

## Current Affairs Today –29.11.2020 & 30.11.2020

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### **CURRENT AFFAIRS: DAYS**

#### **Guru Nanak Jayanti being celebrated with traditional fervour**



- **Guru Nanak Jayanti or Gurmurb** is being celebrated with religious fervour across India and the world on 30<sup>th</sup> November . It marks the birth of the first Sikh Guru, Guru Nanak, who laid the foundation of **Sikhism**. This year marks **the 551st** birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.
- On this day, devotees around the world offer prayers. The Golden temple in Amritsar celebrates Gurmurb with much aplomb.

#### **National Organ Donation Day**



- The **11th Indian Organ Donation Day** was celebrated by the Union Health Ministry in New Delhi.
- Every year, for the past 10 years, **27 November** has been celebrated as the '**Indian Organ Donation Day**' in the country.
- The National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) is mandated under the Transplantation of Human Organs (Amendment) Act 2011 to carry out activities for promotion of organ donation from deceased persons. **Tamil Nadu** has been adjudged the best in organ donation in the country for the sixth consecutive year.

#### **International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People- 29 November**



- In 1977, the General Assembly called for the annual observance of **29 November** as **the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People** (resolution 32/40 B). On that day, in 1947, the Assembly adopted the resolution on the partition of Palestine (resolution 181 (II))
- In resolution 60/37 of 1 December 2005, the Assembly requested the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights, as part of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 29 November, to continue to organize an

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annual exhibit on Palestinian rights or a cultural event in cooperation with the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the UN.

#### About Palestine

- Capitals: Ramallah, East Jerusalem;
- Currency: Shekel, Dinar

### CURRENT AFFAIRS: NATIONAL

#### Railways Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurates newly electrified Dhigawara-Bandikui section of NW Railway



- Minister of Railways **Piyush Goyal** inaugurated the newly electrified **Dhigawara-Bandikui section of North Western Railway**. He also flagged off the first train on this newly electrified route at the function organized at **Dhigawara station**.
- Mr Goyal stated, after the electrification of this line, the route from Rewari to Ajmer has been electrified and now the electric trains from Delhi to Ajmer will start soon. He stated, after running of these trains, the diesel trains will be stopped, which will eliminate pollution as well as the dependence on the fuel imported from outside and significant revenue will be saved.
- He stated, apart from this, the average speed of trains will increase and there will be development of industries, agro-based businesses and progress of villagers and farmers. Mr Goyal stated, to avoid any inconvenience to the farmers, **Kisan Rail** is being operated by the railways to transport their agricultural products.

#### About Ministry of Railways:

- Piyush Goyal, Minister of Railways
- Constituency: Maharashtra
- Vinod Kumar Yadav, Chairman and CEO

#### Govt. announces Rs 900 crore package for COVID-19 Vaccine Development Mission



- The Centre has announced **the third stimulus package of Rs 900 crore for the Mission COVID Suraksha- The Indian COVID-19 Vaccine Development Mission**. This grant will be provided to the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) for Research and Development of Indian COVID-19 vaccines with end-to-end focus from preclinical development through clinical development and manufacturing and regulatory facilitation for deployment. It would consolidate all available and funded resources towards an accelerated product development.

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- **The Ministry of Science and Technology** stated that this will help accelerate development of approximately **5 to 6 vaccine candidates**. This will also ensure that these are brought closer to licensure and introduction in the market for consideration of regulatory authorities for introduction in public health systems, to combat further spread of COVID infection. Phase-I of the COVID Suraksha Mission has been allotted **900 Crore rupees** for a period of **12 months**.

**About MoH&FW:**

- Minister of Science and Technology, Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Minister of Earth Sciences: Dr. Harsh Vardhan
- Constituency: Chandni Chowk, New Delhi

**PM Modi to inaugurate six-lane widening project of Varanasi-Prayagraj section of NH-19**



- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will visit Varanasi and dedicate to the nation the **six-lane widening project of the Handia (Prayagraj) - Rajatalab (Varanasi) section of National Highway 19**. During the tour, the Prime Minister will attend **Dev Deepawali**, undertake a site visit of **Kashi Vishwanath Temple Corridor Project** and also visit the Sarnath Archaeological Site.
- The **73 Kilometers stretch** of the newly widened and six laned NH-19, made with a total outlay of 2 thousand 4 hundred 47 crore rupees is expected to reduce the travel time between Prayagraj and Varanasi by one hour.
- Dev Deepawali, which has become a world famous festival of light and fervour in Varanasi, is celebrated on Kartik Poornima every year. The festival will be started by the Prime Minister by lighting a diya on the Raj Ghat of Varanasi, which will be followed by lighting of 11 lakh diyas on both sides of River Ganges.

**EPFO extends deadline for submission of Jeevan Pramaan Patra to February 28, 2021**



- Taking into consideration the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the vulnerability of the elderly population to the virus, the **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** has extended the date for submission of **Life Certificate (Jeevan Pramaan Patra-JPP)** to **February 28, 2021**.
- According to the Ministry of Labour and Employment, the decision is likely to have an impact on 35 lakh pensioners.
- "In view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the vulnerability of the elderly population to the coronavirus, the EPFO has extended the time limit up to 28th February 2021 for submission of Life Certificate (Jeevan Pramaan Patra-JPP) in respect of the Pensioners drawing pension under EPS 1995 and whose Life certificate is due in any month till February 28, 2021," it stated.

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- As of now, a pensioner can submit a JPP anytime during the year up to November 30. With the latest move, any pensioner can submit a Life Certificate till February 28, 2021.
- During this extended period, pension will not be stopped in respect of such **35 lakh pensioners** who could not submit JPP during **November 2020**.

#### About EPFO:

- Founded: 4 March 1952
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Sunil Barthwal: Central Provident Fund Commissioner

### CURRENT AFFAIRS: INTERNATIONAL

#### 4th NSA-level meeting held between India, Sri Lanka and Maldives



- The **fourth National Security Advisor Level Meeting on Trilateral Maritime Security Cooperation** was held between **India, Sri Lanka and Maldives** in **Colombo**.
- The participants took stock of the current maritime security environment in the region. They have discussed mutual cooperation in an array of areas including Maritime Domain Awareness, Humanitarian Assistance, Disaster Relief, Joint Exercises and Maritime pollution.
- Exchanging views on common security threats, India, Sri Lanka, and Maldives have agreed to broad base cooperation on a host of maritime security related issues.

#### About Maldives:

- Capital: Malé
- Currency: Maldivian rufiyaa
- President: Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

### CURRENT AFFAIRS: BANKING AND FINANCE

#### FDI surges to 30 billion dollars in Apr-Oct this year



- Union Minister Prakash Javadekar stated Foreign Direct Investment into India surged by a healthy **15 percent** to **30 billion** dollars in April - October this year.
- Total Foreign Direct Investments inflows into India during the second quarter of financial year 2020-21 is 28,102 million dollars, out of which FDI equity inflows is 23,441 million dollars.
- This takes the FDI equity inflows during the financial year 2020-21 upto September this year to 30,004 million dollars which is 15 percent more than the corresponding period of 2019-20. In rupee terms, the FDI Equity inflows of 2 lakh 24 thousand 613 crore rupees are 23 percent more than the last year. August this year has been the significant month when 17,487 million dollars FDI equity inflows were reported in the country.

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### About Foreign Direct Investment:

- A foreign direct investment (FDI) is an investment made by a firm or individual in one country into business interests located in another country. Generally, FDI takes place when an investor establishes foreign business operations or acquires foreign business assets in a foreign company.

### IRDAI approves Mitsui Sumitomo's Max Life stake swap with MFSL



- **Max Financial Services Ltd (MFSL)** stated Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) approved the proposed transfer of **39.47 crore shares** constituting **20.57% of the paid-up equity** share capital of Max Life Insurance held by **Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance** to MFSL.
- This is in exchange for issuance of 7.54 crore shares of MFSL, constituting 21.87% of issued and paid-up share capital of MFSL.
- "MFSL will now proceed for the implementation of the share swap transaction, which will entail swapping by MSI of its 20.57% stake in Max Life with a 21.87 per cent stake in MFSL by way of issue and allotment of 7,54,58,088 equity shares of Rs.2 each at a price of Rs.565.11 per equity share on a preferential allotment basis," the company stated.
- Upon consummation, this will effectively result in MFSL's stake in Max Life increasing to 93.10%. Presently, MFSL holds a 72.5% stake in Max Life and MSI owns 25.5% stake.
- MFSL had recently announced that Axis Bank and its subsidiaries, Axis Capital Limited & Axis Securities Limited (together Axis Entities), have entered into agreements with MFSL for acquisition of up to 19% stake in Max Life, in accordance with existing laws and regulations.

### About Max Group:

- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Analjit Singh (group chairman)
- Rahul Khosla (group president)

### ICICI Lombard gets IRDAI's 'in-principle approval' to acquire Bharti AXA General Insurance



- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) gave an in-principle approval to the **acquisition of General Insurance business of Bharti AXA General Insurance Company Limited** by **ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Limited**, the company stated in an exchange filing.
- Earlier, BSE Limited, National Stock Exchange of India Limited and the Competition Commission of India (CCI) had approved the proposed acquisition by ICICI.

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- The IRDAI mentioned that following the demerge, ICICI will issue 1.82 crore equity shares to Bharti General Ventures Private Limited and 1.75 crore equity shares to Societe Beaujon.
- Currently, Bharti Enterprises owns 51 percent in Bharti AXA General. The firm has joint venture with French firm AXA which owns 49 percent stake. With the deal with ICICI Lombard in place, Bharti and AXA will be public shareholders in the combined entity.

**About IRDAI:**

- Headquarters: Hyderabad
- Chairperson: Subhash Chandra Khuntia

**About ICICI Lombard:**

- CEO: Bhargav Dasgupta
- Headquarters: Mumbai

**Sebi launches SMARTs program to strengthen investor education framework**



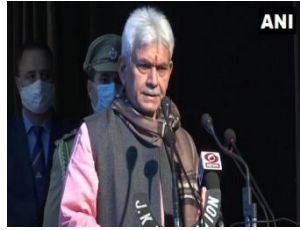
- Markets regulator **Sebi** launched **the Securities Market Trainers (SMARTs) program**, an initiative aimed at enhancing investor education and awareness. The launch of SMARTs program comes amid **World Investor Week** being celebrated across the country.
- The first batch of SMARTs empanelled by Sebi includes **40 individuals** across 16 states and union territories, covering 31 districts on a pan-India basis. They have also undergone four days of training at the National Institute of Securities Market (NISM).
- The regulator stated it would be empanelling more trainers at a pan-India level under the SMARTs program. SMARTs will conduct investor education programs in their respective geographical areas.
- Under the SMARTs program, the trainers are empanelled for the district they belong to, subject to fulfilling the required eligibility criteria.
- In addition to individuals, organisations engaged in similar activity can get enrolled as SMARTs. They would undergo training at NISM and then they would be eligible to conduct programs. The programs are conducted under the aegis of Sebi and are monitored directly by it.

**About SEBI:**

- Founded: 12 April 1992
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Chairperson: Ajay Tyagi

**CURRENT AFFAIRS: STATES**

**LG Manoj Sinha releases Panchayat Newsletter "Parivartan" first ever publication in five official languages of J&K**



- In the **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir**, the Lieutenant Governor, **Manoj Sinha** has released **Panchayat Newsletter "Parivartan"** - a first ever publication in **five official languages** of J&K at Raj Bhavan, Jammu.
- The LG appreciated the initiative of the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj for coming out with a publication in all the five official languages of J&K, viz **Dogri, Urdu, Kashmiri, Hindi and English**, highlighting the progress being made under Back to **Village-3** and **21 day long Jan Abhiyan** programmes. The publication in multiple languages will serve as a great tool to inform the larger population of J&K about the latest Government activities besides, a glimpse into the working of the government, stated the LG.

#### About J&K:

- Capitals: Jammu (Winter), Srinagar (Summer)
- Lt. Governor: Manoj Sinha

#### Haveri railway station renamed Mahadevappa Mailara Railway station



- The **Karnataka government** has issued a notification, renaming **Haveri Railway station** as **Mahadevappa Mailara Railway Station**. It has been a long-standing demand of the public and representatives from Haveri District to name the Haveri station after Mahadevappa Mailara, a freedom fighter from the district, South Western Railway stated.
- It stated, at the age of 18, he accompanied Mahatma Gandhi on the Dandi March. He sacrificed his life for the service of society and liberation of the country and his courage had inspired a large number of people, it stated. The **Ministry of Home Affairs** had given no objection to changing the name of Haveri railway station as Mahadevappa Mailara Railway Station.

#### About Karnataka:

- Capital: Bengaluru
- Governor: Vajubhai Vala
- Chief minister: B. S. Yediyurappa

#### PM Modi launches 'Har Ghar Nal Yojna', 3,000 villages in Uttar Pradesh to benefit



- Prime minister **Narendra Modi** launched '**Har Ghar Nal Yojna**' (tap water to every household), for **Sonbhadra** and **Mirzapur** in Vindhya region of **Uttar Pradesh** via video conference, while chief minister Yogi Adityanath was present in Sonbhadra.

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- The scheme worth **Rs 5,555.38 crore** is aimed at providing water to over **41 lakh villagers** in two districts.
- Under 'Har Ghar Nal Yojna', Yogi Adityanath government will ensure water supply through pipelines to 2,995 villages in two districts in the region.
- The scheme will benefit 21,87,980 villagers in Mirzapur. In Sonbhadra, 19,53,458 families will be benefitted by the scheme. The water of lakes and river will be purified and supplied to the families in Sonbhadra.
- Rs 3212.18 crore and Rs 2343.20 crore will be spent under the scheme in Sonbhadra and Mirzapur respectively. The total cost of the scheme is Rs 5555.38 crore.

#### About Uttar Pradesh:

- Governor: Anandiben Patel
- Capital: Lucknow
- Chief minister: Yogi Adityanath

#### Assam proposes 6th national park in militancy ravaged forest



- **The Assam government** has proposed setting up **a national park** in a militancy ravaged reserve forest, which, if approved, would make it the **state's sixth national park**.
- Forest minister Parimal Suklabaidya informed that the process for approving **Raimona National Park** has been initiated. He unveiled the map of the new park at **Manas National Park**.
- According to the forest department, the proposal has been submitted to the governor of Assam for upgrading an area of 422 sq km of notified Ripu reserve forest under Manas National Park and Tiger Reserve as the proposed **Raimona National Park**.
- The existing national parks in Assam are Kaziranga, Manas, Dibru-Saikhowa, Manas and Orang. Ripu reserve forest is part of the buffer zone of Manas national park bordering Bhutan. The forest along with Chirang reserve forest has the largest known population of endangered Golden Langur.
- Since 1989, nearly 30% of the reserve forest has been felled and encroached upon due to the insurgency related issues.

#### About Assam:

- Capital: Dispur
- Chief minister: Sarbananda Sonowal
- Governor: Jagdish Mukhi

#### Trifed of m/o tribal affairs and state of Goa to implement 'Goatribal plan'



- **TRIFED** under Ministry of Tribal Affairs held a virtual meeting with Goa Administration to finalize the **Goa Tribal Development Plan**. The main agenda of the meeting was to finalise the **Tribal Development Plan** for

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the state of Goa for the establishment of **25 Van DhanVikas Kendras**, 1 Tribal food park, 2 showrooms in North and South Goa.

- The proposed activities included in the development plan includes the setting up of 25 VDVks in Goa; setting up of 25 procurement centres-cum-godowns; of 2 tertiary processing units (mega food parks/ tribal enterprises) and two flagship retail outlets across the state.
- The target is to identify 20 minor forest produces per VDVk. With this planned enterprise initiative, TRIFED will offer an end-to-end comprehensive development package for tribals promoting employment and incomes and entrepreneurship. TRIFED continues to work for the complete transformation of the tribal ecosystem across the country through the large-scale tribal entrepreneurship model.

#### About MoTA:

- Minister of Tribal Affairs: Arjun Munda
- Constituency: Khunti, Jharkhand

#### About Goa:

- Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- Capital: Panaji
- Chief minister: Pramod Sawant

### India's first IoT enabled Smart Trolleys at GMR Hyderabad International Airport



- **GMR Hyderabad International Airport** has gone **digital** by envisioning an airport platform using the **Internet of Things (IoT)**. Walking on the steps of the Government of India's flagship **Digital India Programme**, it has modified its services and operations making Hyderabad a harbinger of Smart Airport City.
- The GMR Hyderabad has deployed '**IoT enabled smart baggage trolleys**', for the comfort of passengers. It will make it easier for the passengers to track and maintain the baggage trolleys in real-time across the airport.
- The GHIAL has installed **LoRa (Long Range) IoT platform** for the project of **Airport Baggage Trolley**. The IoT technology adapted for a total of 3000 baggage trolleys will reduce the passenger waiting time substantially.
- Trolley management and replenishment will be done on the basis of the requirement at various areas across the airport, thus increasing efficiency and making the whole process smoother enhancing the experience of the passenger.

### CURRENT AFFAIRS: MOU

#### Women empowerment: IESC, FLO sign MoU under the aegis of IIM Shillong



**The Power to Empower**

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

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- 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.

#### About FLO & FICCI:

- President of FLO: Jahnabi Phookan
- HQ of FICCI: New Delhi
- President of FICCI: Sangita Reddy

### CURRENT AFFAIRS: APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

#### Burkina Faso president Roch Marc Christian Kabore re-elected



- **President Roch Marc Christian Kabore** will serve another five years as **Burkina Faso's president**, according to provisional results announced by the National Independent Electoral Commission.
- 63-year-old head of the ruling People's Movement for Progress party secured 57.87% votes. The result gives Kabore another five years in the office that he has held since 2015. Burkina Faso is a landlocked country in West Africa.

#### About Burkina Faso:

- Capital: Ouagadougou
- Currency: CFA franc

#### Rajnish K Jenaw appointed as CMD, NSFDC



- **Rajnish K Jenaw** (IP&TA&FS 1992-Batch) has been posted as **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of National Schedule Castes Finance & Development Corporation (NSFDC)** under the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment for a period up to **August 31, 2024**, which is the date of his superannuation.

#### About NSFDC:

- National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) was set up in 1989 as a non profit company under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India for financing, facilitating and mobilizing funds for the economic empowerment of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes families living below double the Poverty Line.

#### Indian oil Chairman Shri SM Vaidya taken charge as VP of the World LPG Association



- **Shri SM Vaidya** is appointed as the **Vice President** of the **World LPG Association (WLPGA)**, The World LPG Association (WLPGA) is the authoritative voice of the global LPG industry representing the full LPG value chain. Shri SM Vaidya currently is the Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation.

#### About Indian Oil Corporation:

- Chairperson: Shrikant Madhav Vaidya
- Headquarters: New Delhi

### CURRENT AFFAIRS: AWARDS AND HONORS

#### Israeli Prime Minister, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince nominated for Nobel Peace Prize 2021



- The Prime Minister of **Israel**, **Benjamin Netanyahu**, and **Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi**, **Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** have been **nominated** for the **Nobel Peace Prize 2021** for their roles in establishing the strategic and diplomatic ties between the two nations.
- As per the statement of the Israeli Prime Minister's Office, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Lord David Trimble on November 25, 2020, submitted the candidacy of PM Benjamin Netanyahu and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince for Nobel Peace Prize 2021.
- The leaders of both nations have been nominated because of the recent peace agreement which has been signed between **Israel**, **UAE**, and **Bahrain**.

#### Oscars 2021: Keith Gomes' Shameless is India's official entry in short film category at 93rd Academy Awards



- **Keith Gomes'** short film '**Shameless**' has been selected as **India's official entry** at the **93rd Academy Awards** in the '**Live Action Short Film**' category.
- The short film was chosen from a list of five short films that included Trapped, Safar, Aditya Kelgaonkar's 'Sound proof' and Shaan Vyas' 'Natkhat'. Shameless, written and directed by Keith Gomes, had released in April 2019.

### CURRENT AFFAIRS: RANKING

#### Global Terrorism Index 2020

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- **The Global Terrorism Index [GTI] 2020** ranks India as **8th** in the world on a list of countries most affected by terrorism in 2019, with 558 incidents that killed 277 and injured 439. Further, the report marks South Asia as region worst affected by terrorism for the second year in a row.
- India ranks 8th in the world on the basis of its score on the GTI - 7.353. It ranks better than **Pakistan** (ranked 7) but lower than the **Democratic Republic of Congo** and **the Philippines**, which rank 9th and 10 respectively. A higher score, and thus a higher rank (1 being the worst) shows a country more severely affected by terrorism. But, since 2002, India's rank has improved substantially Afghanistan ranked 1<sup>st</sup>, Iraq 2<sup>nd</sup>, Nigeria 3<sup>rd</sup>. In 2002, India was the second worst country in the world affected by terrorism and was in the top 5 until 2012.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### IISc researchers develop wastewater treatment, recycling system



- The Bengaluru based Indian Institute of Science researchers have developed an **efficient decentralised wastewater treatment and recycling system for rural areas**. A study on decentralised wastewater treatment systems developed by the premier institute was published in the Journal of water Process Engineering. The model is demonstrated in Berambadi Primary school in a remote village in Karnataka.
- The 667 litres of grey water can be treated daily, thereby saving around 180,000 litres of water annually.
- The water that drains out of the wash basin and kitchen is treated and recycled after removing the oil and grease and used again for non potable purposes such as toilet flushing and gardening.

### India to launch deep-sea exploration exercise, Earth Sciences dept to ally with ISRO, DRDO on mining project



- **The Earth Sciences ministry** plans to launch the exploration **mission in 3-4 months' time** to look for **poly-metallic sulphides (PMS)**. Poly-Metallic Sulphides contain iron, copper, zinc, silver, gold, platinum in variable constitutions. The International Seabed Authority earlier approved 10,000 sq. km for India with a 15-year PMS exploration plan along the Central Indian Ridge (CIR) and Southwest Indian Ridge (SWIR) region of the Indian Ocean.

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- With many a feather in its space research cap, India now plans to launch an ambitious '**Deep Ocean Mission**' to explore the minerals, energy and marine diversity of the underwater world under the aegis of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). While there have been numerous endeavours by mankind to explore the great oceans, a vast part of them still remains unexplored.

#### About ISRO:

- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Chairman: Kailasavadivoo Sivan

#### About DRDO:

- Founded: 1958
- Headquarters: DRDO Bhavan, New Delhi
- Chairman: G Satheesh Kumar Reddy

### CURRENT AFFAIRS: SUMMITS AND CONFERENCE

#### India to host SCO Council of Heads of Government Meeting



- India will host **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** Council of Heads of Government Meeting in virtual format. Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** will chair the meeting.
- This Summit is held annually at the level of Prime Ministers of SCO and deals primarily with the trade and economic agenda of the organization. **India** assumed the Chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads of Government on 2nd November last year as per rotation from the previous Chair - Uzbekistan and will complete its year-long tenure on 30th of this month.
- Prime Ministers from the SCO Member States of Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan will attend the SCO meeting. Pakistan will be represented by the Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs.
- Apart from the SCO Member States, the four Observer States of SCO will also participate- including the President of Afghanistan, the First Vice President of Iran, the Prime Minister of Belarus and the Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia. Turkmenistan has been invited as a Special Guest of the Host and will be represented by the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers.

#### About Shanghai Cooperation Organisation:

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, or Shanghai Pact, is a Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance, the creation of which was announced on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai, China by the leaders.
- Headquarters: Beijing, China
- Founded: 15 June 2001
- Secretary General: Vladimir Norov

### CURRENT AFFAIRS: SPORTS

#### Mission Olympic Cell approves Bajrang's one-month training camp in U.S.A





- **Mission Olympic Cell** has approved a one-month training camp in the U.S.A for **wrestler Bajrang Punia**, one of India's biggest medal hopes at the Tokyo Olympics.
- Mission Olympic Cell is a body set up by the Sports Authority of India to select athletes who are to get assistance under the **Target Olympic Podium Scheme**.
- The camp will take place from December 4 to January 3 at Cliff Keen Wrestling Club, Michigan, at an approximate cost of Rs.14 lakhs. Bajrang, who has been training at the SAI Sonapat centre after the resumption of training camps post the coronavirus lockdown, will travel to the U.S.A with his coach Emzarios Bentinidis and physio Dhananjay.
- He will get to train with top international wrestlers under head coach, Sergei Beloglazov, who is a two-time Olympic champion. Bajrang has already qualified for the Tokyo Olympics after earning a quota at the 2019 World Championships.
- The World No. 2 in 65kg has preferred a stint in the U.S.A over Individual World Cup scheduled in Serbia's Belgrade from December 12 to 18.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS: OBITUARY

### Legendary Bangladeshi actor, Liberation War fighter Aly Zaker passed away



- **Eminent Bangladeshi actor** and cultural personality **Aly Zaker** passed away in Dhaka. He was 76. He had been fighting cancer for the last several years.
- Aly was involved in the **Liberation War movement of Bangladesh against Pakistan**. He was also a founder trustee of the Liberation War Museum in Dhak. He was awarded the second highest civilian award of Bangladesh '**Ekushey Padak**' in 1999 for his contribution in the field of theatre.

## DAILY CA NOV 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>

- **Indian Railway** has launched a completely digitized **online Human Resource Management System (HRMS)**.
- Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot e-launched a '**National Portal for Transgender Persons**' and e-inaugurated a 'Garima Greh: A Shelter Home for Transgender Persons' in Vadodara, Gujarat .
- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of **16 National Highway projects** worth **7477 crore rupees** in Uttar Pradesh.
- Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, **APEDA**, continued its endeavour to promote export of agricultural products through the virtual medium. The event was organised by APEDA in collaboration **with Embassy of India**, Berlin and German Agribusiness Alliance.

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- Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated India's renewable power capacity is the **4th largest in the world** and it is growing at the fastest speed among all major countries. He stated, the renewable energy capacity in India is currently **136 Giga Watts**, which is about 36 percent of the country's total capacity.
- United Nations Development Programme, **UNDP** and **Invest India** have launched **the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Investor Map** for India.
- **Mercedes-Benz** has joined hands with **State Bank of India (SBI)** to offer financial benefits to the lender's High Net Worth Individual (HNI) customers.
- **CBDT** will validate **Unique Document Identification Number (UDIN)** generated from ICAI portal at the time of upload of Tax Audit Reports.
- **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd** has successfully conducted a '**Proof of Concept**' feasibility study on 'zero-emission electric mobility' at one of its fuel stations in Bengaluru.
- Airline major **SpiceJet** launched dedicated freighter services connecting Leh with the rest of the country.
- The Honey FPO Programme of **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd** was inaugurated by Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar
- E-Commerce Company **Flipkart** in collaboration with **GiveIndia Foundation** provided 50,000 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits to the state government.
- The **Uttarakhand State Wildlife Advisory Board** approved the de-notification of **Shivalik Elephant Reserve** as an elephant reserve to pave way for the expansion of the Dehradun airport project.
- The West Bengal government has accepted the recommendations of an expert panel to reduce the curriculum at **secondary and higher secondary levels** due to the pandemic.
- The **Uttar Pradesh** government has approved an ambitious **594-km Ganga Expressway project** worth Rs. **36,402 crore** running along the river from Haridwar to Allahabad.
- The Union Territory of Ladakh has got the **largest solar power project** setup under the Centre's 'Make In India' initiative at Leh IAF station to provide sustainable energy alternative to fossil fuel and traditional methods of energy generation.
- **India** and **Finland** signed an MoU for developing cooperation between two countries in the field of **Environment protection and biodiversity conservation**.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between **BRICS countries** on cooperation in the field of physical culture and sports.
- The **Thee', app** is for the general public to reach the Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services in cases of fires, floods, mishaps in wells, chemical or gas leaks and other accidents
- Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar launched **the India Climate Change Knowledge Portal**.
- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves acquisition by **Reliance Retail Ventures Limited ("RRVL")**, **Reliance Retail and Fashion Lifestyle Limited ("RRVL WOS")** of the retail and wholesale undertaking and the logistics and warehousing undertaking of the Future Group under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002.
- **Lt Gen Harpal Singh** has been appointed as the new Engineer-in-Chief of the Indian Army. He is presently the Director-General of Border Roads Organisation and would take over his new appointment on December 1.

- A **14-year-old class 9th student** from Tamil Nadu has won the prestigious **Children's Climate Prize** for designing a mobile ironing cart that uses solar panels to power a steam iron box instead of using conventional charcoal.
- **India** has got the dubious distinction of having the **highest bribery rate** in the Asia region, with a survey showing the bribery rate of the country at 39 percent. India was followed by Cambodia at 37 percent and Indonesia stood at third position with bribery rate of 30 percent.
- **Konark Corps of Indian Army** has launched a 1971 kilometers **cycling expedition in Gujarat and Rajasthan** to commemorate the commencement of the Golden Jubilee Victory Celebrations of Indian Armed Forces in the Indo-Pak War of 1971.
- The Indian Navy has leased **two Predator drones** from an American firm for carrying out surveillance in the Indian Ocean Region, a person familiar with the matter stated– in a sign of closer defence and security cooperation between India and the US.
- Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has launched **the second edition of Fit India School Week program**. To participate in the program the schools have to register themselves on [www.fitindia.gov.in/fit-india-school-week](http://www.fitindia.gov.in/fit-india-school-week).
- **Padma Bhushan awardee, Faqir Chand Kohli, who** was the founder and first CEO of Tata Consultancy Services, has passed away after reportedly suffering from a heart attack. He was 96.
- **James Wolfensohn**, who served as the president of the World Bank for 10 years and was a guiding force for a couple of the most well-known cultural institutions in the US, has died. He was 86.

## DAILY CA NOV 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>

- **Guru Nanak Jayanti or GURPURAB** is being celebrated with religious fervour across India and the world on 30<sup>th</sup> November . It marks the birth of the first Sikh Guru, Guru Nanak, who laid the foundation of **Sikhism**. This year marks **the 551st** birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.
- The **11th Indian Organ Donation Day** was celebrated by the Union Health Ministry in New Delhi. Every year, for the past 10 years, 27 November has been celebrated as the '**Indian Organ Donation Day**' in the country.
- In 1977, the General Assembly called for the annual observance of **29 November** as **the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People** (resolution 32/40 B).
- Minister of Railways **Piyush Goyal** inaugurated the newly electrified **Dhigawara-Bandikui** section of **North Western Railway**. He also flagged off the first train on this newly electrified route at the function organized at **Dhigawara station**.
- The Centre has announced **the third stimulus package of Rs 900 crore for the Mission COVID Suraksha- The Indian COVID-19 Vaccine Development Mission**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will visit Varanasi and dedicate to the nation the **six-lane widening project of the Handia (Prayagraj) - Rajatalab (Varanasi) section of National Highway 19**.
- The **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** has extended the date for submission of **Life Certificate (Jeevan Pramaan Patra-JPP)** to **February 28, 2021**.
- The **fourth National Security Advisor Level Meeting on Trilateral Maritime Security Cooperation** was held between **India, Sri Lanka and Maldives** in **Colombo**.
- Union Minister Prakash Javadekar **stated Foreign Direct Investment** into India surged by a healthy **15 percent** to **30 billion** dollars in April - October this year.



- **Max Financial Services Ltd (MFSL)** stated Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) approved the proposed transfer of **39.47 crore shares** constituting **20.57% of the paid-up equity** share capital of Max Life Insurance held by **Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance** to MFSL.
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) gave an in-principle approval to the **acquisition of General Insurance business of Bharti AXA General Insurance Company Limited by ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Limited**, the company stated.
- Markets regulator **Sebi** launched **the Securities Market Trainers (SMARTs) program**, an initiative aimed at enhancing investor education and awareness. The launch of **SMARTs program** comes amid **World Investor Week** being celebrated across the country.
- In the **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir**, the Lieutenant Governor, **Manoj Sinha** has released **Panchayat Newsletter "Parivartan"** - a first ever publication in **five official languages** of J&K at Raj Bhavan, Jammu.
- The **Karnataka government** has issued a notification, renaming **Haveri Railway station** as **Mahadevappa Mailara Railway Station**.
- Prime minister **Narendra Modi** launched '**Har Ghar Nal Yojna**' (tap water to every household), for **Sonbhadra** and **Mirzapur** in Vindhya region of **Uttar Pradesh** via video conference
- **The Assam government** has proposed setting up a **national park** in a militancy **ravaged reserve forest**, which, if approved, would make it the **state's sixth national park**. Forest minister Parimal Suklabaidya informed that the process for approving **Raimona National Park** has been initiated. He unveiled the map of the new park at **Manas National Park**.
- **TRIFED** under Ministry of Tribal Affairs held a virtual meeting with Goa Administration to finalize the **Goa Tribal Development Plan**.
- **GMR Hyderabad International Airport** has gone **digital** by envisioning an airport platform using the **Internet of Things (IoT)**. Walking on the steps of the Government of India's flagship **Digital India Programme**, it has modified its services and operations making Hyderabad a harbinger of Smart Airport City.
- The MoU is signed for the purpose of a mentorship programme for women entrepreneurs. **FLO** will create an **independent Entrepreneurial Ecosystem** which will help to empower women and transform them to become job creators.
- **President Roch Marc Christian Kabore** will serve another five years as **Burkina Faso's president**, according to provisional results announced by the National Independent Electoral Commission.
- **Rajnish K Jenaw** (IP&TA&FS 1992-Batch) has been posted as **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of National Schedule Castes Finance & Development Corporation (NSFDC)** under the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment for a period up to **August 31, 2024**, which is the date of his superannuation.
- **Shri SM Vaidya** is appointed as the **Vice President** of the **World LPG Association (WLPGA)**, The World LPG Association (WLPGA) is the authoritative voice of the global LPG industry representing the full LPG value chain.
- The Prime Minister of **Israel**, **Benjamin Netanyahu**, and **Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi**, **Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** have been **nominated** for the **Nobel Peace Prize 2021** for their roles in establishing the strategic and diplomatic ties between the two nations.
- **Keith Gomes'** short film '**Shameless**' has been selected as **India's official entry** at the **93rd Academy Awards** in the '**Live Action Short Film**' category.

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- **The Global Terrorism Index [GTI]** 2020 ranks India as **8th** in the world on a list of countries most affected by terrorism in 2019, Afghanistan ranked 1<sup>st</sup>, Iraq 2<sup>nd</sup>, Nigeria 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The Bengaluru based Indian Institute of Science researchers have developed an **efficient decentralised wastewater treatment and recycling system for rural areas**.
- **The Earth Sciences ministry** plans to launch the exploration **mission in 3-4 months' time** to look for **poly-metallic sulphides (PMS)**.
- India will host **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** Council of Heads of Government Meeting in virtual format. Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** will chair the meeting.
- **Mission Olympic Cell** has approved a one-month training camp in the U.S.A for **wrestler Bajrang Punia**, one of India's biggest medal hopes at the Tokyo Olympics.
- **Eminent Bangladeshi actor** and cultural personality **Aly Zaker** passed away in Dhaka. He was 76. He had been fighting cancer for the last several years.