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CURRENT AFFAIRS

Weekly Capsule (16th to 22nd November)

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Weekly Current Affairs: 16th to 22nd November 2020

IMPORTANT DATES

National Press Day is observed on November 16

National Press Day is observed on 16th November every year, and is symbolic of a free and responsible press. It was on this day the Press Council of India started functioning as a moral watchdog to ensure that the press maintains high standards and is not fettered by any influence or threats.

International Day for Tolerance is observed on November 16

International Day for Tolerance is observed on 16 November to raise awareness about strengthening tolerance by encouraging mutual understanding among cultures and peoples. The UN General Assembly in 1966 by resolution 51/95 invited UN Member States to observe the International Day for Tolerance on 16 November.

National Epilepsy Day is observed on November 17

National Epilepsy Day is observed on 17 November every year to focus on the epilepsy disease, its symptoms and prevention. Let us tell you that Epilepsy is a chronic disorder of the brain which is characterised by recurrent 'seizures' or 'fits'. It can affect people of any age and people in the different age groups have unique concerns and problems.

International Men's Day is celebrated on November 19

International Men's Day is celebrated on 19 November. The theme for International Men's Day 2019 is "Making a Difference for Men and Boys". This day highlights the issues faced by men on a global scale.

World Toilet Day is observed on November 19

World Toilet Day is observed on 19 November annually to inspire people about tackling the issue of the global sanitation crisis and to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, which promises sanitation for all by 2030. According to WHO and UNICEF around 60% of the global population that is approx 4.5 billion people either have no toilet at home or one that does not safely manage excreta.



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Universal Children's Day is observed on November 20

Universal Children's Day is observed on 20 November annually to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide and improving children's welfare. It was established in 1954. On this day in 1959, the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. And in 1989 on the same day, the UN General Assembly also adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

World Television Day is celebrated on November 21

World Television Day is celebrated on 21 November every year. According to the UN, this day highlights the major role that television plays in daily life by presenting different issues that affects people. UN General Assembly on 17 December, 1996 proclaimed 21 November as World Television Day.

World Fisheries Day is celebrated on November 21

World Fisheries Day is observed every year on 21st of November to demonstrate solidarity with all fisher-folk communities, fish farmers and concerned stakeholders throughout the world. The Department of Fisheries in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is celebrating the day at NASC Complex in New Delhi. According to the Ministry, during the event, for the first time, the Central Government will award best performing States in the Fisheries Sector for 2019-20.

STATE NEWS

First solar power-enabled Textile Mill in Asia to come up in Parbhani district, Maharashtra

The first solar power-enabled Textile Mill in Asia is coming up in Parbhani district, Maharashtra. The project, once functional, will provide jobs to many women in the district. The Jai Bhawani women's cooperative textile mill will be the first in Asia that will operate on solar power. Spread across thirty acres of land the mill will process cotton to cloth.

Telangana opts for borrowing to meet GST revenue gap

The Telangana government has opted for meeting its Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue gap by signing up for a borrowing scheme facilitated by the Central government, joining 22 other states and three union territories. The central government has already borrowed an amount of ₹18,000 crore on behalf of the states. The next instalment of borrowings is likely to be released on 23 November.



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Naveen Patnaik announces free smartphones for all households in Odisha's Naxal hotbed

Striving to transform the Naxal hotbed in the 'cut-off area' of Odisha's Malkangiri district into one of the developed places of the state, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said smartphones will be provided free of cost to all households in the region. An amount of ₹32 crore will be spent for 43 lift irrigation projects and 419 cluster deep borewells, which will provide irrigation to 1,700 hectares of land.

MP govt to set up Gau Cabinet for protection & promotion of cows in state

The state government of Madhya Pradesh has decided to set up a Gau Cabinet for the protection and promotion of cows in the state. CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan informed that the first meeting of the gau cabinet will be held on November 22. Ministers of the animal husbandry, forest, panchayat and rural development, revenue, home and farmers' welfare departments will be included in this cabinet.

Digital museum opens at Maharaj Bada in Gwalior

A digital museum has been opened at Maharaj Bada in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh for the public. The museum is developed by Gwalior Smart City and entry for the public is being made free for a few days. It is the first center of its kind in Gwalior and Bundelkhand area and will play a role in educating school students.

Himachal Pradesh CM flags off Medical Mobile Unit Jeevan Dhara

In order to provide a complete range of health care services for people living in remote and inaccessible areas of Himachal Pradesh, the state government flagged off the Medical Mobile Unit Jeevan Dhara, from the Ridge in Shimla. The mobile Health and Wellness Van would have basic facilities such as diagnostic, testing facilities for various ailments. Jeevan Dhara would also have requisite drugs and supplies as prescribed for a Primary Health Centre.

Madhya Pradesh conducts 'Poshit Parivar-Suposhit Madhya Pradesh' campaign in all districts

A community-based nutrition management programme of very severely malnourished children is being conducted in all districts of Madhya Pradesh under the nurtured families - well nurtured Madhya Pradesh i.e. 'Poshit Parivar-Suposhit Madhya Pradesh' campaign. Under this campaign, very serious malnourished children are identified and after 12 weeks or 3 months of continuous effort after their registration, they are brought to normal nutrition level.

North Police Station in Kohima receives an ISO certification

North Police Station Kohima in Nagaland has been awarded an ISO certification. The Police station is located in the heart of Kohima Town which was the first established police station under Naga Hills district by the British Regime in the year 1933. It has been awarded ISO 9001:2015 certification on meeting the specified parameters of Quality Management System on policing and related scope of activities which includes maintenance of public peace, law and order, prevention, detection and investigation of crime and criminal activities, emergency response, VIP Security and prevention of human trafficking.



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Rajasthan govt to give ₹6,000 to women becoming mothers for second time

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Thursday said ₹6,000 will be given to women becoming mothers for the second time under a new government scheme. He said the beneficiary women will get the amount directly in their bank accounts in five phases. The scheme will not only help fight malnutrition, but will also increase awareness among the people about the importance of a mother's health and her nutrition level for proper development of children.

Karnataka targets becoming \$50 billion bioeconomy by 2025

Karnataka aims to become a \$50 billion bioeconomy, comprising bio-technology and life sciences sectors, by 2025. The value of the market in the state currently stands at \$22.6 billion. The state has started work on a life-science park in Bengaluru to help create an integrated biotechnology ecosystem in Karnataka and leverage its potential to attract investments, promote innovation, and generate jobs in the city and state.

Karnataka launches first State BioEconomy Report during Bengaluru Tech Summit

Karnataka Deputy CM Dr. C N Ashwath Narayan launched the first State BioEconomy Report during the ongoing Bengaluru Tech Summit. According to the report, Karnataka's BioEconomy has grown by 14 to 17 percent in the previous two years, contributing 10.3 percent to the Gross State Domestic Product GSDP. This contributed 2.3 percent of India's 2.8 trillion GDP in the previous year. The report also says that Karnataka contributes more than one third to the national BioEconomy.

Sports activities organized under Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao in J&K

the ICDS department in collaboration with District Youth Services and Sports department organized sports activities under Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) in Jammu and Kashmir. During the programme, various sports activities like Cricket, Tug of War and Badminton were organised in which over 200 girls participated.

NATIONAL NEWS

Education Minister virtually launches AICTE's Lilavati Award-2020

Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" virtually launched Lilavati Award-2020: AICTE's Innovative education program to empower women yesterday. With women empowerment as the theme, the objective of the award is to create awareness about issues like sanitation, hygiene, health, nutrition, literacy, and employment among women.



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PM to inaugurate Bengaluru Tech Summit 2020

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Bengaluru Tech Summit, 2020. The theme of the summit is "Next is Now". The summit will deliberate on the key challenges emerging in the post-pandemic world with focus on the impact of prominent technologies and innovations in the domains of 'Information Technology & Electronics' and 'Biotechnology'.

Centre launches Safai Mitra Suraksha Challenge in 243 cities

Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched the Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge, aimed to ensure that no person needs to enter a sewer or septic tank, unless absolutely unavoidable in the interest of greater public hygiene. The initiative, that promotes mechanized cleaning, also aims to ensure that no life of any sewer or septic tank cleaner is ever lost again owing to the issue of 'hazardous' cleaning.

PM Modi to inaugurate RE-INVEST 2020

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the virtual 3rd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo (RE-INVEST 2020). The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, UK and President COP-26, and the Minister of Energy, Utilities and Climate, Denmark will attend and speak in the inaugural session. RE-INVEST 2020 will include a two-day virtual conference on renewables and future energy choices and an exhibition of manufacturers, developers, investors and innovators engaged in the clean energy sector.

Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad releases 'My Stamp on Chhath Puja'

Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad released a "My Stamp on Chhath Puja". My Stamp is an innovative concept initiated by the Department of Posts. Any common person or corporate organisation can now book order and get a personalised photograph or an image of a Postage Stamp. My Stamp is one of the unique products being offered by India Post, which has gained its popularity in the customised gifting category.

Nation remembers former PM Indira Gandhi on her 103rd birth anniversary

The nation is remembering former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on her 103rd birth anniversary. Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to the late leader. She was Born on 19 November 1917, in Prayagraj. She was the first and, to date, only female Prime Minister of India. She served as prime minister from January 1966 to March 1977 and again from January 1980 until her assassination in October 1984. In 1999, Indira Gandhi was named "Woman of the Millennium" in an online poll organised by the BBC. In 2020 Gandhi was named by the Time magazine among the world's 100 powerful women who defined the last century.



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BSF organizes Para-Cycling expedition 'Infinity Ride 2020'

Border Security Force (BSF) is organizing a Para-Cycling expedition "Infinity Ride 2020", in association with Aditya Mehta Foundation. The expedition commenced from Srinagar today and will culminate at the Southern tip of India at Kanyakumari Tamil Nadu on 31st December this year. The expedition was flagged off this morning by Rakesh Asthana, Director General of BSF at Nishat Bagh in Srinagar. This venture is being conducted under the aegis of BSF's Divyang Skill Development Centre (DSDC), New Delhi.

Health Minister chairs an event to mark National Newborn Week 2020

Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan chaired an event to mark the National Newborn Week 2020, being observed from 15th to 21st November to reinforce the importance of newborn health as a key priority area of the health sector and to reiterate the commitment at the highest level. This year, the theme of National Newborn Week is 'Quality, Equity, Dignity for every newborn at every health facility and everywhere.

PM Modi to attend 5th G-20 Leaders Summit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be attending the 15th G-20 Leaders Summit at the invitation of the King of Saudi Arabia. The summit is being chaired by Saudi Arabia on November 21st and 22nd in a virtual format under the theme - Realising the Opportunities of the 21st Century for All.

Nirmala Sitharaman attends G20 Finance Ministers' virtual meeting

Minister for Finance Nirmala Sitharaman virtually participated in the G20 Finance Ministers meeting in New Delhi. Finance Ministers of the G20 countries gathered to discuss their views on the global economic outlook and downside risks in wake of the COVID-19 crisis and how G20 could carry forward the collective global action initiated during the crisis.

Eight MoUs announced during ongoing Bengaluru Tech Summit 2020

During the ongoing Bengaluru Tech Summit, eight MoUs were announced with Finland, UK, Sweden, USA and Netherlands.

- Karnataka and Finland have decided to come together to work in the areas of Artificial Intelligence for public service in Agriculture, transport, health, safety, governance and service delivery.
- Karnataka and Sweden have agreed to facilitate innovative applications across different sectors, including smart city, health, manufacturing, product testing and validation.
- Karnataka and USA have come together to incubate early stage startups and generate employment in the Electronics System Design and Manufacturing sector.
- Karnataka and Netherlands will forge their potentials to build best practices in cyber security and privacy domains. It will also work towards creating India's first sector agnostic international market and assist at least 10 Karnataka startups to enter the international market.



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Govt to replace safeguard duty with custom duty to protect local manufacturers of solar equipment

Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy, R K Singh said that India is going to replace the safeguard duty with the custom duty to protect the local manufactures of solar equipment. He said, some countries are dumping solar equipment at very low prices in the country to destroy local manufactures.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Second phase of Malabar Exercise begins in Northern Arabian Sea

The second phase of Exercise Malabar 2020 will begin in the Northern Arabian Sea. Taking forward the synergy achieved in the recently concluded Phase One of Exercise Malabar 2020, which was conducted earlier this month, this phase will involve coordinated operations of increasing complexity between the navies of Australia, India, Japan and the United States.

High Commission of India launches Special Edition wrist watches for Mujib Centenary year in Dhaka

A limited series of special edition wristwatches was released in Dhaka today for the Mujib Centenary year 'Mujib Borsho'. The special edition watches designed and commissioned by the High Commission of India was released by the Minister of Road Transport and Bridges Obaidul Quader and the High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami.

Xi offers to cooperate with India, BRICS countries to develop Covid-19 vaccine

Chinese President Xi Jinping offered to cooperate with India and other BRICS nations in the development of vaccines against the coronavirus and called for holding a symposium by the five-member bloc on traditional medicine to explore its role in the COVID-19 prevention and treatment.



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Saudi Arabia host online G20 summit

Saudi Arabia hosts the G20 summit in a first for an Arab nation, but the scaled-down virtual format could limit debate on a resurgent coronavirus pandemic and crippling economic crisis. The two-day meeting of the world's wealthiest nations follows a bitter US election the results of which remain disputed by President Donald Trump and comes amid criticism of what campaigners call the group's inadequate response to the worst recession in decades.

Japan & Australia sign landmark defence deal to counter China's growing influence in South China Sea

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison have signed a landmark defence deal in a bid to counter China's growing influence in the South China Sea and over the Pacific island nations. The pact allows Japanese and Australian troops to visit each other's countries and conduct training and joint operations.

UAE suspends issuance of visit visas to Pakistan, 11 other countries

The United Arab Emirates has temporarily suspended the issuance of new visas to visitors from Pakistan and 11 other countries until further notice, the Foreign Office said. However, the suspension would not apply on already issued visas. The decision by the UAE authorities is 'believed to be related to the second wave of COVID-19'.

Mission Sagar II: Indian Naval Ship Airavat arrives at Port of Mombasa, Kenya

In continuation of the ongoing humanitarian mission 'Sagar-II', Indian Naval Ship Airavat arrived at Port of Mombasa, Kenya. The Government of India is providing assistance to Friendly Foreign Countries to overcome natural calamities and COVID-19 pandemic, and towards the same INS Airavat is carrying food aid for the people of South Sudan.

Green Climate Fund approves USD 256 million for Bangladesh

The Green Climate Fund has approved dollar 256 million for Bangladesh in grants and loans to meet its GreenHouse Gas (GHG) emission reduction targets under the Paris agreement. The financing is provided as an integrated package for textile and Ready Made Garments (RMG) sectors of Bangladesh are the largest industrial contributors in carbon emission.

PMs of India and Bhutan to virtually launch RuPay Card phase-2 in Bhutan

Prime Ministers of India and Bhutan will virtually launch RuPay Card phase-2 in Bhutan. The two Prime Ministers had jointly launched phase-1 of the project during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's



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visit to Bhutan in August last year. The phase-2 will now allow Bhutanese cardholders to access RuPay network in India.

2nd edition of SITMEX-20 underway in Andaman Sea

Indian Navy Ships including indigenously built ASW corvette Kamorta and missile corvette Karmuk are participating in the 2nd edition of India, Singapore and Thailand Trilateral Maritime Exercise SITMEX-20 in Andaman Sea. The 2020 edition of the exercise is being hosted by Republic of Singapore Navy which is being represented by the 'Formidable' Class frigate 'Intrepid' and 'Endurance' Class Landing Ship Tank 'Endeavour'. The Royal Thai Navy is being represented by the 'Chao Phraya' Class frigate 'Kraburi' in the exercise.

BANKING & FINANCE

Reserve Bank places Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd under moratorium

In view of its weak financials, the Reserve Bank has placed the Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited under moratorium with immediate effect. RBI said the moratorium will be effective for thirty days with a view to protect depositors' interest. Accordingly, RBI has capped all cash withdrawals from the bank to twenty five thousand rupees.

RBI announces merger of Lakshmi Vilas Bank and DBS Bank's India arm

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the merger of Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) with the wholly-owned subsidiary of DBS Bank in India soon after it imposed a one-month moratorium on the private lender and capped deposit withdrawals at ₹25,000. Lakshmi Vilas Bank has been gasping for capital and not only did its capital adequacy ratio fail to meet regulatory norms.

Yes Bank launches co-branded prepaid card with Neokred for cashless payments

Yes Bank said it has launched a co-branded prepaid card in partnership with Neokred Technologies to facilitate cashless payments. The prepaid card will be offered to Neokred's corporate partners across various sectors, including healthcare, financial institutions, NBFCs, oil companies, educational institutions, FMCG and infrastructure.

RBI names 2 startups as a part of its regulatory sandbox programm

Reserve Bank of India has announced the names of two startups that have been selected as a part of its regulatory sandbox programme. The two companies are Jaipur based Natural Support Consultancy Services Private Limited and New Delhi based Nucleus Software Exports Limited.

Kotak Mahindra Mutual Fund launches Kotak ESG Opportunities Fund



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Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company Limited (KMAMC) announced the launch of 'Kotak ESG Opportunities Fund', which will focus on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors and the Principles for Responsible Investing (PRI).

RBI becomes first central bank in the world to reach 1 mn followers on Twitter

The Reserve Bank of India has reached one million followers on Twitter. With this, the central bank of India is now the first-ever such bank in the world to have reached these many followers in the micro-blogging site. RBI has beaten the US Federal Reserve and European Central Bank on Twitter by emerging as the most popular central bank on Twitter. In the current financial year, as many as 2.5 lakh new followers joined RBI handle.

RBI fines PNB, Sodexo, PhonePe for flouting regulatory norms

The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of over ₹5.78 crore on six entities including Punjab National Bank Ltd (PNB), PhonePe Pvt. Ltd and Sodexo SVC India Pvt. Ltd for non-compliance of regulatory guidelines. The central bank has imposed a penalty of over ₹5.78 crore on six entities. Sodexo has been slapped with the highest fine of ₹2 crore followed by PhonePe, which has been fined ₹1.39 crore.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

DIPAM inks agreement with World Bank

Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, DIPAM signed an agreement with the World Bank. Under the agreement, the World Bank is to provide advisory services to DIPAM for asset monetization. DIPAM is mandated with facilitating monetization of non-core assets of government CPSEs under strategic disinvestment or closure and enemy property of value of Rs. 100 crore and above. DIPAM has a framework for monetizing non-core assets.

Amazon launches online pharmacy in new contest with drug retail

Amazon Inc launched an online pharmacy for delivering prescription medications in the United States, increasing competition with drug retailers such as Walgreens, CVS and Walmart. Called Amazon Pharmacy, the new store lets customers price-compare as they buy drugs on the company's website or app.

France's No.1 milk brand Lactel is now available in India

Lactel, France's No 1 milk brand has launched its affordable UHT toned milk 1 Litre packet at an MRP of ₹70 and looks to provide consumers with the best of nutrition. The launch of UHT milk marks the entry of the world-famous brand Lactel in India, which was founded in 1967 and today has over 50 years of experience and is present in over 50 countries.



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Uber launches 500 e-rickshaws in Greater Kolkata

Cab aggregator Uber announced that it will deploy 500 e-rickshaws, the first three-wheeler micro mobility product on its platform, in Greater Kolkata. Riders from Howrah, Barasat, Madhyamgram, Rajarhat and Salt Lake will be able to book the e-rickshaws on the Uber app. The launch is in line with Uber's recently announced global commitment to make all rides on its platform 100% emission-free by 2040.

Mastercard, USAID join hands for Project Kirana to empower women through financial inclusion

Global payments technology major Mastercard has joined hands with development agency USAID for the Project Kirana that will help increase revenue streams, expand financial inclusion and digital payments adoption of kirana shops that are owned or operated by women.

UBS becomes first major European bank to pay out full 2019 dividend

UBS shareholders approved payment of the second half of its 2019 dividend, making it the first major European bank to pay a full dividend for the year despite turmoil caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Some 99.49% of the bank's shareholders approved a special dividend of \$0.365 per share in a virtual extraordinary general meeting.

NCRTC and NDB sign USD 500m for Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Rapid Transit System Project

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, National Capital Region Transport Corporation Limited and the New Development Bank signed a loan agreement for lending 500 million dollars for the 'Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System Project'. The Rapid Transit System will provide a fast, reliable, safe and comfortable public transport system in the National Capital Region.

Amazon new programme to prepare students from top B-school for leadership roles

Amazon launched its flagship leadership development programme 'Amazon Future Builders Program' for students enrolled in premier B-Schools in India. The e-commerce giant will prepare the students for leadership roles at the company. "The culmination of this experience will lead to students emerging as future leaders poised to occupy key leadership roles at Amazon. The programme allows students to gain a breadth of experience across Amazon's businesses through a two month 'incubator' period.

Paytm becomes India's largest platform for booking LPG cylinders

Home-grown digital financial services platform Paytm announced that within a year of launching the LPG cylinder bookings service, it has registered over 5 million bookings. With this, Paytm has become the largest enabler of LPG cylinder bookings in the country.



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World Bank approves 120-mn to improve transport sector of Meghalaya

The Government of India, Meghalaya government and the World Bank signed a 120 million dollar project to improve and modernise the transport sector of Meghalaya. This will help the state to harness its vast growth potential for high-value agriculture and tourism. The project will improve about 300 kilometres of strategic road segments and stand-alone bridges by using innovative, climate resilient, and nature-based solutions. It will also support innovative solutions such as precast bridges to reduce both time and cost of construction.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Bangladeshi teen wins International Children's Peace Prize

A Bangladeshi teen Sadat Rahman has been awarded the International Children's Peace Prize for his work to stop cyber bullying of teens. The award was given away by the Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai during a ceremony in the Netherlands. The prize is given away by the international children's rights organization KidsRights to a child who fights courageously for children's rights. He has created the anti-cyber bullying app 'Cyber Teens' to help teenagers who are sufferers of cyber bullying.

Scottish writer Douglas Stuart wins Booker prize for novel Shuggie Bain

Scottish writer Douglas Stuart has won the 2020 Booker Prize for fiction with his debut novel Shuggie Bain, which described a boy growing up in Glasgow in the 1980s with a mother battling addiction. Stuart, 44, who won the 50,000 Pound prize after being announced the winner by chair of the judges Margaret Busby, delivered an acceptance speech.

Education Minister RP Nishank receives Vatayan Lifetime Achievement Award

Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has been conferred with the Vatayan Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution in the field of literature. Mr Pokhriyal received the award at the Vatayan-UK felicitation ceremony organised through video conferencing by the British Institution Group in England.

Karnataka Governor presents Doctor of Science honorary doctorate upon ISRO Chairman

Karnataka Governor Vajubhai Vala presented Doctor of Science honorary doctorate upon ISRO Chairman K Sivan. In a simple ceremony in Bengaluru, the Doctorate was conferred on the ISRO chief. The Visvesvaraya Technological University has conferred the doctorate to him. The Governor highly praised the role of ISRO in defining our Space programme and the social role that it has played in the country.



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APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

RBI appoints Kris Gopalakrishnan as chairperson of its innovation hub

Senapathy (Kris) Gopalakrishnan, co-founder and former co-chairman of Infosys, has been appointed as the first chairperson of the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub. In August, the RBI had announced that it will set up the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) to promote innovation across the financial sector by leveraging on technology and creating an environment that would facilitate and foster innovation

Nitish Kumar sworn-in as Chief Minister of Bihar

Nitish Kumar was sworn-in as Chief Minister of Bihar for the seventh time. Bihar Governor Phagu Chauhan administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr Kumar at Raj Bhavan in Patna. BJP legislature party leader Tarkishore Prasad and Deputy leader Renu Devi have been made the new Deputy Chief Ministers.

Actor Sonu Sood appointed as state icon of Punjab by Election Commission of India

Actor Sonu Sood has been appointed as state icon of Punjab by the Election Commission of India (ECI). The decision of honouring Sonu Sood with the title comes after he earned laurels for his humanitarian work during the lockdown. Sonu has been helping migrant workers reach their hometowns amid the coronavirus pandemic. He also helped people by giving them face masks, food, mobile phones and more.

HDFC Mutual Fund appoints Navneet Munot as MD and CEO

Navneet Munot has been appointed as managing director and chief executive officer of HDFC Asset Management Co. Ltd. Munot, who was earlier chief investment officer (CIO) at SBI Mutual Fund, will be succeeding Milind Barve, who has been MD and CEO of HDFC AMC since inception in 2000.

DK Thakur appointed as new Police Commissioner of Lucknow

ATS chief DK Thakur has been appointed as the new police commissioner of Lucknow. Uttar Pradesh government has transferred Lucknow Police Commissioner Sujeet Pandey. Sujit Pandey will be ADG, Arms Training Centre, Sitapur. Mr Pandey was the first CP of the city after the launch of the commissionerate system in January this year.

Route Mobile appoints Sandipkumar Gupta as chairman

Communication service provider Route Mobile has appointed company's co-founder Sandipkumar Gupta as the chairman with effect from November 19. Sandipkumar has over 19 years of experience in audit and accounts, business analysis, SAP configuration, and software system consulting. Arun Gupta has been named as the additional director (non-executive independent).



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Indian-American Mala Adiga appointed as Jill Biden's policy director

US President-elect Joe Biden appointed an Indian-American, Mala Adiga, the policy director of his wife Jill Biden, who will be the first lady. Mala Adiga had been a clerk for a federal agency and had worked for a Chicago law firm before joining the campaign of Barack Obama in 2008. A native of Illinois, Mala Adiga is a graduate of Grinnell College, the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, and the University of Chicago Law School.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

IIT Guwahati formulates efficient “pincer” catalytic systems that transform biomass wastes into valuable chemicals

A research team of IIT Guwahati has formulated efficient “pincer” catalytic systems that transform biomass wastes into valuable chemicals. Tiny amounts of these “pincer catalysts” repeatedly convert large amounts of industrial waste such as glycerol into lactic acid and hydrogen.

Second flight test of QRSAM conducted successfully

The second flight test of Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile System (QRSAM) was successfully conducted from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha. The first in the series test of QRSAM took place on the 13th of this month. Today's flight test was carried out against the high performance Jet Unmanned Aerial Target called Banshee, which simulates an aircraft.

Google Maps introduces new Covid-19 related features

Google has announced multiple new features for the Google Maps application. The company has not only introduced some new features that will make it easier to travel around but has also added a new layer of information related to covid-19. The new features range from live busyness stats for millions of places to the ability to easily see critical health and safety information at a glance.



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RANKING / INDEX

India ranks 77 in global bribery risk matrix

India is at 77th position with a score of 45 in a global list that measures business bribery risks of 2020. In 2019, India's rank stood 78 position with a score of 48 while in 2020 the country was ranked 77 with a score of 45, the data showed. The score is based on four factors -- business interactions with government, anti-bribery deterrence and enforcement, government and civil service transparency, and capacity for civil society oversight, including the role of the media.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Defence Minister unveiled two books 'The Republican Ethic Volume III' and 'Loktantra Ke Swar'

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled two books 'The Republican Ethic Volume III' and 'Loktantra Ke Swar' which are collections of selected speeches of President Ram Nath Kovind during the third year of his presidency. Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar unveiled the e-book versions of the two books.

SPORTS

BCCI names MPL Sports as India's new kit sponsor until 2023

Mobile Premier League's sports merchandise brand MPL Sports will be the new sponsor of the kit for the Indian cricket team under a three-year deal until 2023, the country's cricket board (BCCI). The agreement will run from this November to December 2023, replacing sportswear giant Nike whose five-year extension signed in 2016 ended this year.

India to host Women's Under-17 football World Cup 2022 edition

FIFA has handed the hosting rights of the Women's Under-17 football World Cup 2022 edition to India.



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Costa Rica to host Women's Under-20 football World Cup 2022 edition

FIFA has handed the hosting rights of the Women's Under-20 football World Cup 2022 edition to Costa Rica.

OBITUARY

Former Governor of Goa Mridula Sinha Passed away

Former Governor of Goa and senior BJP leader Mridula Sinha passed away on Wednesday. She was 77. Sinha, who was born on November 27, 1942, at Chhapra village in Bihar was also the first woman Governor of Goa. A renowned Hindi writer, Sinha was also the former president of BJP Mahila Morcha and also the former chairperson of Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB), Ministry of Human Resource Development.

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