

Current Affairs Today –27 and 28.12.2020

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CURRENT AFFAIRS: NATIONAL NEWS

India's 1st tiger reserve hot air balloon safari launched in Madhya Pradesh



- **India's first hot air balloon wildlife safari** in a **tiger reserve** was launched in the world famous Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve by **Madhya Pradesh** forest minister **Vijay Shah**.
- The activity will be restricted to the buffer area and people can watch tigers, leopards, Indian sloth bears and other wild animals from a height.
- It is the **first in any tiger reserve in the country**.
- The service is being operated by **Jaipur-based Sky Waltz**.

About MP:

- Capital : Bhopal
- Chief Minister : Shivraj Singh Chouhan

MoRTH extends validity of vehicular documents till 31st March 2021



- **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** has extended the validity of vehicular documents such as **driving licenses (DLs), registration certificates (RCs)** and Permits till **31st of March 2021** in the light of need to prevent the spread of Covid-19 Pandemic.
- The Ministry had earlier issued advisories on 30th March, 9th June and 24th August this year regarding extension of validity of documents related to **Motor Vehicles Act, 1988** and **Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989**.
- It was advised that the validity of Fitness, Permit (all types), License, Registration or any other concerned documents may be treated to be valid till 31st of December this year.

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- It is further advised that the validity of all of the above referred documents may be treated to be valid till 31st March 2021.
- This covers all documents whose validity has expired since 1st Feb, 2020 or would expire by 31st March 2021.

About Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways :

- Union Minister :Nitin Gadkari
- Minister of State : Mansukh Mandaviya
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Founded : July, 1942

Rajya Sabha MP RCP Singh unanimously elected as National President of JD (U)



- Rajya Sabha MP **RCP Singh** was unanimously elected as the **national president of the Janata Dal**.
- This decision was taken at the **party's national executive meeting in Patna**.
- The 62-year-old leader from Bihar's Nalanda took over from Chief Minister Nitish Kumar who was re-elected as the JD(U) president in 2019 for three years.
- Outgoing President Nitish Kumar proposed the name of RCP Singh and members of the Executive Committee supported the proposal. Mr. Singh was holding the post of General Secretary of the party.

Home Minister Amit Shah to lay foundation stone for 7 major projects in Manipur



- On December 27, 2020, **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** will lay the **foundation stone for seven major projects** while two other projects will be inaugurated.
- The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Dr. Jitendra Singh will also attend the function.
- The convention was organised by the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), which was formed to spearhead public movement against any outcome of the Indo-Naga peace talks that could potentially disintegrate Manipur.
- Shah will address a public gathering at Hapta Kangjeibung ground before inaugurating Thoubal multipurpose project worth Rs 1,998.99 crores and Bishnupur-Tupul-Thoubal-Kasom Khullen road worth Rs 475.68 crore.

- The seven major projects, including the Churachandpur Medical College estimated to cost Rs 325 crore, IIIT worth Rs 128 crore, IT SEZ worth Rs 950 crore, and State Government Guest House worth Rs 237.49 crore, among others.

About Manipur:

- Capital : Imphal
- Governor : Najma Heptulla

Jai Ram unveils Vajpayee's statue at Ridge



- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister **Jai Ram Thakur** unveiled an **18 feet statue** of former prime minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** at the historic Ridge Maidan here on his **96th birth anniversary**.
- The statue has been built at a cost of **Rs 1.08 crore**. The Ridge Maidan also houses statues of Mahatma Gandhi and former prime minister Indira Gandhi.
- **December 25** is also marked as **Good Governance Day**, which was established in 2014 to honour Vajpayee by fostering awareness on accountability in government among the people.

About HP:

- Chief Minister : Jairam Thakur
- Governor : Bandaru Dattatraya

CURRENT AFFAIRS: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Myanmar Navy formally commissions INS Sindhuvir submarine, handed over by Indian Navy



- The **Myanmar Navy** has officially commissioned the submarine **INS Sindhuvir**, which was handed over by the Indian Navy to the country in October 2020.

- INS Sindhuvir was commissioned as UMS Minye Theinkhathu and inducted on the **73rd anniversary of the Myanmar Navy**.
- During the commissioning ceremony, Indian ambassador to Myanmar Saurabh Kumar was also present along with top brass of Myanmar's Navy.
- The kilo class submarine has a displacement of 3000 tonnes, a diving depth of 300 meters and top speed at 20 knots.
- This was the first time India has given a submarine to another country.
- The submarine has been refurbished for the Myanmar Navy by state-run defense shipbuilder, **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) in Visakhapatnam**.

About Myanmar Navy :

- Founded : 24 December 1947
- Headquarters : Naypyitaw

About Indian Navy:

- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Comes under Ministry of defence

About Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL):

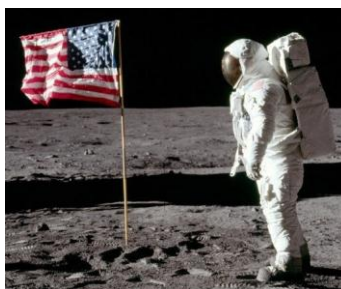
- Headquarters : Visakhapatnam
- Founder : Walchand Hirachand
- Founded : 22 June 1941

India to replace UK as fifth-biggest economy in 2025



- The **Centre for Economics and Business Research** stated **Indian economy** will again overtake the **UK to become the fifth largest economy in 2025** and race to the third spot by 2030.
- India had overtaken the UK in 2019 to become the fifth largest economy in the world but has been relegated to 6th spot this year.
- The Research organisation forecasts that the Indian economy will expand by 9 percent in 2021, and another 7 percent in 2022.
- As per the report, **China** will become the **World's Biggest Economy in 2028** meanwhile, Japan will remain on 3rd spot till 2030s.

US plans to set up nuclear reactor on moon



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- US's plan to have the **first nuclear reactor** on the **moon by the end of 2026**.
- The US Department of Energy in collaboration with Nasa intends to solicit industry design proposals in early 2021 got an impetus with a recent White House directive.
- On December 16, outgoing President Donald Trump, issued the National Strategy for Space Nuclear Power and Propulsion.
- President Trump issued **Space Policy Directive-6 (SPD-6)**, the Nation's Strategy for Space Nuclear Power and Propulsion (SNPP), which aims at increasing US presence on the surface of the moon and Mars too.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: STATE NEWS

PM Modi to inaugurate New Bhaupur-New Khurja section of EDFC



- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the **New Bhaupur-New Khurja** section of **Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor, EDFC** through video conferencing.
- The 351-kilometre New Bhaupur- New Khurja section of EDFC is situated in Uttar Pradesh and is built at a cost of **Rs. 5,750 crore**.
- The section will open new vistas of opportunity for the local industries such as aluminium industry in Kanpur Dehat district, dairy sector in Auraiya, textile production in Etawah, glassware industry in Firozabad and locks and hardware in Aligarh district.
- The section will also decongest the existing Kanpur-Delhi main line and will enable Indian Railways to run faster trains.
- The Prime Minister will also inaugurate EDFC's Operation Control Centre (OCC) at Prayagraj, This will act as the command centre for the entire route length of the EDFC.
- The Centre is one of the largest structures of its type globally, with modern interiors, ergonomic design and best-in-class acoustics.

About EDFC :

- The EDFC (1,856 kms) starts from Sahnewal near Ludhiana in Punjab and will pass through the states of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand to terminate at Dankuni in West Bengal.
- It is being constructed by the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL), that has been set up as a special purpose vehicle to build and operate dedicated freight corridors.
- The DFCCIL is also constructing the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (1,504 route km) that connects Dadri in Uttar Pradesh to the Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai and will traverse through the states of Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra,

Madhya Pradesh cabinet approves Dharma Swatantrya (Religious Freedom) Bill 2020

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- The **Madhya Pradesh** cabinet approved the **Dharma Swatantrya (Religious Freedom) Bill 2020** .
- Under the provisions of the bill, forced conversion of a woman will be punishable for a term up to 10 years and minimum fine of **Rs 50,000**.
- Specific provisions are also made in the cases of religious conversion of minors, groups, or of those belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.
- Blood relatives, including parents of victims of such religious conversion, can file complaints under the proposed Act.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: SCHEMES

PM Modi launches Ayushman Bharat PMJAY SEHAT scheme



- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT scheme** via video-conferencing to extend health insurance coverage to all residents of **Jammu and Kashmir**.

About the Scheme:

- The scheme will ensure **universal health coverage, and focus on providing financial risk protection and ensuring quality and affordable essential health services** to all individuals and communities.
- Nearly **229 Government Hospitals and 35 private hospitals** have been listed under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
- The scheme will provide free-of-cost insurance cover to all residents of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, the PMO said, adding that it will extend financial cover of up to 5 lakh per family on a floater basis to all residents of the UT.
- After the health plan, all 21 lakh families will get the same benefit under the SEHAT Scheme.

Andhra Pradesh CM Launches Navaratnalu-Pedalandariki Illu Housing Scheme



- Andhra Pradesh chief minister **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** launch of his government's much-publicised programme, **Navaratnalu-Pedalandariki Illu (Nine jewels - housing for all the poor)**, of providing house sites to **30.90 lakh poor people at Komarigiri** village of U-Kothapalli block of **East Godavari district**.
- Under the scheme, a house site patta (sash) is being given to the beneficiaries at a nominal rate of Re one and will be registered in the name of a women's household. All the beneficiaries will be given either 1.5 cents in rural areas or one cent in urban areas.
- A total of 30.90 lakh houses will be constructed by the government by 2024. These houses are being taken up in 17,500 layouts, named YSR Jagananna Colonies, with all infrastructure facilities. The first phase of the programme will be completed by June, 2022. The second phase will be started in December, 2021 and proposed to be completed by June 2023.

About AP :

- Governor : Biswabhusan Harichandan
- Chief Minister : YS Jagan Mohan Reddy

CURRENT AFFAIRS: BANKING NEWS

Punjab National Bank introduce PNB e-Credit Card



- Nation's leading public sector bank, **Punjab National Bank (PNB)**, introduced **PNB e-Credit Card, a digital replica of a physical Credit Card**.
- It will allow PNB customers to use PNB e-credit cards at any e-commerce platform or merchant website, without the need of carrying the physical card.
- Customers can view PNB e-Credit Cards details by clicking on the e-Credit Card facility in PNB Genie Mobile app.
- PNB Genie app also helps customers in activation of card for international/ Domestic usage and setting up transaction limits for ATM, Ecommerce, POS and Contactless payments.

About Punjab National Bank:

- MD & CEO : S.S. Mallikarjuna Rao
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Founded : May 19, 1894

CURRENT AFFAIRS: SPORTS NEWS

BCCI Clears 10-Team IPL From 2022



- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** confirmed that **10 teams** will take part in the **Indian Premier League from 2022**. The decision was taken in the BCCI AGM meeting in **Ahmedabad**.
- Two new teams will be added to the Indian Premier League (IPL) from the 2022 edition, making it a 10-team league
- In addition to that, former cricketer **Chetan Sharma** has been appointed as the **new chairman** of selectors for national men's cricket team by the **Cricket Advisory Committee headed by Madan Lal**.
- The cricket governing body also decided to increase the retirement age of referees, umpires and scorers to 60. Earlier it was 55.

About BCCI :

- President : Sourav Ganguly
- Secretary : Jay Shah
- Headquarters : Mumbai
- Founded : December 1928

MS Dhoni named captain of ICC Men's ODI and T20I Teams of the Decade, Kohli leads Test side



- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** announced the **Men's T20I and ODI teams** of the decade and named former **India captain MS Dhoni as the leader of both sides**.
- The T20I side comprises four players from India, two from Australia, two West Indies and one each from Sri Lanka, South Africa, and Afghanistan.
- Current Indian captain Virat Kohli, pacer Jasprit Bumrah and Rohit Sharma are the other Indians in the T20I team.

List of Members :

- **ICC's T20I Team of the Decade:** Rohit Sharma, Chris Gayle, Aaron Finch, Virat Kohli, AB de Villiers, Glenn Maxwell, MS Dhoni (c), Kieron Pollard, Rashid Khan, Jasprit Bumrah, and Lasith Malinga.
- **ICC's ODI Team of the Decade:** Rohit Sharma, David Warner, Virat Kohli, AB de Villiers, Shakib Al Hasan, MS Dhoni (c), Ben Stokes, Mitchell Starc, Trent Boult, Imran Tahir and Lasith Malinga.
- **ICC's Test Team of the Decade:** Alistair Cook, David Warner, Kane Williamson, Virat Kohli (c), Steve Smith, Kumar Sangakkara, Ben Stokes, Ravi Ashwin, Dale Steyn, Stuart Broad, James Anderson.

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Anshu Malik grabs silver in Wrestling, India's first medal at Individual World Cup



- **Anshu Malik** has become the **first wrestler** of the country to finish on the podium position at the **Individual Wrestling World Cup in Belgrade, Serbia**.
- The 19-year-old put up a bold and brave fight before she lost to reigning European champion Anastasia Nichita of Moldova in the 57 kg women's freestyle final, bagging a silver.

Russian badminton player Nikita Khakimov banned for five years over betting, fixing offences



- Russian doubles badminton player **Nikita Khakimov** has received a five-year ban after being found guilty of offences relating to **betting, wagering and irregular match results**, the **Badminton World Federation (BWF)**.
- The BWF opened an investigation against Khakimov after obtaining a statement from a whistleblower, who claimed the shuttler had approached him to manipulate match results at the European Teams Championships held in Feb. 2018.
- Khakimov, 32, was part of the Russian men's team that won the bronze medal at the 2020 European Team Championships.

About Badminton World Federation (BWF) :

- Headquarters : Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Founded : 5 July, 1934
- President : Poul- Erik Hoyer Lardén

CURRENT AFFAIRS: OBITUARIES

Former England cricketer Robin Jackman passes away at 75



- Former England cricketer **Robin Jackman**, played four test matches and **15 one-day internationals**, has died, the International Cricket Council stated. He was 75.
- Jackman played in four Tests and 15 one-day internationals for his country, while he took 1,402 wickets in a 399-game first-class career between 1966 and 1982.
- Jackman domestic career began in 1966 and was spread across 16 seasons, during which he took 1402 first-class wickets in 399 matches at an average of 22.80 and also scored 5681 runs.

Brodie Lee: AEW and ex-WWE Wrestler Jon Huber dies age 41



- **US wrestler Jon Huber**, better known to fans as **Brodie Lee or Luke Harper**, has died aged 41.
- He competed as Luke Harper for WWE, before leaving in 2019 and joining All Elite Wrestling (AEW) as Brodie Lee.
- He won Tag Team titles twice and also won the **Intercontinental Championship (AEW)**.

About All Elite Wrestling (AEW) :

- Headquarters : Jacksonville, Florida, US
- Founded : 1 January, 2019
- Founder : Tony Khan

Daily CA on Dec 26th

- Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment **Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot** launched a Mobile Application **Swachhata Abhiyan** in the presence of Ministers of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Ram Das Athawale and Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar in **New Delhi**.
- Road Transport & Highways Minister **Nitin Gadkari** has announced that **FASTag** is being made mandatory for all vehicles in the country from new year.
- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** launched **E-Sampada**, a new web portal and mobile app on Good Governance Day.
- India has added **Tso Kar Wetland Complex** in Ladakh as its **42nd Ramsar site**, which is a second one in the Union Territory of **Ladakh**.

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- The **Department of School and Mass Education, Government of Odisha** in collaboration with **UNICEF** has launched a career portal for Secondary and Higher Secondary students to help them with expert advice on their future careers
- Punjab, Chief Minister Captain **Amarinder Singh** launched Mobile Application and web portal '**PR Insight**' to monitor the feedback and subsequently improve the delivery of citizen centric services to ensure responsive and transparent administration in the State.
- **India's first Lithium** refinery which will process Lithium ore to produce battery-grade material will be set up in **Gujarat**.
- The **Directorate General of Training (DGT)** joined hands with **Microsoft and NASSCOM Foundation** to provide digital content for ITI students.
- **Yes Securities** announced the elevation of **Prasanth Prabhakaran** as its **managing director and chief executive officer**.
- **Romania's parliament** approved a new liberal government and prime minister **Florin Citu**, keeping out of power a left-leaning populist party that won most votes at a parliamentary election earlier this month.
- Nobel laureate **Kailash Satyarthi's** new book titled **Covid-19: Sabhyata ka Sankat aur Samadhan** (Covid-19: Crisis of Civilisation and Solutions) was launched online by former Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra and Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh.
- FIFA has canceled the **Under-17 and Under-20 World Cups** scheduled for next year due to the pandemic. The next editions are now due to be staged in 2023, with **Indonesia still hosting the U20s and Peru the U17s**.
- Legendary Urdu poet and critic **Shamsur Rahman Faruqi** passed away, He was 85.
- Former England batsman **John Edrich** has died at the age of 83, the **England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB)** announced on December 25, 2020.

Daily CA on Dec 27th and 28th

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