

Current Affairs Today –1.11.2020 & 2.11.2020

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CURRENT AFFAIRS: DAYS

World Vegan Day 2020



- **World Vegan Day** is celebrated on **November 1** annually by vegans across the globe. It is observed to motivate people to follow a vegan lifestyle, which is beneficial for animal welfare and the environment. The day marks the founding day of The Vegan Society in the **United Kingdom**.
- Well, people who do not consume meat, eggs, etc. are vegetarians. However, people who are vegetarians but do not consume dairy products such as milk, cheese, paneer, etc. are called vegans.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: NATIONAL

AYUSH Ministry and Invest India to jointly set up “Strategic Policy & Facilitation Bureau” for planned and systematic growth of Ayush sector



Ministry of AYUSH

- The **Ministry of AYUSH** and **M/s Invest India** will form a collaboration to set up a “**Strategic Policy & Facilitation Bureau**” to facilitate planned and systematic growth of the Ayush sector.
- This is among the various steps which the Ministry has initiated to chart future directions along which the stake-holding groups of the Ayush Sector can move. Setting up of the Bureau is a forward-looking step which will make the Ayush systems future-ready. This Bureau will support the Ministry in strategic and policy making initiatives that shall help pave the way to reach the full potential of the Sector and stimulate growth and investment.
- As a partner in the project, M/S Invest India would collaborate extensively with the Ministry to frame the work plan of the Bureau and define its short-and long-term targets. Invest India would deploy highly trained and expert resources to implement and execute the plans of the Ministry of AYUSH.

About Ministry of AYUSH:

- Shripad Naik, Minister of State (Independent charge)
- Constituency: North Goa

Govt set to divest 10% in GIC Re, New India Assurance



- **Government** is set to offer **10% shares** in the country's largest non-life insurance company **New India Assurance** through an offer for sale to the public. The Centre may also do a similar dilution in the **General Insurance Corporation (GIC Re)**. However, the timing is not decided.
- The government had divested close to **15% stakes** in both New India and GIC in 2017. The disinvestment of GIC Re resulted in a mop-up of Rs 11,370 crore and New India's IPO raised Rs 9,600 crore..
- GIC Re has a market cap of Rs 21,333 crore, while New India's share price values the company at Rs 17,000 crore. A 10% dilution would give the government close to Rs 4,000 crore.
- All listed companies are required to have at **least 25% of** their holding with the public. In May this year, Sebi had relaxed the **25% minimum public shareholding** norms for listed companies in the wake of the Covid outbreak. The regulator asked stock exchanges not to take any penal action against companies that were to comply with the minimum shareholding rule between March 1 and August 31.

NITI Aayog, QCI Launch National Program and Project Management Policy Framework Initiative to Transform Infrastructure Sector in India



- **NITI Aayog** and **Quality Council of India** launched the '**National Program and Project Management Policy Framework**' (NPMPPF), envisaged to bring radical reforms in the way infrastructure projects are executed in India.
- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Nitin Gadkari unveiled the **Indian Infrastructure Body of Knowledge (InBoK)**, a book on the practice of program and project management in India, and launched the framework, along with Union Minister Piyush Goyal, NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, and QCI Chairman Adil Zainulbhai.
- India will require an investment of around **\$4.5 trillion by 2040** to develop the infrastructure for sustaining its economic growth. However, the challenges in infrastructure development that often obstruct the smooth execution of projects can be a detriment. Therefore, along with numerous initiatives by the Government and guidelines advocated by NITI Aayog towards improving performance of infrastructure projects, a task force was also constituted to lay down a national program and project management policy framework.

This framework aims to formulate radical reforms in the way large and mega infrastructure projects are managed in India, with an action plan to:

- Adopt a program and project management approach to infra development
- Institutionalize and promote the profession of program and project management and build a workforce of such professionals,

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- Enhance institutional capacity and capability of professionals

About Niti Aayog:

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Narendra Modi, (Chairperson)
- Rajiv Kumar, (Vice Chairperson)
- Amitabh Kant, (CEO)

CURRENT AFFAIRS: INTERNATIONAL

India, Mexico Hold Joint Commission Meeting, Review Bilateral Cooperation



- **India** and **Mexico** held their **eighth joint commission** meeting and reviewed cooperation in several areas including trade, investment, agriculture, health and education.
- External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar co-chaired** the meeting with his Mexican counterpart **Marcelo Ebrard**.

About Mexico:

- President: Andrés Manuel López Obrador
- Capital: Mexico City
- Currency: Peso (MXN)

206th Session of Governing Council of the IPU to be held from 1st to 4th November



- The **206th Session** of the **Governing Council** of the **Inter-Parliamentary Union, IPU** will be held from **1st to 4th November** this year. It will be an Extraordinary Virtual Session, which is being organised in place of a full-fledged in-person Statutory Assembly of IPU due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.
- The agenda of the Virtual Session includes the election of the new President of IPU through remote electronic secret ballot since the outgoing President of IPU Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron (MP, Mexico) had completed her term on 19th of this month. The term of the new President of IPU will be from 2020 to 2023.
- An Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla** and consisting of Lok Sabha MP Poonamben Maadam and Rajya Sabha MP Swapna Dasgupta will participate in the Virtual Session and cast their votes.
- There are four candidates in the fray for the post of IPU President. They are Duarte Pacheco from Portugal, Muhammad Sanjrani from Pakistan, Akmal Statedov from Uzbekistan and Salma Ataullahjan from Canada.

About Inter-Parliamentary Union:

- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

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- President: Gabriela Cuevas Barron
- Founded: 1889

CURRENT AFFAIRS: BANKING AND FINANCE

HDFC ERGO implements AI enabled solution to automate motor claim settlements



- **HDFC ERGO General Insurance**, India's third-largest non-life insurance company in the private sector, announced the launch of the **AI tool IDEAS (Intelligent Damage detection Estimation and Assessment Solution)** for motor claim settlements.
- The IDEAS module uses Neural Network image processing and Analytics, Machine Learning and Natural Language that supports instant damage detection as well as calculation of the claims estimate for the surveyors to help in motor claims settlement in real-time.
- This launch along with the digital inspection for the Company comes as an advantage for the surveyors, partner workshops as well as the customers amidst the ongoing pandemic.
- **e2e**, HDFC ERGO's Surveyor mobile application, was the first-of-its-kind mobile application launched for surveyors in 2017 which enabled surveyors to process entire motor own damage claims through mobile phones on a complete paperless basis.

About HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company:

- CEO: Ritesh Kumar
- Headquarters: Mumbai

ICICI Lombard, FreePaycard offer bite-sized, convenient health insurance solutions



- **ICICI Lombard** in partnership with **Freepaycard**, an online pre-paid card trading platform, has launched **Group Safeguard Insurance**. The plan will be offered to the members of Freepaycard, allowing them to receive an assured amount in case of any injury or hospitalization for treatment.
- ICICI Lombard says as convenience, affordability, and reach are important factors to increase insurance adoption and penetration, this strategic partnership will make the bite-sized health insurance solutions, designed specifically for Freepaycard members, available at its multi-category partner retail outlets. Freepaycard members can add these health solutions on the go while shopping for other essential goods or services.
- The insurance offering is a customized hospitalization product that comes in three variants – Hospital Daily Cash Benefit, Death Benefit, and Special Vector-borne Disease-related Hospitalization Benefit.

About ICICI Lombard:

- CEO: Bhargav Dasgupta

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- Headquarters: Mumbai

RBI imposes monetary penalty on DCB Bank, Jio Payments Bank for rule violations



- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed monetary penalty on **DCB Bank** and **Jio Payments Bank** for various **rule violations**.
- The central bank has imposed a penalty of **Rs 22 lakh** on DCB Bank for non-compliance with certain provisions on marketing/distribution of mutual fund/insurance etc.
- "The penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of Section 47A(1)(c) read with Section 46(4)(i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949," the RBI stated.
- In the case of Jio Payments Bank, the RBI imposed a penalty of **Rs 1 crore** for non-compliance with RBI directions on timely submission of application in the case of reappointment of Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer under Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (the Act), the RBI stated.

About RBI:

- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Governor: Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy Governor: Shri M. K. Jain, Shri B.P. Kanungo, Michael Debabrata Patra

CURRENT AFFAIRS: BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

Tech giant IBM, Indian Oil Corporation collaborate for digital services



- **Tech giant IBM** stated it has collaborated with **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL)** to transform the latter's customer experience using **digital tools**.
- Around 12,400 IOCL distributors covering about 130 million consumers can now use the IndianOil One mobile app and portal, developed by IBM Services, a statement stated.
- The **IndianOil One mobile app** and portal are part of Indian Oil's Project **ePIC**, an integrated platform for Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and Distribution Management System (DMS).
- This platform ensures real-time updates to inventory, orders, and invoices, thereby reducing the time to order fulfillment.

- Indian Oil can respond more quickly to customer service requests, including grievances using the platform. The platform also presents a unified customer experience across various access devices such as mobile phones, tablets, and desktops, the statement stated.

About IBM:

- CEO: Arvind Krishna
- Headquarters: Armonk, New York, United States

Walmart Vriddhi starts digitally enhanced learning process to train MSMEs



- With **Walmart Vriddhi** Supplier Development Program, India's **micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)** now have an opportunity to embark on interactive online training experiences and personalised mentoring, with access to resources and experts to support growth, a company statement stated.
- The Walmart Vriddhi Program was launched by **Walmart Inc.** in December 2019 with the aim to empower 50,000 Indian MSMEs to "**Make in India**" for domestic and global supply chains.
- Following the COVID-19 outbreak, the company stated that the program was reshaped to emphasise digital experiences, and this allowed it to be rolled out to more MSMEs.
- In the future, it will offer a mix of digital and in-person training, mentoring and network experiences via physical Vriddhi Institutes when conditions are favorable," the company added.

About Walmart:

- CEO: Doug McMillon
- Headquartered: Bentonville, Arkansas

CURRENT AFFAIRS: STATES

8000MW renewable park to light up India-Pak border areas in Rajasthan



- India's border areas with Pakistan in **Rajasthan** would soon be illuminated with renewable energy as the state government will soon ink an MoU with **National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)** and **Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)** to establish **Ultra Mega Renewal Energy Power Park**, government officials stated.
- The park to be set up near borders areas will be of **8,000 megawatts (MW) capacity**, which will comprise 4,310 MW of wind energy; 3,760 MW of solar energy and 120 MW of power from biomass. Currently, Rajasthan's solar generation capacity is 4,883 MW.

- The Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Limited (RRECL) would be signing a separate MoU with the NTPC and the SECI to materialise the GoI Mega Power Park project. Rajasthan has over 1000 kilometre-long international border which is currently supplied power through traditional methods.
- The **Rajasthan government** had also approved a proposal for setting up solar power parks to generate 10,000 MW green energy with an investment of **Rs 50,000 crore**.
- The state has given nod to the proposal of **Adani Green Energy Limited** to set up solar power parks at five locations and a solar panel manufacturing unit which will generate around 7,500 direct and indirect jobs, the officials stated.

About Rajasthan:

- Governor: Kalraj Mishra
- Capital: Jaipur
- Chief minister: Ashok Gehlot

Chhattisgarh celebrates its foundation day



- **Chhattisgarh** is celebrating its foundation day on **1st November**. On this occasion a '**Rajyotsav programme**' was organized at the Chief Minister's official Residence.
- The Rajyotsav Programme organized on the occasion of Chhattisgarh foundation day, various schemes, including Swami Atmanand English Medium School Scheme aimed at providing education in the English language to students across the State was launched.
- This was the **21st foundation day** of Chhattisgarh. The State came into existence on November 1, 2000 after being carved out of **Madhya Pradesh**.

About Chhattisgarh:

- Capital : Raipur
- Governor: Anusuiya Uikey
- Chief minister: Bhupesh Baghel

CURRENT AFFAIRS: MOU

MoU signed between SAI and Arunachal Pradesh government



- In order to develop the sports infrastructure at the **National Centre of Excellence** in Itanagar, an MoU was signed between the **Sports Authority of India (SAI)** and **Arunachal Pradesh government**.
- An MOU was signed between SAI and Govt of Arunachal Pradesh to develop infrastructure at the National Centre of Excellence in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh

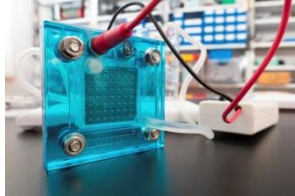
About Arunachal Pradesh:

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- Capital: Itanagar
- Governor :B. D. Mishra
- Chief Minister: Pema Khandu

IISc, IOCL sign MoU for hydrogen-generation technology



- The Bengaluru based **Indian Institute of Science and R&D Centre of Indian Oil Corporation** have signed an MOU to develop and demonstrate **biomass gasification** based **hydrogen generation technology** for producing fuel cell-grade hydrogen at an affordable price.
- Both IISc and Indian Oil will demonstrate the technology in the Indian Oil R&D Centre in Faridabad. The technology is crucial for the fuel cell operated buses being conceived by Indian Oil towards ushering in the country's hydrogen economy.
- IISc has worked on biomass gasification and developed an innovative process for the production of hydrogen rich syngas and a small scale prototype is demonstrated in the IISc campus. The use of this technology will not only provide a cleaner energy option for India but also be a step towards addressing the challenge of biomass waste.

About IOCL:

- Chairperson: Shrikant Madhav Vaidya
- Headquarters: New Delhi

CURRENT AFFAIRS: APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Harpreet A De Singh appointed CEO of Alliance Air; becomes first woman to head an Indian air carrier



- **Harpreet A De Singh**, the **first woman pilot of Air India**, has been appointed as the **chief executive officer (CEO) of Alliance Air**, a subsidiary of the national carrier. She has become the first woman ever to head an Indian carrier.
- Captain **Nivedita Bhasin**, a senior commander flying Boeing 787 Dreamliner, will be new ED (flight safety) and replace Harpreet.
- Harpreet was appointed as the first woman commercial pilot of Indian Airlines in 1988. She, however, had to give up her flying job due to health issues.
- A report by Scroll stated that as per data released in 2018 by International Society of Women Airlines Pilots, India has the maximum percentage of women airline pilots.
- The data also highlighted that the percentage of women pilots in India are more than double the global average.

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Former HDFC Bank CEO Aditya Puri to join private equity firm Carlyle as senior advisor



- **Aditya Puri** will be guiding global **Carlyle** on investment opportunities across Asia as a senior advisor, the global private equity major stated. The announcement has come within a week of Puri's retirement from HDFC Bank as the chief executive and managing director.
- Puri is widely credited for building **HDFC Bank** from scratch and making it the largest in the private sector space and the most valuable one.
- Puri will advise the Carlyle team on investment opportunities across Asia and provide guidance on the evolving market landscape and new investment opportunities, Carlyle stated in a statement.
- He will also be advising Carlyle's investment professionals and portfolio management teams on building differentiated high quality businesses, it stated.

About Carlyle group:

- Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
- Daniel A. D'Aniello (chairman emeritus)

Rajiv Jalota appointed chairman of Mumbai Port Trust



- Maharashtra cadre 1988 batch Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officer **Rajiv Jalota** has been appointed as the chairman of **Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT)** under the Union ministry of shipping. The appointment committee of the Union cabinet issued the order for the central deputation.
- Jalota, who is the **first Goods and Services Tax (GST)** commissioner of the state, is currently the additional chief secretary in higher and technical education department of the state government. He first served as sales tax commissioner and then as GST commissioner from January 2015 to January 2020.
- The post of MbPT chairman was vacant after former chairman **Sanjay Bhatia** retired on July 31 and was appointed as up-Lokayukta of the state.

Electronics Sector Skill Council of India appoints PVG Menon as CEO



- The **Electronics Sector Skill Council of India (ESSCI)** announced appointment of PVG Menon as its chief executive officer.

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- Menon will be responsible for overseeing the operations of ESSCI and work closely with its governing Council on strategic issues related to the growth of the electronic systems design and manufacturing (ESDM) industry in India.
- ESSCI works with industry, the **National Skill Development Corporation**, and the **Ministry of Electronics and IT** to provide both skilling and re-skilling services to the industry.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ISRO to launch Indian earth observation satellite EOS-01, nine international customer spacecraft on November 7



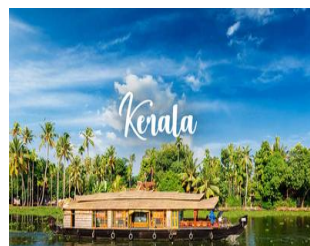
- India would launch its latest earth observation satellite **EOS-01** and **nine international customer spacecraft** onboard its Polar rocket **PSLV-C49** from the spaceport of **Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh** on November 7, ISRO stated.
- This is the first launch by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) since the COVID-19 induced lockdown came into force in March.
- EOS-01 is intended for applications in agriculture, forestry and disaster management support, the city-headquartered ISRO stated.
- The customer satellites are being launched under commercial agreement with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), Department of Space, the space agency stated, without giving further details.
- This will be the **51st mission of ISRO's workhorse** Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle.

About ISRO:

- Headquarters: Bengaluru
- Director: Kailasavadivoo Sivan

CURRENT AFFAIRS: RANKING

PAC Report Finds Kerala, Goa Best Governed States, UP Ranks Lowest



- A report by Public Affairs Centre (PAC) released named **Kerala** as the **best governed state** in the country and placed **Uttar Pradesh** at the bottom of the list.
- Headed by former ISRO chairman **K Kasturirangan**, the PAC report called **Public Affairs Index-2020**, ranked states and Union Territories on governance performance based on a composite index in the context of sustainable development.

- The top four ranks in the large state category in terms of governance were bagged by states in Southern India. Kerala topped the list with 1.388 PAI Index points, **Tamil Nadu** (0.912), Andhra Pradesh (0.531) and Karnataka (0.468).
- The states that scored the lowest in the same category included, Uttar Pradesh (-1.461), Odisha (-1.201) and Bihar (-1.158). The three states scored negative points.
- **Goa** topped the list among small states with 1.745 points, followed by Meghalaya (0.797) and Himachal Pradesh (0.725). The states that ranked the lowest in the category included, Manipur (-0.363), Delhi (-0.289) and Uttarakhand (-0.277).
- Among Union Territories, **Chandigarh** emerged the best governed union territory in the category of UTs with 1.05 PAI points, followed by Puducherry (0.52) and Lakshadweep (0.003). Dadar and Nagar Haveli (-0.69), Andaman, Jammu and Kashmir (-0.50) and Nicobar (-0.30) ranked the lowest.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: SPORTS

BCCI announces Jio as title sponsor of Women's T20 Challenge 2020



- **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has announced **Reliance Jio** as the title sponsor of the **Women's T20 Challenge 2020**. This is the first time a sponsor is partnering with the BCCI exclusively for the women's counterpart to the IPL. The Board announced the development in a post on the IPL T20 website.
- BCCI Chairman **Sourav Ganguly** stated the Board grows the game of cricket across all formats, one key area of focus has been to grow the women's game. The women's T20 challenge is scheduled to run from November 4-9 in **Sharjah**.

About BCCI:

- Location: Churchgate, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- President: Sourav Ganguly
- Secretary: Jay Shah

CURRENT AFFAIRS: DEFENCE

India Test-Fires Air-Launched Version Of BrahMos Missile



- In a display of its growing combat prowess, the Indian Air Force successfully test-fired an air launched version of the **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile** from a **Sukhoi fighter** aircraft in the Bay of Bengal, official sources stated. The missile hit a sinking ship with deadly accuracy and the test-firing produced desired results, they stated.
- The aircraft, belonging to **Thanjavur-based Tigersharks squadron**, took off from a frontline airbase in Punjab and it was refuelled mid-air before the missile was released, they stated.

- The test firing of the missile came in the midst of India's bitter border standoff with China in eastern Ladakh.
- In May last year, the Indian Air Force for the first time had successfully test fired the aerial version of the BrahMos missile from a **Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft**.
- The BrahMos missile provides the IAF a much desired capability to strike from large stand-off ranges on any target at sea or on land with pinpoint accuracy by day or night and in all weather conditions.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: OBITUARY

Tamil Nadu Agriculture Minister R. Duraikannu passes away at 72



- **Tamil Nadu Agriculture Minister R. Duraikannu** passed away. He was 72. He was confirmed with Covid-19 infection and was put on maximal life support. However, he failed to respond to the treatment.
- Duraikannu is the third legislator from Tamil Nadu to succumb to Covid-19 and the complications arising out of it.

Sean Connery, James Bond actor, dies aged 90



- **Sean Connery**, the Scottish actor best known for his portrayal of **James Bond**, has died aged 90.. Scottish movie legend Sean Connery, who shot to **international stardom** as the suave and sophisticated British agent **James Bond** and went on to grace the silver screen for four decades. Connery will be remembered first as **British agent 007**.
- He was admired by generations of film fans as the original and best 007, and went on to create a distinguished body of work in films such as The Man Who Would Be King, The Name of the Rose and The Untouchables.

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- RBI imposes monetary penalty on DCB Bank, Jio Payments Bank for rule violations
- Tech giant IBM, Indian Oil Corporation collaborate for digital services

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