



CURRENT AFFAIRS

Weekly Current Affairs Capsule
1st to 7th December 2020

CUSTOMIZED STUDY MATERIAL

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Weekly Current Affairs: 1st to 7th December 2020

IMPORTANT DATES

World AIDS Day is observed on December 1

The virus was identified in 1984 after many people have lost their lives due to HIV or AIDS. The day is known as an opportunity for people worldwide to unite and fight against HIV and also to remind people that the disease has not been eradicated. The day is also the first-ever global health day.

National Pollution Control Day is observed on December 2

National Pollution Control Day is observed on 2nd December to raise awareness about pollution and its hazardous effects. December 2 commemorates the victims of Bhopal Gas Tragedy.

International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is observed on December 2

The day is a reminder of the unfair treatment that people face due to threats, violence, coercion, or abuse of power. On 2nd December 1949, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) approved the Convention for Suppression of Traffic in Persons and Exploitation of Prostitution of Others. The date is marked as the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery to make people aware about modern slavery.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed on December 3

World Day of the Handicapped is also known as the International Day of People with Disability (IDPWD). World Day of the Handicapped is observed on December 3. It was started in 1992 by the United Nations General Assembly. The theme this year is building back better towards a disability inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-Covid 19 world.

Indian Navy Day (First Friday of December)

Indians celebrate Indian Navy Day 2020, on December 4. It is one of the special days in December 2020 that puts light on Operation Trident, which was carried out at Karachi Harbour in 1971's Indo-Pakistan war. The day is now for the annual remembrance of the achievements, difficulties, and roles that brave Navy people faced during the war.



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International Volunteer Day (First Saturday of December)

International Volunteer Day (IVD) is celebrated on 5 December annually. December 5 is one of those special days in December 2020 that gives a chance to appreciate the efforts that volunteers take to promote their work in society. The day was designated by the United Nation in 1985.

World Soil Day (First Saturday of December)

5th December is observed as World Soil Day. In 2013, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations collectively supported and requested the officials of the UN Assembly to mark the day. The day is observed to raise awareness about healthy ecosystems and the importance of soil in human lives.

Armed Forces Flag Day is observed on December 7

Armed Forces Flag Day is observed across the country on 7 December since 1949 to honour the martyrs. It is also a day to remember the men who fought with bravery on the borders to safeguard the country's honour.

International Civil Aviation Day is observed on December 7

International Civil Aviation Day is observed on 7 December worldwide. It came into existence in 1994 as part of ICAO's 50th-anniversary activities. It is known to raise awareness about these important days for social and economic development.

STATE NEWS

Nagaland celebrates its 58th Statehood day

Nagaland is celebrating its 58th Statehood day today. It became the 16th State of the Union of India on 1st December 1,963. The formal inauguration of the state was done by the then President of India Dr. S. Radhakrishnan.

Nagaland hosts first virtual celebration of Hornbill Festival 2020

Nagaland is hosting the first virtual celebration of Hornbill Festival 2020 from today till 5th of this month. Dubbed as the "Festival of Festivals", the Hornbill Festival is celebrated every year showcasing the rich cultural heritage and tradition of the Nagas in one platform at Naga Heritage Village Kisama under Kohima District. However, due to Coronavirus pandemic, the state is holding its 21st edition of Hornbill festival 2020 completely in virtual mode.



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Madhya Pradesh Aims to completely eliminate AIDS by 2030

Madhya Pradesh Aims to completely eliminate AIDS by 2030. In Madhya Pradesh, the number of AIDS patients is growing rapidly in the state. 69 thousand 400 people have been infected in the state so far. The highest number 12 thousand 773 patients reported in Indore. Bhopal is at number two with more than 7 thousand patients. Jabalpur has around 6 thousand patients while Gwalior has more than 3 thousand HIV patients. Dr KD Tripathi, project director of MP State AIDS Control Society, says that the AIDS infection rate in MP is 1.64 percent.

"Child-friendly" police station launched in Pune

A "child-friendly" police station set up in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the National Commissioner for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) was launched in Pune. This police station will work towards character building among children and will also work in changing the notion that police are not enemies but friends of people.

Five-star village postal scheme launched in Uttarakhand

The Union Minister of State for Communication Sanjay Dhotre launched a five star village postal scheme to ensure the universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in Dehradun yesterday for rural areas of Uttarakhand. He also distributed Sukanya Samridhi Yojana passbooks, checkbooks, ATM Cards and saving bank passbooks to the beneficiaries of senior citizens welfare fund schemes.

ADB, India sign 50 million loan to boost West Bengal's digital platforms for public finance reforms

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$50 million policy-based loan to improve financial management procedures and operational efficiencies aimed at achieving more fiscal savings, promote informed decision making, and improve service delivery in the state of West Bengal.

Manipur's Nongpok Sekmai police station chosen as best performing Police Station in country

Nongpok Sekmai police station in Manipur's Thoubal district has been chosen as the best performing Police Station in the country. AWPS-Suramangalam police station in Tamil Nadu's Salem district and Kharsang in Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district have been adjudged as the second and third best performing police stations.

Odisha approves unified emergency helpline number 112

The Odisha Government approved the unified emergency helpline number 112 to provide all forms of police assistance to people in distress. Launching the service yesterday Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said the consolidated helpline number would enable police to rush services to people in an efficient manner. The helpline number 112 subsumes the earlier segregated helpline numbers like 100,101,108 and other for emergency services like police, fire and ambulance.



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Delhi govt launches forum for successful implementation of EV policy

The Delhi government launched a forum to engage with stakeholders for the successful implementation of its recently launched electric vehicles policy. The primary objective of the Delhi Electric Vehicles Policy, 2020 is to accelerate the pace of EV adoption across vehicle segments. The first meeting of the forum will be held virtually on December 18 to discuss and understand challenges towards deployment of electric vehicles.

Maharashtra gets 10 new conservation reserves, one sanctuary

State Wildlife Board of Maharashtra has accepted suggestions to declare eight areas in the western part of the state and two in Vidarbha as conservation reserves and upgrade Kanhalgaon in Chandrapur to the level of a sanctuary. State environment minister Aaditya Thackeray informed that it was decided in a meeting of the board held yesterday that a sub group will be set up to work on upgrading conservation reserves to sanctuaries after talking to the local population.

The new conservation reserves are Amboli - Dodamarg, Chandgad, Aajra- Bhudargad, Gaganbawda, Panhalgad, Vishalgad, Jor Jambhli, Maini in western Maharashtra, and Mahendri and Munia in Vidarbha.

Kolkata Police to reimpose 'No Helmet no petrol' rule

Kolkata Police has decided to re-impose the "no helmet no petrol" rule forbidding petrol pumps from selling fuel to motorcyclists without helmets. The 'no helmet no petrol' rule would start from December 8 and will continue for 60 days.

Jharkhand prohibits all state government employees from consuming any form of tobacco products

The government of Jharkhand prohibits all state government employees from consuming any form of tobacco products. The state government has forced all state government employees to submit an affidavit stating that they will quit smoking. Tobacco products include any cigarettes, bidi, kanini, gutka, pan masala, zarda or subari, as well as tobacco leaves of any name, electronic cigarettes, electronic cigarettes and Tobacco products-smoking and smokeless. The judgement was made at a meeting of the State Chapter of the National Tobacco Control Program, to implement the Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Act of 2003 (COTPA). The decision will be implemented on April 1, 2021.

UP CM Yogi Adityanath launches Covid-19 testing centre detection app

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched COVID-19 testing centre detection app named the Mera Covid Kendra app which will help people get information about nearby testing labs. All the data like map, centre timing, test type and other details of the testing labs are present in the map. 'Mera COVID Kendra' app which will help people in accessing public and private COVID testing labs available within 5 km of their location.



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UP becomes 1st state to conduct over 2 crore tests

Uttar Pradesh government has created a new record of testing two crore samples for COVID-19. Expressing satisfaction on completing the two crore tests of COVID-19 in the state so far, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that less should be maintained against infection. He asked that the People should be motivated to wear masks and hand washing regularly along with social distancing. He instructed that better treatment of patients infected with COVID-19 be ensured and there should not be any laxity at any stage.

NATIONAL NEWS

BSF celebrates its 56th Raising day

The Border Security Force is celebrating its 56th Raising day today. BSF is India's first line of defence. It was raised in accordance with an Act of the Parliament on 1st December, 1965, soon after the India-Pakistan War of 1965.

Arjun Munda to launch 10-day-long 'Aadi Mahotsav'

The 10-day-long 'Aadi Mahotsav', a festival of tribes launched by Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda in a virtual format. The Aadi Mahotsav is a unique celebration of the spirit of tribal culture, crafts, cuisine and commerce. It commenced in 2017. The festival is an attempt to familiarize the people with the rich and diverse craft and culture of the tribal communities across the country, in one place.

Govt orders Wikipedia to remove link showing wrong map of Jammu and Kashmir

The government has directed Wikipedia to remove a link from their platform that has shown a wrong map of Jammu and Kashmir. This matter was flagged by a Twitter user through a tweet calling upon the govt to take strict action. The order was issued by the Ministry of Electronics and IT under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

India invites UK's Johnson as 2021 Republic Day chief guest

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is expected to be the chief guest at India's 2021 Republic Day celebrations. Should Johnson accept the invitation, it will be the fifth time that a leader from Britain will be the chief guest at the Republic Day event, which is considered an honour reserved for countries with which India enjoys very close ties or those that it considers a strategic partner.



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India records largest reductions in malaria cases in South-East Asia

India accounted for the largest absolute reduction in malaria cases in South-East Asia, from approximately 20 million cases in 2000 to 5.6 million in 2019, as per the World Health Organization (WHO). In 2019, global malaria cases stood at 229 million, an estimate that has remained unchanged over the last four years. The disease claimed some 409,000 lives in 2019 compared to 411,000 in 2018.

Govt constitutes High-level Ministerial Committee for implementation of Paris Agreement

Government has constituted a High-level Ministerial Committee for implementation of the Paris Agreement. The Apex Committee for Implementation of Paris Agreement (AIPA) will be chaired by the Environment Secretary. The purpose of AIPA is to generate a coordinated response on climate change matters that ensures India is on track towards meeting its obligations under the Paris Agreement.

India's boAt becomes fifth biggest wearable brand in the world

Delhi-based brand boAt Lifestyle, which sells products such as earphones, headphones and smart watches, has reached the top five in the global wearables market, becoming the first Indian company to do so. boAt grabbed 2.6% of the global wearable shipment in September quarter to share the fifth position with Google's owned Fitbit.

Dharmendra Pradhan launches India's first indigenously developed 100 Octane premium petrol

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel Dharmendra Pradhan launched India's first indigenously developed 100 Octane premium petrol through video conferencing. He described the launch of the environment-friendly fuel as one more step towards facilitating ease of living for the citizens as envisioned by the union government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Parkash Singh Badal returns his Padma Vibhushan award in solidarity with farmers protesting against farm laws

Former Punjab Chief Minister and Shiromani Akali Dal patron Parkash Singh Badal has returned his Padma Vibhushan award in solidarity with the farmers protesting against the three farm laws. Mr. Badal received Padma Vibhushan Award in 2015.

India biggest buyer of covid-19 vaccine with 1.6 bn doses

India is the largest buyer of COVID-19 vaccines in the world with 1.6 billion doses, according to a global analysis, a number some scientists say could cover 800 million people, or 60 percent of its population, and will be enough to develop 'herd immunity'.



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FM Nirmala Sitharaman releases the 'Smuggling in India Report 2019-20'

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the 63rd Founding Day Celebrations of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI). On the occasion, Mrs Sitharaman released the Smuggling in India Report 2019-20 which analyses organised smuggling trends on Gold and Foreign Currency, Narcotic Drugs, Security, Environment and Commercial Frauds.

Commerce Ministry and AYUSH Ministry decide to set up an AYUSH Export Promotion Council

Ministries of Commerce and Industry and AYUSH have decided to work together to set up an Export Promotion Council to boost AYUSH exports. This decision was taken in a joint review of AYUSH trade and industry by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and AYUSH Minister Shripad Naik. It was also decided that the entire AYUSH sector will work together to achieve price and quality competitiveness to boost exports.

Nation pays homage to Bharat Ratna Dr BR Ambedkar on his 64th Mahaparinirvan Diwas

Nation pays homage to Bharat Ratna Dr BR Ambedkar on his 64th Mahaparinirvan Diwas or death anniversary. Ambedkar was born on 14 April 1891 in the town and military cantonment of Mhow in the Central Provinces (now in Madhya Pradesh). Dr BR Ambedkar has the highest number of statues in the world. In 1990, Ambedkar was posthumously conferred with Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award. The credit of giving a place to "Ashok Chakra" on the Indian tricolour goes to him. Ambedkar did masters in 64 subjects, knew 9 languages and had studied across the world for 21 years.

Serum Institute of India applies for emergency approval of covid vaccine candidate 'Covishield'

Serum Institute of India (SII) has applied for emergency approval of made-in-India covid vaccine candidate, Covishield. SII CEO Adar Poonawalla has confirmed it and said it will save countless lives. SII, the world's largest vaccine producer by volume, had sought emergency use authorization in the country for AstraZeneca Plc's COVID-19 vaccine candidate.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US President Joe Biden announces all-women White House communications team

US President-elect Joe Biden has appointed an all-women White House communications team. He has chosen former Barack Obama administration's State Department spokesperson Jen Psaki as his White House press secretary. Psaki currently oversees the confirmation team for the Biden-Harris Transition. During the Obama-Biden administration, Psaki held several senior roles, including White



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House Communications Director and State Department Spokesperson under then-Secretary of State John Kerry.

British govt is now accepting applications for the post-Brexit points-based visa

The British government's new post-Brexit points-based visa and immigration system, described as "simple, effective and flexible". The Home Office said applicants for the new Skilled Worker Visa can now apply to work and live in the UK from 1 January, 2021. Indian industry and students' groups had broadly welcomed the new post-Brexit points-based regime.

The 7th India-Suriname Joint Commission Meeting held virtually

The 7th India-Suriname Joint Commission Meeting was held virtually. The discussions were held in an atmosphere of warmth against the backdrop of friendly India - Suriname relations. The JCM was co-chaired by Minister of State for External Affairs, V. Muraleedharan and Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation of Suriname, Albert R. Ramdin.

UK becomes first country to approve Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine for use

Britain became the first country in the world to approve the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine for use and said that it will be rolled out from early next week. The British regulator Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) declared that the vaccine offers protection of up to 95 per cent and is safe to be used for immunisation against Covid-19.

India and the US sign MoU on Intellectual Property cooperation

India, and the US have signed MoU on Intellectual Property cooperation. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry signed the MoU with the US Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce of the US. The MoU aims at increasing IP co-operation between the two countries. It will facilitate exchange and dissemination of best practices, experiences and knowledge on IP among the public, and between and among the industry, universities, research and development organizations, and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises.

'No Dorai' and 'Fagun Haway' win Bangladesh best films award of 2019

The Bangladesh Ministry of information on Thursday announced the National Film Awards for 2019. Films 'No Dorai' and 'Fagun Haway' jointly won the best film award. Taneem Rahman Anghshu who directed the film 'No Dorai' got the best Director award. The film 'No Dorai' dominated the awards in several categories including best cinematography (Sumon Kumar Sarker), Best Sound Recording (Ripon Nath) and best Screenplay (Mahboob Rahman). 'No Dorai', meaning 'Not Afraid' is the story of a community in the beach town of Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh. The community does not allow women to venture into the sea and forces them into strict social norms.

PASSEX conducted by Indian Navy and Russian Navy

The Indian Navy (IN) is undertaking a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Russian Federation Navy (RuFN) in the Eastern Indian Ocean Region (IOR) from 4 to 5 December 2020. The exercise involves



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participation of RuFN guided missile cruiser Varyag, large anti-submarine ship AdmiralPanteleyev and medium ocean tanker Pechenga. IN is being represented by indigenously constructed guided missile frigate Shivalik and anti-submarine corvette Kadmatt alongwith integral helicopters.

Joe Biden picks Vivek Murthy as Surgeon General

US President-elect Joe Biden has selected two former Obama administration officials for senior roles to help fight COVID-19, including the appointment of Jeff Zients as White House coronavirus coordinator. Biden adviser Vivek Murthy will return to his role as Surgeon General but with a broader portfolio as the pandemic rages through the country.

Bangladesh signs first Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) since its independence

Bangladesh signed its first Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with Bhutan allowing duty free access to a range of goods between the two countries. This is the first PTA Bangladesh has signed with any country in the world. The agreement was signed on the occasion marking the 50 years of diplomatic ties between the two countries. In 1971, Bhutan was the first country in the world, followed by India as the second, to recognise Bangladesh as an independent country. Under the PTA 100 Bangladeshi products will get duty free access to Bhutan. At the same time, 34 items from Bhutan will get duty free access into Bangladesh.

2021 edition of Paris Air Show cancelled

The 2021 edition of the Paris Air Show cancelled next year's edition of the event because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The biannual show, usually held in June, is the world's key event for the aerospace industry, showcasing civilian and military aircraft and equipment. The dates for the next scheduled Paris Air Show in 2023 would be announced shortly.

BANKING & FINANCE

Yes Bank aims to disburse ₹10,000 cr retail, MSME loans in Dec quarter

Yes Bank aims to disburse retail and small business loans worth ₹10,000 crore in the current quarter of the financial year and plans to expand the portfolio to over 60% of its loan book by 2023. By 2023, we aim to double the retail and MSME assets as well as the liability book. Following the road map to become a truly digital retail bank, we are innovating constantly to meet these evolving needs of our retail customers and MSME clients across the spectrum

SBI launches RuPay JCB contactless debit card for local and international market



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State Bank of India joined hands with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Japan's JCB International Co to launch new 'SBI RuPay JCB Platinum Contactless Debit Card'. The unique dual interface feature of this card enables the customers to use it for both contact and contactless transactions, said the lender. Customers can use this new debit card in the domestic market as well as for the transactions overseas.

Paytm partners with Suryoday Small Finance Bank to offer instant digital loans to MSMEs

India's home-grown digital financial services platform Paytm announced its partnership with Suryoday Small Finance Bank to empower MSMEs with instant digital loans. The company is furthering the cause of financial inclusion by offering instant microloans to businesses that are unable to access financial services from traditional banking players. The company through this partnership is aiming at disbursing loans to over 1 lakh small businesses in the next 12 months to 18 months.

Punjab National Bank launches loan management solution to speed up delivery

Punjab National Bank (PNB) launched a tech-based loan management solution called 'LenS-The Lending Solution', to speed up and maintain accuracy in online loan processing and sanctioning of credit proposals. This system is envisaged to be implemented in a phased manner for all kinds of loans — MSME, agriculture, retail and other credit.

RBI asks HDFC to stop new digital business launches

The Reserve Bank of India has asked the country's largest private bank, HDFC, to stop new digital business launches and avoid adding new Credit Card customers after repeated reports by its customers facing multiple cases of technical glitches.

DBS Bank India gets ₹2,500 crore capital support from parent for LVB merger

DBS Bank India Limited (DBIL) has received capital infusion of ₹2,500 crore from DBS Bank Limited, Singapore to support its amalgamation with Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB). DBIL said it is well-capitalised, and its capital adequacy ratios (CAR) remains above regulatory requirements after the amalgamation. LVB is the second private sector bank after Yes Bank which has run into rough weather during this year.

RBI hikes limit for contactless card transaction to ₹5,000

Reserve Bank of India governor Shaktikanta Das announced that RBI has enhanced limits for contactless card payments from ₹2,000 to ₹5,000. This will be effective from 1 January 2021 and will be at the discretion of the user. Governor Das made the announcement while putting forth the decisions taken by RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

RBI advises banks not to make any dividend payouts from profits pertaining to the FY ended March 2020

The Reserve Bank has advised banks not to make any dividend payouts from profits pertaining to the financial year ended March 2020. RBI said it is imperative that banks continue to conserve capital to



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support the economy and absorb losses, if any. In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, RBI had asked to withhold payment of dividends until September 2020.

Google Pay, PhonePe account for 86% of UPI transactions by value in Oct: NPCI

Payments operators, Google Pay and PhonePe, seem to have a stranglehold on the unified payments interface (UPI) market in India. According to October data from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), published for the first time, Google Pay accounted for 857.81 million transactions, while PhonePe came in second with 839.88 million transactions. Together, the two apps accounted for about 81% of the market, the data shows.

ICICI Bank launches 'iMobile Pay'

ICICI Bank has launched 'iMobile Pay', the app offers a unique combination of facilities of a payment app such as enabling customers to pay to any UPI (Unified Payments Interface) ID or merchants, pay bills and do online recharges among others, with instant banking services namely savings account, investments, loans, credit cards, gift cards, travel cards and much more. The users of 'iMobile Pay' can also transfer money to any bank account, payment app and digital wallet.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

ADB, India sign 132.8 million loan to strengthen Meghalaya's power distribution Sector

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$132.8 million loan to strengthen and modernize the distribution network and improve the quality of power supplied to households, industries, and businesses in India's northeastern state of Meghalaya. The project will construct 23 substations; renovate and modernize 45 substations, including the provision of control room equipment and protection systems; install and upgrade 2,214 kilometers of distribution lines and associated facilities covering three out of the six circles in the state. Installation of smart meters will benefit about 180,000 households.

Flipkart co-founder Binny Bansal to join PhonePe board

Flipkart co-founder Binny Bansal will join PhonePe's board of directors, as the digital payments firm separates from parent Walmart-owned Flipkart to become an independent entity. Flipkart will continue to own 87% majority stake in the hived-off entity PhonePe Private Ltd., with US-retail giant Walmart owning 10%, and existing investors including Tiger Global Management holding the remaining 3%.

NABARD and SBI sign MoU to extend concessional refinance facility to the beneficiaries of watershed development and tribal development projects in Karnataka



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The Karnataka regional office of NABARD and State Bank of India have signed an MoU to extend concessional refinance facility to the beneficiaries of watershed development and tribal development projects. The Chairman and Managing Director of NABARD Niraj Kumar Verma and Chief General Manager of State Bank of India Abhijit Majumdar signed the MoU in Bengaluru.

JD.com becomes first online platform to accept China's digital currency

Chinese e-commerce company JD.com Inc said on Saturday it has become the country's first virtual platform to accept Beijing's homegrown digital currency. PBOC Governor Yi Gang said last month that more than 2 billion yuan had been spent using China's digital currency so far in 4 million separate transactions.

QRMP scheme launched for GST payers with turnover up to ₹5 crore

The government has launched the Quarterly Return filing & Monthly Payment of Taxes (QRMP) scheme for small taxpayers under the GST system. Taxpayers with aggregate annual turnover of up to ₹5 crore in the preceding financial year and have filed their October GSTR-3B (sales) return by November 30, 2020, are eligible for this scheme.

Bonds Issued By The Lucknow Municipal Corporation - LMC

The bonds issued by Lucknow Municipal Corporation (LMC) were listed on the BSE, raising 2 billion rupees for Uttar Pradesh. The chief minister of UP stated that Ghaziabad would be the next country to issue municipal bonds, followed by Prayagraj, Varanasi, Agra and Kanpur (Kanpur). Funds raised using such bonds are usually used for infrastructure projects such as roads, water and housing. In 2015, the market regulator SEBI published a framework for raising funds through municipal bonds.

Kotak Mutual Fund launches India's first international REIT fund of funds

Kotak Mahindra AMC (Kotak Mutual Fund) launched Kotak International REIT Fund of Funds, India's first diversified REIT Mutual Fund. Kotak International REIT Fund of Funds is an open-ended mutual fund scheme that will invest in units of SMAM Asia REIT Sub Trust Fund. This mutual fund scheme will have a diversified investment portfolio comprising listed REITs which will invest in real estate projects like residential, office, data centres, warehousing, retail and hospitality.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Reliance Industries tops Fortune 500 list of Indian firms

Oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries Ltd topped the Fortune 500 list of Indian companies. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC), the nation's biggest oil firm, bagged the second spot, followed by Oil



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and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) at the third, it said. The country's largest lender State Bank of India was in the fourth position, while India's second-biggest fuel retailer Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) took the fifth spot. The list was published by Fortune India, which is part of the Kolkata-based RP Sanjiv Goenka Group.

NSE launches 1st agri commodity futures contract

National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) said the exchange has launched its first agricultural commodity futures contract on crude degummed soybean oil (CDSO Futures). The CDSO Futures contract, which was launched today, is a monthly expiry futures contract with a trading lot size of 10 tonne and price basis as Kandla, NSE said.

Wipro wins multi-year contract from Verifone, will develop firm's cloud services

IT services provider Wipro Ltd , announced that it has won a multi-year contract from Verifone, a global leader in payments and commerce solutions, to drive agility across its cloud services offerings. Wipro will develop new features, capabilities and interfaces for Verifone's Cloud Services offerings, enabling seamless and flexible transaction processing for the company.

Indian Railways receives award for innovative 'push pull operation' project

Indian Railways' Electric Loco Shed at Vadodara which falls under the Western Railway zone has been awarded the Silver Award in Quality Council of India's - 13th D.L Shah Quality Award for the project of 'Push-Pull Operation'. Indian Railways 'push- pull operation of locomotives is a configuration for locomotive-hauled trains, allowing them to be driven from either end. In the 'push-pull' mode, one locomotive each is attached to the train at both ends.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Singapore Airlines appoints veteran Chen Sy Yen as new general manager for India

Singapore Airlines Ltd (SIA) has appointed Chen Sy Yen, who was earlier overseeing operations at Germany, Switzerland and Austria region for the airline, as the new general manager for India. Chen Sy Yen takes over from David Lim, who served as the general manager of India for the airline since 2016. Chen Sy Yen was earlier overseeing operations in the Germany, Switzerland and Austria region for the airline.

Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry assumes the charge as Director General Border Roads

Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry assumed the charge as 27th Director General Border Roads (DGBR) on 01 December 2020. Lt Gen Chaudhry was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers from Indian



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Military Academy, Dehradun in 1983 and has attended all prestigious courses of the Indian Army including Staff Course at Defence Service Staff College, Wellington, Higher Command Course at Army War College, Mhow and the National Defence College, New Delhi. He is also an M-Tech from IISc Bangalore.

RBL Bank appoints Somnath Ghosh as Non- Executive Director

RBL approved the appointment of Somnath Ghosh as an Additional (Non-Executive Independent) Director of the Bank. Somnath Ghosh also has been a consultant to The World Bank on three different occasions.

Vedantu appoints Ranjan Sakalley as head of engineering & tech

Online live tutoring company Vedantu on Monday said it has appointed Ranjan Sakalley as head of engineering and technology, and plans to expand its engineering team to 200 people by March 2021.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Indian Navy successfully test-fires naval version of BrahMos missile

A naval version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was successfully test-fired by the Indian Navy in the Bay of Bengal. BrahMos Aerospace, an India-Russian joint venture, produces the supersonic cruise missile that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or from land platforms.

Amazon, Blackberry join hands to build software for smart cars

Amazon Web Services and BlackBerry announced a multi-year, global agreement to develop and market BlackBerry's Intelligent Vehicle Data Platform, IVY. BlackBerry IVY is a scalable, cloud-connected software platform that will allow automakers to provide a consistent and secure way to read vehicle sensor data, normalize it, and create actionable insights from that data both locally in the vehicle and in the cloud.

China turns on nuclear-powered 'artificial sun' for first time

China successfully powered up its "artificial sun" nuclear fusion reactor for the first time, state media reported Friday, marking a great advance in the country's nuclear power research capabilities. The HL-2M Tokamak reactor is China's largest and most advanced nuclear fusion experimental research device, and scientists hope that the device can potentially unlock a powerful clean energy source. Chinese scientists have been working on developing smaller versions of the nuclear fusion reactor since 2006.

Japan space capsule carrying asteroid dirt lands in Australia



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A Japanese space capsule carrying samples from a distant asteroid landed in a blaze of light in the desert of South Australia, ending a six-year mission. Launched from Japan's Tanegashima Space Center in 2014, the Hayabusa2 spacecraft took four years to reach the asteroid Ryugu. The craft spent more than a year on the asteroid, where it picked up about a gram of space dirt.

China successfully launches new Earth observation satellite

China successfully launched a new Earth observation satellite which can take high-resolution pictures of ground objects across the globe. The satellite was launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest China's Sichuan province. Gaofen-14, was sent into orbit by a Long March-3B carrier rocket. Gaofen-14 is an optical stereo mapping satellite. It can efficiently obtain high precision stereo images globally, draw large scale digital topographic maps, produce digital elevation models, digital surface models and digital orthophoto images, and provide basic geographic information.

SPORTS

Virat Kohli becomes fastest cricketer to score 12,000 ODI runs

India captain Virat Kohli became the fastest cricketer to score 12,000 ODI runs, breaking a record held by legendary compatriot Sachin Tendulkar. Virat Kohli reached the milestone during the third and final match against Australia.

OBITUARY

Rajya Sabha MP Abhay Bhardwaj passes away

Rajya Sabha MP from Gujarat Abhay Bhardwaj died due to Covid19. He was 66.

Senior TRS leader N Narasimhaiah passes away

Senior leader of the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) and Member of Legislative Assembly, N. Narasimhaiah passed away in Hyderabad. He was 65. He served as floor leader of the CPI-M twice in the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh Assembly while representing Nakrekal constituency. He lost the 2014 election but won from Nagarjunasagar in 2018 from the ruling TRS.

Mahashay Dharampal Gulati, promoter and brand ambassador MDH spices passes away



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98-year-old Mahashay Dharampal Gulati, the iconic owner of MDH spices, has lost its most passionate brand ambassador too. The cheerful, grandfatherly figure not only adorned the masala brand's packages but appeared in its television commercials as well. Born in Sialkot, Pakistan, in 1923, Mahashay Dharampal Gulati relocated to India post the partition and eventually went on to set up a small shop in Delhi's Karol Bagh.

Lakshadweep Administrator Dineshwar Sharma passes away

Administrator of Lakshadweep Dineshwar Sharma passed away on Friday due to lung-related complications. He was 66.

Gujarat High Court sitting Judge G.R Udhwani passes away

Gujarat High Court sitting Judge G.R Udhwani passed away due to Covid19. He was 59. He was under treatment at Ahmedabad based private hospital following Covid19 infection and related complications. He began his law practice in 1987 and was elevated as additional judge of the Gujarat High Court in 2012.

Veteran Hindi writer Madhukar Gangadhar passes away

Veteran Hindi writer Madhukar Gangadhar passed away. He was 88 years old. Mr. Gangadhar was born in Bihar's Purnia district on 7th January 1932. He also worked in the capacity of Deputy Director General (DDG), AIR at New Delhi. After serving for 39 years in All India Radio (AIR) he became an independent writer based in Delhi. 'Motiyo Wale Hath', 'Hirna Ki Aankhen' are some of his most well known works.

Popular TV actress Divya Bhatnagar passes away

Popular face in Indian TV Divya Bhatnagar passed away. She was a 34 year old actor, who acted in hit serials like Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata and Udaan.



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