Ministry of Finance.
- Italy-India Virtual Summit was held on 6th November 2020. PM Narendra Modi and Italy's Prime Minister Prof. Giuseppe Conte participated in the summit.
- PM Modi recently inaugurated the "100 m long Ro-Pax terminal" at Gujarat's Hazira. He also flagged off the Ro-Pax ferry service between Ghogha and Hazira. PM Modi also announced the renaming of the Ministry of Shipping to the "Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways".
- Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit Council of Heads of State (CHS) 2020 was held on November 10. It was the 20th SCO CHS Summit which was headed by the Russian President, Vladimir Putin.

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- PM attended the 17th ASEAN-India Summit. All the 10 ASEAN members virtually participated in the summit.
- On the occasion of 5th Ayurveda Day on November 13, PM Modi inaugurated the National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA) in Rajasthan's Jaipur and the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA) in Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- In order to mark the 151st Birth Anniversary of Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj, PM Modi unveiled the 'Statue of Peace' in Rajasthan.
- PM Modi virtually addressed the 12th BRICS Summit. "Global stability, shared security and innovative growth" was the theme of the summit.
- Prime Minister virtually inaugurated a Tech Summit in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The theme of the tech summit was "Next is Now".
- PM Modi laid the inaugural stone for the rural drinking water supply projects in Sonbhadra and Mirzapur districts of Vindhyachal region of Uttar Pradesh.
- India-Luxembourg Virtual Summit was held on November 19, 2020. The meet was held between Indian PM Narendra Modi and Luxembourg's PM of H.E. Xavier. MoUs acknowledged during the summit were- agreement between India International Exchange and Luxembourg Stock Exchange; agreement between SBI and Luxembourg Stock Exchange and agreement Invest India and Luxinnovation.
- Prime Minister attended the 15th G20 Summit convened by Saudi Arabia.
- Lachit Diwas was observed on November 24. PM Modi paid tributes to Lachit Borphukan on the day. Lachit Diwas is celebrated every year on the birth anniversary of the leader.
- PM Modi headed the 33rd PRAGATI meeting. PRAGATI stands for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation. Multiple grievances and projects were reviewed in the meeting.
- PM Modi inaugurated RE-Invest 2020. RE-Invest stands for Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo. It was the 3rd global RE-Invest meet. The theme of this year's meet was 'Innovations for Sustainable Energy Transition'. This meet was organized by the New and Renewable Energy Ministry.
- PM Modi inaugurated 6-lane widening project of a section of NH-19 in Varanasi. The section is the Varanasi - Prayagraj.
- PM Modi participated in the Dev Deepawali Mahotsav in UP's Varanasi on Guru Nanak Dev Jayanti which was observed on November 30.

CABINET

- The Cabinet gave its approval for the merger of Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited (LVB) with DBS Bank India Limited (DBIL). LVB branches are now DBS India branches.
- The government approved the infusion of equity of Rs 6000 crores in NIIF Debt Platform. It is sponsored by National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) which includes NIIF Infrastructure Finance Limited (NIIF-IFL) and Aseem Infrastructure Finance Limited (AIFL).
- The Union Cabinet approved the introduction of the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme in 10 key sectors for strengthening the Manufacturing Capabilities and Exports of India-Atmanirbhar Bharat. The sectors are-
 1. Advance Chemistry
 2. Automobiles and Auto Components

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3. Electronic/Technology Products
4. Textile Products: MMF segment and technical textiles
5. Telecom and Networking Products
6. Pharmaceuticals drugs
7. White Goods (ACs & LED)
8. High Efficiency Solar PV Modules
9. Food Products
10. Speciality Steel

MOUS APPROVED BY CABINET OR RECENTLY SIGNED MOUS

Signed Between	Approved/Signed on	MOU Signed for
India and Israel	Approved on November 4	For cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine
India's CDSCO (Central Drugs Standard Control Organization) and the United Kingdom Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (UK MHRA)	Approved on November 4	For cooperation in medical Product Regulation.
Ministry of Communications, India and UK Government's Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sports (DCMS)	Approved on November 4	For cooperation in the area of Telecommunications/Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).
India and Spain MoU was signed between Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru and the Instituto de Astrofisica de Canarias (IAC) and the GRANTECAN, Spain	Approved on November 4	For developing technical and scientific collaborations in the field of astronomy.
Vereniging van Registercontrollers(VRC), the Netherlands and Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)	Approved on November 25	For the development of the Financial, Accounting, and Audit Knowledge Base between India and the Netherlands.
BRICS Countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa)	Approved on November 25	Cooperation in Sports and promoting Physical Culture.

CABINET COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (CCEA)

- CCEA headed by PM Modi gave its approval for the investment of Rs 1810.56 crore for 210 MW Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project. The project is being implemented on River Satluj and will produce 758.20 million units of electricity per year.

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- CCEA gave its approval for the reconditioning and continuation of Financial Support scheme for PPPs i.e. Public Private Partnerships in VGF Scheme (Infrastructure Viability Gap Funding) till 2024-25. The total outlay will be Rs 8,100 crore.

AYUSH

- An international webinar on the theme of “Yoga and Ayurveda Medicine for Mental Wellness” was organized by All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in collaboration with Western Sydney University.
- On the occasion of 5th Ayurveda Day on November 13, PM Modi virtually dedicated two national Ayurveda Institutions to the country. National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA), Jaipur will be Deemed University and the Institute of Teaching & Research in Ayurveda (ITRA), Jamnagar was dedicated as an Institution of National Importance (INI).
- A 3-day programme on the theme of “Nurturing Vitality through Naturopathy” was organized on the 3rd Naturopathy Day i.e. November 18. The programme was organized by the ashram-Nisargopchar in association with the National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune.
- AYUSH Minister, Shripad Yesso Naik headed a virtual event organised on the establishment day of the National Medicinal Plant Board on November 24, 2020. The minister also released two e-books on the occasion namely "Ayur-veg" and “Status Report of NMPB 2020”.

FINANCE COMMISSION

- The 15th Finance Commission has submitted its report to the President Ram Nath Kovind for the years 2021-22 to 2025-26. The 15th commission was led by its Chairman N K Singh. The report is divided into 4 volumes.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

- Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar unveiled "Sahakar Pragya". It is collection of 45 new training modules aimed at increasing the training capacity of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). Sahakar Pragya, the training module, will be providing training to cooperative societies in rural areas along with Linac (Lakshmanrao Inamdar National Cooperative Research and Development Academy).

MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

- HIL (India) Limited signed an agreement with the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals for achieving the target of generating revenue of Rs 451 crore in 2020-21. The agreement was signed between Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi, Secretary, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals and Chairman & Managing Director of HIL (India) Ltd, SP Mohanty.
- IFFCO Bazar joined hands with SBI YONO Krishi App for easy accessibility of quality agri-products in India. IFFCO Bazar is the e-commerce arm of IFFCO and SBI YONO Krishi App is a platform that

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caters the needs of the farmers. After this integration the farmers who are customers of SBI can get free home delivery of all farming related products through IFFCO eBazar portal.

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

- Aviation Safety Awareness Week 2020 was observed from November 23 to 27 by the Airports Authority of India (AAI).

MINISTRY OF COAL

- The 5th Joint Working Group (JWG) on Coal between Indonesia and India was virtually conducted. The conference was co-chaired by Jonson Pakpahan, Director for Mineral and Coal, Non Tax State Revenue of Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Indonesia and India's Ministry of Coal's Additional Secretary Vinod Kumar Tiwari.

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) along with the Invest India has together launched the SDG Investor Map for India. It has highlighted 18 Investment Opportunities Areas (IOAs) in 6 critical SDG enabling sectors for helping India on Sustainable Development.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

- Minister of Communications, Law and Justice and Electronics & IT, Ravi Shankar Prasad released a "My Stamp on Chhath Puja". Through this, any person or institution can order and get a personalized photo on the stamp.
- India Post of the Mumbai Region has released a unique cover on the theme of cleanliness and recycling.
- Department of Telecommunications has decided that All Fixed to Mobile calls to be dialed with prefix '0' from January 15, 2021.
- On the occasion of "The Constitution Day" on November 26, the Goa Postal Division has released a Special Cancellation.

MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

- Competition Commission of India (CCI) gave its approval to ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Limited (ICICI Lombard) for acquiring General Insurance Business of Bharti AXA General Insurance Company Limited (Bharti AXA) by under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002.
- CCI organized a workshop of Competition Agencies of BRICS nations on the theme of "Competition Issues in Automotive Sector".

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MINISTRY OF CULTURE

- Minister of State for Culture (I/C), Harsh Vardhan has inaugurated the 360o video-immersive experience in a circular dome and digital exhibits on Gandhi that are installed at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat, in New Delhi.
- The 1st-ever Online SCO Exhibition on Shared Buddhist Heritage was launched during the 19th Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government (SCO CHG) in New Delhi.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

- MALABAR naval exercise between Indian Navy, Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF), US Navy and Royal Australian Navy (RAN) was conducted in two phases in November 2020. It was the 24th edition of the exercise and saw the participation of Australia for the 1st time.
- Australian Navy Ship HMAS Ballarat visited Mormugao Port, Goa to participate in Malabar exercise.
- As a part of Mission Sagar-II, INS Airavat reached Port Sudan with food aid. It is followed by Mission Sagar i.e. Security and Growth for All in the Region launched for strengthening relations with maritime neighbors.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Sing unveiled Anti Satellite (A-SAT) Missile model that was installed inside the DRDO Bhawan. The 1st Anti-Satellite (ASAT) Missile Test, "Mission Shakti" was conducted on March 27, 2019.
- Enhanced or upgraded version of PINAKA rocket system, developed by DRDO, was successfully tested from ITR Chandipur off the Odisha coast.
- Rajnath Singh released the hard copy of books having specific and selected speeches of President Ram Nath Kovind titled - 'लोकतन्त्र के स्वर' and 'The Republican Ethic' in New Delhi. It is the 3rd volume.
- The 30th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol between the Royal Thai Navy and Indian Navy was held from 18 to 20 November 2020. INS Karmuk and His Majesty's Thailand Ship (HTMS) Kraburi along with Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both the navies participated in the Indo-Thai CORPAT.
- The bilateral maritime exercise between India and Singapore Navy, SIMBEX -2020 was held in Andaman Sea from November 23 to 25, 2020. It was the 27th edition of the exercise. From Indian side, Indian Navy ships comprising of destroyer Rana, corvettes Karmuk and Kamorta, INS Sindhuraj and P8I maritime reconnaissance aircraft took part in the exercise. From Russian side, 'Formidable' Class frigates 'Intrepid', 'Steadfast' and 'Endurance' Class Landing Ship Tank 'Endeavour' took part in the exercise.
- The 2nd Trilateral Maritime Exercise between India, Singapore and Thailand, SITMEX-20 was held in Andaman Sea from 21 to 22 November 2020.

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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

- Sanjay Dhotre, Union Minister of State for Education, launched a self-help website of IIT Bombay-Bandhu. It has been launched to enhance the emotional well-being of the students. The website is supported of IIT Bombay alumni.
- Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' inaugurated a virtual program organised by IIT Bombay on National Education Day on November 11. The day is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of country's 1st Education Minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.
- Education Minister addressed a conference on 'Empowering through Zero- Shunya Se Sashaktikaran'. It was organised by Sri Aurobindo Society. The minister awarded 40 education officers and 26 teachers for their innovative efforts during COVID-19.
- Education Minister has inaugurated 46 online/digital AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs) for training teachers of higher institutions linked with All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE).
- Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has been honored with the Vatayan Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution in literature.
- Education Minister launched Lilavati Award 2020: AICTE's Innovative education program to empower women.

MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS & IT

- Electronics and Information Technology Ministry has once again banned 43 Chinese apps under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act. This section of the act provides a power to the government to block access or remove online material impacting sovereignty and integrity of India.
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- A 'Declaration by the Private Sector on Climate Change' was signed at India CEO Forum on Climate Change under the chairmanship of Environment Minister, Prakash Javadekar.
- The "India Climate Change Knowledge Portal" was launched by the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister, Prakash Javadekar. It is an Information resource that will avail information related to different climate initiatives undertaken by various Line Ministries.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

- Rajasthan, Kerala, Punjab and West Bengal have chosen Option-1 out of the two options provided by the Finance Ministry for meeting shortfall in revenue through GST implementation. Now, the number of States who have chosen this option is 26 and all 3 Union Territories with Legislative Assembly have also opted the option 1. Under this option, states will get a special window for borrowings.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman virtually participated in the meeting of G20 Finance Ministers.
- Indian Government, National Capital Region Transport Corporation Ltd, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), and the New Development Bank (NDB) have entered into a loan agreement in order to provide a loan of USD 500 million for the project named Delhi-Ghaziabad-

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Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System Project. The project aims to provide safe, reliable, fast public transport system in NCR region.

- Finance Minister announced the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat 3.0 stimulus of worth Rs 2.65 lakh crore. The stimulus included many announcements like an additional outlay of Rs 18000 crore for PMAY-Urban, Rs 65000 crore for subsidized fertilizers, NIIF Debt platform, etc.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attended the 1st Meeting of BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG).
- Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) has entered into an agreement with the World Bank under which the bank will be providing advisory services to DIPAM for asset monetization.
- Indian government, Meghalaya state government and the World Bank have signed an agreement for \$120 million project. Meghalaya Integrated Transport Project (MITP) aims to modernize and improve the transport sector of the state.

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & DAIRYING

- World Fisheries Day is observed on November 21 every year. On the occasion, this year in India UP state has also been awarded the best performing State in inland fisheries sector.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

- National Organ Donation Day celebrated on November 27 in Health Ministry.
- The National Newborn Week 2020 was observed from November 15 to 21 to emphasize on the importance of the health of newborn as a major priority area of the health sector. The theme of the week was - 'Quality, Equity, Dignity for every newborn at every health facility and everywhere'.
- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan virtually headed the 147th session of WHO Executive Board.

MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES & PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

- The government has set up a 22-member committee under the chairmanship of the Department of Heavy Industries Secretary Arun Goel. The committee has been set up with an aim of strengthening the Capital Goods sector and to reach the target of USD 5 trillion economy and USD 1 trillion manufacturing sector.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

- Home Minister Amit Shah launched and started a mobile COVID-19 RT-PCR Lab at the New Delhi's Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The lab has been jointly launched by the ICMR and SpiceHealth.

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MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN AFFAIRS

- As on November 18, 2020, 27,33, 497 applications have been received under the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atma-Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi). Out of these applications, 14,34,436 have been sanctioned and around 7,88,438 loans have been disbursed.
- Ministry of State for Housing and Urban Affairs (Independent Charge), Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated the 13th Urban Mobility India Conference on the theme of "Emerging Trends in Urban Mobility".

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

- Prasar Bharati, country's public broadcaster and Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics have signed an agreement for availing 51 DTH channels to all DD FreeDish viewers.
- Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar unveiled the e-book versions of two books named 'Loktantra Ke Swar' and 'The Republican Ethic Volume III'. The hard copy of these books was unveiled by Rajnath Singh.
- A special exhibition was held in Gujarat's Kevadia on the 71st Constitution Day on November 27.
- Prakash Javadekar and Union Minister for Civil Aviation and Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri released a book titled 'PM Modi and his Government's special relationship with Sikhs'. It was release in 3 languages Hindi, English and Punjabi.

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

- M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the Award distribution ceremony of 2nd National Water Awards (for 2019).
- World Toilet Day was observed on November 19. Jal Shakti Ministry conferred the Swachhata Awards 2020 for contribution to Open Defecation Free (ODF) Sustainability goals.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT

- Union Ministry of Labour and Employment has released the draft rules for the Code on Social Security, 2020 and have invited suggestions on the same.
- The Labour ministry also released the draft rules under the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020.
- EPFO i.e. Employees' Provident Fund Organisation has been conferred with 1st Platinum Partner Award for over 25 lakh transactions on the UMANG App. The UMANG awards were instituted on the occasion of the completion of 3 years of UMANG App on November 25, 2020.

MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE

- The iOS version of the Nyaya Bandhu App was launched on 71st Constitution Day (November 26) and it was also onboarded on the UMANG platform.

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- Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the Virtual Court (traffic) and e-Challan project in the state. 2nd virtual court of Maharashtra called “NyayKaushal” has also been inaugurated in October.

MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

- Khadi Exhibition was inaugurated by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

- Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and Minister of State for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju inaugurated the Hunar Haat at DilliHaat, Pitampura. The Hunar Haat has returned after 7 months due to COVID-19.

MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS

- Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel, Dharmendra Pradhan has inaugurated Oil India Limited (OIL) seismic survey campaign at Kakatpur in Puri District, Odisha in the Mahanadi Basin.
- Petroleum Minister laid the inaugural stone for the 1st 50 LNG fueling stations, across major National Highways and the golden quadrilateral. Also, 1000 LNG stations will be set up in coming 3 years.

MINISTRY OF POWER

- Ministry of Power has made it compulsory for all DISCOMs to comply with the Energy Conservation (EC) Act, 2001.
- Department of New & Renewable Energy (DNRE), Goa and Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) have signed an agreement for the first Convergence Project of the country in Goa.

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

- Indian Railways has engaged with RailTel for implementing hospital management information system (HMIS) across its 650 polyclinics and 125 health facilities. HMIS is a clinical information system.
- Indian Railways has introduced a fully digitized Human Resource Management System (HRMS).

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has made FASTag mandatory from 1st of January 2021 for all four-wheelers and also old vehicles i.e. M and N category that were sold before December 1, 2017. Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 has been amended for this.

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MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Awaas Diwas was celebrated on November 20. The ministry also celebrated Awaas week from November 16 to 22.

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit inaugurated by PM Modi on October 2 concluded. It was a virtual summit of resident and Overseas Indian Scientists and Academicians.
- AI Supercomputer Param Siddhi has ranked 63rd in top 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in the world. This high performance computing-artificial intelligence supercomputer was established under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) at C-DAC.
- Dry Swab-Direct RT-PCR method for COVID-19 testing that has been developed by CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad got ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) approval.
- The Indian government has announced a package of Rs 900 Crore for the Mission COVID Suraksha. This third stimulus package will be granted for the research and development of Indian COVID-19 vaccines. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) will take care of the mission.

MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

- International Maritime Organization (IMO) has approved the recognition of the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) as a component of the World Wide Radio Navigation System (WWRNS) for operating in the Indian Ocean Region.

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

- Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has again recognized the Archery Association of India as a National Sports Federation for regulating and promoting the sport in the country. This recognition is valid for 1 year.
- Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports, Kiren Rijiju launched the "Fit India School Week" program. It was the 2nd edition of the program.
- The Sports Ministry has approved 6 centres as the Khelo India Centre of Excellence (KISCE) and sanctioned a budget of 67.32 crore for 2020-21 to provide financial supports to the centres.

NITI AAYOG

- A 14-day virtual programme for Indian and Russian school children 'AIM-Sirius Innovation Programme 3.0' was launched by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Sirius, Russia. During the programme, 48 students and 16 mentors created virtual products and mobile apps.