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CURRENT AFFAIRS
Weekly Capsule (23rd to 30th November)

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Weekly Current Affairs: 23rd to 30th November 2020

IMPORTANT DATES

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is observed on 25 November

This day was established by the UN General Assembly in 1993. It defines violence against women as an act of gender-based violence that results in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threat, etc.

Law Day or Constitution Day or Samvidhan Divas is observed on 26 November

Law day is also known as Constitution Day or Samvidhan Divas. It is observed on 26 November to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. The Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India on 26 November, 1949 and it came into effect on 26 January, 1950.

STATE NEWS

Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Technologies Park (ARTPARK) set up in Bengaluru

The Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Technologies Park (ARTPARK) set up in Bengaluru will promote technology innovations in niche areas by executing ambitious projects in various sectors by focusing on problems unique to India. With seed funding of ₹170 crore from the Department of Science and Technology (DST) under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems, it will bring about a collaborative consortium of partners from industry, academia and govt bodies.

First cow hospital of Northeast inaugurated in Assam's Dibrugarh

A cow shelter in Assam's Dibrugarh inaugurated Northeast's first-ever cow hospital on Sunday, on the occasion of Gopashtami. The hospital, Surbhi Aarogyashala, is set up by Shree Gopal Gaushala at a cost of ₹17 lakh.

MP CM to distribute bank loans worth Rs 150 crore to members of self-help groups

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will distribute bank loans worth Rs 150 crore to the members of self-help groups formed under the State Rural Livelihood Mission in order of self-reliant Madhya Pradesh. The target of annual bank loan disbursement to the groups has been increased to 1400 crores.



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2 days Ethnic Food Festival organised by Tourism Department concludes at Srinagar

The two days Ethnic Food Festival organised by Tourism Department concluded at Srinagar with distribution of prizes and commendations among the winning and participating women. The prizes were distributed to the winners at a colourful event by the Director Tourism Kashmir, Nisar Ahmad Wani.

Himachal Pradesh govt launches 'Him Suraksha Abhiyan' to sensitize people

The Himachal Pradesh state government launched 'Him Suraksha Abhiyan' to sensitize the people regarding Covid-19 pandemic and also to collect information regarding symptoms of diseases like TB, Leprosy, sugar and blood pressure by door to door campaign throughout the State. This campaign is being launched from tomorrow and will continue till coming 27th December, across the State.

Himachal Pradesh CM flags off two road sweeping vehicles under Shimla Smart City

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur flagged off the two road sweeping vehicles under Shimla Smart City for maintaining cleanliness in Shimla town. The sweeping machines are of different sizes for optimal utilization in the streets of Shimla City. For effective monitoring of the route, both machines are GPS enabled.

Odisha Assembly passes 'Odisha Essential Services (Maintenance) Amendment Bill-2020'

Odisha Essential Services (Maintenance) Amendment Bill-2020 was passed by the state assembly. The bill seeks to amend the existing Act of 1988 to prohibit strikes by employees of essential services in the state.

Environment & Forest department of Assam to build park by planting tree saplings of 1000 species

The Environment and Forest department is implementing an ambitious project of building a park by planting tree saplings of 1000 species in Assam. The project is being implemented under the CAMPA scheme. The Conservator of Forest in Eastern Assam circle Narayan Mahanta said that rare and endangered species including herbal, flowering, orchid, bamboo, medicinal saplings are being planted (BYTE).

Uttar Pradesh govt clears proposal to rename Ayodhya airport as Sri Ram airport

Uttar Pradesh Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, cleared the proposal to rename the Ayodhya airport as Maryada Purushottam Sri Ram Airport. The proposal for the same will be sent to the Ministry of Civil Aviation after it is passed by the state Assembly. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Adityanath had announced on the occasion of Deepotsav on Diwali eve in November 2018 that Ayodhya will have both international and domestic terminals and could potentially be one of the largest airports of UP.



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Uttar Pradesh govt passes ordinance to ban unlawful religious conversions for marriage

The Uttar Pradesh government has passed an ordinance to ban unlawful religious conversions for marriage. Unlawful conversion for the sake of getting married through force, deceit, undue pressure or by way of alluring into marriage will come into the category of non-bailable offence and can lead to imprisonment of a maximum of 10 years and penalty of 50 thousand rupees.

Uttar Pradesh government imposes ESMA for six months

Uttar Pradesh government has imposed Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA) in the state. The order released in this regard says that the act will be imposed for 6 months. As per the U.P ESMA, the state government now has the power to prohibit strikes in workplaces for the next six months, after which it may be extended for another six months. Last time the act was imposed in the state on 22nd May this year and the time period of six months has expired.

Ladakh ranks 3rd among UTs in implementing PM SVANidhi Yojana

Ladakh has ranked third among the Union Territories in implementing PM SVANidhi Yojana. Ladakh's performance was reviewed by the Prime Minister on Pragati of Housing and Urban Affairs schemes recently. The PM SVANidhi Scheme was launched on 1st June this year, under Atma-Nirbhar Bharat initiative to support the Street vendors due to adverse effect of COVID-19. The scheme aims to facilitate collateral free working capital loan up to Ten thousand rupees of one year tenure, subsidized repayments and rewards on digital transactions.

MG Motor partners with Tata Power to introduce first superfast charging station in Agra

MG Motor India has launched Agra's first 60 kW Superfast EV charging station in partnership with Tata Power. The public charging station was inaugurated at MG Agra Showroom as a part of #NHforEV2020 tech trial run flagged off in Delhi. The public charger will be available 24x7 for customers and comes with CCS/CHAdeMO fast-charging standards.

Nitin Gadkari inaugurates Highway projects worth over Rs 7400 Cr in Uttar Pradesh

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of 16 National Highway projects worth 7477 crore rupees in Uttar. These road projects of 505 kilometers will enhance better connectivity, convenience and economic growth in the state.

Kiren Rijiju felicitates participants of 'Fit India Mission 200 Kilometers' walkathon in New Delhi

Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju felicitated the participants of 'Fit India Mission 200 Kilometers' walkathon in New Delhi. Participants were awarded with special walkathon medals and certificates. The walkathon which was first of its kind, was organized by the ITBP in association with the Sports Ministry at Jaisalmer in Rajasthan recently to spread awareness about the 'Fit India Mission' of the Government of India.



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Madhya Pradesh to increase solar power generation to 10 thousand MW

In Madhya Pradesh, solar power generation will be increased from 5 thousand to 10 thousand MW. At present, renewable energy constitutes 20 percent of the total power generation in the state.

Mega Food Park Held in Punjab

The Union Minister unveiled Mega Food Park (MFP) at Phagwara in Kapurthala district of Punjab. The construction cost of the Mega Food Park (MFP) is 107,830 crore rupees, spread over 55 acres of land. It is expected to benefit approximately 25,000 farmers and may create employment opportunities for approximately 5,000 people. Mega Food Parks Scheme was launched by the government in 2008.

Lachit Diwas is Celebrated in Assam

Lachit Diwas is Celebrated in Assam in honour of Lachit Borphukan to commemorate his heroism and the victory of the Assamese army at the Battle of Saraighat. Lachit Borphukan was the commander of the Ahom Dynasty in present-day Assam. He showed outstanding leadership in the Battle of Saraghart (1671). The Battle of Saraghart was a naval battle between the Mughal Empire and the Kingdom of Ahom. It fought on the Brahmaputra river in Saraighat, Guwahati.

Tamil Nadu govt announces compensation packages for losses suffered due to Cyclone Nivar

The Tamil Nadu Government has announced compensation packages for the losses suffered due to the Cyclone Nivar. Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswamy said in a statement that four people died due to the cyclone and that their families will be given a solarium of ten lakh rupees each. Thirty thousand rupees each will be given as the compensation for the cows that were killed, 25-thousand rupees for buffalos, 16-thousand rupees for the calves and three thousand rupees for the sheep.

BMC to undertake a joint campaign for prevention of TB and leprosy

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, BMC will undertake a joint campaign for prevention of tuberculosis and leprosy from 1st to 16th December. The civic body said that the survey teams of the Public Health Department will go door-to-door to check on citizens.

BSE Institute Ltd to provide skill development training courses to police martyrs' and serving police personnel's wards in J&K

In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the J&K Police and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) Institute Limited today signed a MoU wherein BSE Institute Limited will be providing skill development training courses to wards of police martyrs and serving police personnel.



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Assam govt to launch 'Orunodoi' scheme

The Assam government will launch 'Orunodoi' scheme. Over 18 lakh families in the state will receive a minimum of 830 rupees per month in their bank accounts under the scheme. This scheme will strengthen the role of the women as the money will be deposited in the bank accounts of the women of the families.

NATIONAL NEWS

India International Cherry Blossom Festival in Shillong cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic

India International Cherry Blossom Festival, the calendar event of Meghalaya which attracts record number of tourists annually in Shillong, has been cancelled this year in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic. The capital, Shillong hosts the only Cherry Blossoms festival in India. The beautiful hill station Shillong in Meghalaya has turned pink with blooming cherry blossoms. Every year, the Cherry Blossom Festival in Shillong hosts a plethora of events like fitness art, fashion show, rock concerts and much more.

Health Minister Harsh Vardhan addresses Boston Center of Excellence for Health & Human Development

Health Minister Harsh Vardhan addressed the Boston Center of Excellence for Health and Human Development through a Video Conference. Saluting millions of front-line health workers who bravely carried on with their duty in spite of risk and adversity, including professionals other than doctors and nurses, Dr. Vardhan elaborated India's strategy to contain COVID-19.

Ravi Shankar Prasad launches international version of UMANG App

To mark the occasion of 3 years of UMANG and 2000 plus services milestone, an online conference was organized under the chairmanship of Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, Ravi Shankar Prasad. On this occasion, Mr Prasad launched UMANG's international version in coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs for select countries that include USA, UK, Canada, Australia, UAE, Netherlands, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand.

PM Modi to inaugurate RE-INVEST 2020

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the virtual third Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo (RE-Invest 2020) on Thursday. The three days summit is organised by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. The theme for RE-Invest 2020 is Innovations for Sustainable Energy Transition.



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Agriculture Minister unveils 'Sahakar Pragya' to impart training to primary cooperative societies

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar today unveiled Sahakar Pragya. The 45 new training modules of Sahakar Pragya of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) will impart training to primary cooperative societies in rural areas of the country along with Lakshmanrao Inamdar National Cooperative Research and Development Academy.

Govt extends period for submission of Life Certificate by Central Govt pensioners till 28th Feb 2021

Government has extended the period for submission of Life Certificate by Central Government pensioners till 28th February next year. Earlier, the government had extended the timeline for submission of Life Certificate from 1st of November to 31st of December, 2020.

Western Railway's first Kisan Rail left for Guwahati from Indore

The first Kisan Rail of Western Railway (WR) carrying 180 tonnes of onions, left for New Guwahati station from Indore in Madhya Pradesh. Railway officials said 20 general category coaches are attached in this Kisan Rail, which they said will leave for New Guwahati every Tuesday from Indore's Laxmibai Nagar station.

India's longest river bridge to come over river Brahmaputra

India's north-eastern states of Assam and Meghalaya will be soon connected by a new 19 km-long bridge over river Brahmaputra. The bridge will have huge strategic relevance by improving the connectivity of the north eastern states. The new bridge will establish a vital link between Assam and Meghalaya by reducing the distance between the two states by 250 km. The new bridge will be built along National Highway 127-B over river Brahmaputra connecting Dhubri in Assam to Phulbari in Meghalaya.

India to launch National Hydrogen Energy Mission

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India plans to launch a National Hydrogen Energy Mission. This significant announcement comes in the backdrop of state-run SECI looking to invite bids to build green hydrogen plants, which will use renewable energy sources. Hydrogen has become a new area of cooperation between India and the US, with a public-private Hydrogen Task Force being set up for the same.

Govt issues draft of Merchant Shipping Bill, 2020 for public consultation

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has issued a draft of the Merchant Shipping Bill, 2020 for public consultation. It aims to repeal and replace the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and the Coasting Vessels Act, 1838. The Merchant Shipping Bill, 2020 has been drafted, with the primary aim of promoting the growth of the Indian shipping industry by incorporating the best practices adopted by other advanced countries like the U.S., Japan, U.K., Singapore and Australia.



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Ajit Doval to visit Colombo to participate in 4th NSA Level Meeting

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval will visit Colombo to participate in the 4th NSA Level Meeting on Trilateral Maritime Security Cooperation being hosted by Sri Lanka on 27th and 28th November. Apart from the Defence Secretary of Sri Lanka and NSA Ajit Doval from India, Defence Minister Mariya Didi will also participate in the meeting representing Maldives.

Railway launches completely digitized online HRMS

Indian Railway has launched a completely digitized online Human Resource Management System (HRMS). HRMS is a high thrust project for Indian Railways to leverage improved productivity and employee satisfaction. It is a move to improve efficiency and productivity of the Railway system.

UNDP, Invest India launch SDGs Investor Map for India

United Nations Development Programme, UNDP and Invest India have launched the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Investor Map for India. It laid out 18 Investment Opportunities Areas in six critical SDG enabling sectors that can help the country push forward on the trajectory of Sustainable Development.

Kiren Rijju launches 2nd edition of 'Fit India School Week' program

Sports Minister Kiren Rijju has launched the second edition of Fit India School Week program. To participate in the program the schools have to register themselves on www.fitindia.gov.in/fit-india-school-week. The Fit India School week program was launched in November last year and saw participation from over 15 thousand schools across the country.

India has emerged as fourth largest producer of renewable energy in world

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India's renewable power capacity is the 4th largest in the world and it is growing at the fastest speed among all major countries. He said, the renewable energy capacity in India is currently 136 Giga Watts, which is about 36 percent of the country's total capacity.

Hyderabad airport introduces India's first IoT enabled Smart Trolleys

Hyderabad International Airport, led by GMR, has introduced Internet of Things (IoT)-enabled Smart baggage trolleys on Friday which is in line with the Digital India Programme of the Government of India. Under the Airport Baggage Trolley Project, a fleet of 3000 baggage trolleys have been enabled with IoT technology. The system also comes with an in-built alert mechanism, for trolleys that are carried out of a 'no-zone' area.

Only BIS certified two-wheeler helmets to be manufactured, sold in India

Move to help in avoiding sale of low quality motorcycle helmets in India, only BIS certified 2-wheeler helmets will be manufactured, sold in India.



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MoRTH seeks to formalize registration process of Vintage Motor Vehicles

In order to formalize the registration process of the Vintage Motor Vehicles, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has sought suggestions to amend the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989. At present, there are no rules for regulating the registration process of vehicles of heritage value. The draft rules define Vintage Motor Vehicles as all two-wheelers and four-wheelers which are in personal use and are more than 50 years old from the date of their first registration.

Indian Army launches cycling expedition in Gujarat & Rajasthan to commemorate 1971 Indo-Pak War victory

Konark Corps of Indian Army has launched a 1971 kilometers cycling expedition in Gujarat and Rajasthan to commemorate the commencement of the Golden Jubilee Victory Celebrations of Indian Armed Forces in the Indo-Pak War of 1971.

Prakash Javadekar launches India Climate Change Knowledge Portal

Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar launched the India Climate Change Knowledge Portal. The portal will have all the major steps the Government is taking at both national and international levels to address the climate change issues.

Honey FPO Program Was Launched

Under the "Establishment and Promotion of 10,000 FPOs" Scheme, Honey FPO was established. An FPO, formed by a group of farm producers, is a registered body with producers as shareholders in the organisation. It deals with business activities related to the farm produce and it works for the benefit of the member producers.

National Portal for Transgender Persons Was Launched by Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment

The Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment e-launched the "National Portal for Transgender People" in Vadodara, Gujarat and e-inaugurated the "GarimaGreh: A Shelter Home for Transgender People". The national portal was established within two months of the "Notice of the 2020 Transgender People (Protection of Rights) Rules". The portal will help transgender people to apply for certificates and ID cards digitally from anywhere in the country without any physical interface.

Centre announces 3rd stimulus package of Rs 900 crore

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



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Administrative Council approves J&K Communication & Connectivity Infrastructure Policy

The Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Council under the chairmanship of LG Manoj Sinha, approved Jammu and Kashmir Communication and Connectivity Infrastructure Policy. Under the new policy, permissions/permits with 2 years validity will be issued to infrastructure providers for laying optical fiber cable (OFC) network/underground telegraph infrastructure and installing telegraph infrastructure on open land. To further facilitate the grant of permissions, the policy provides for the development of an online portal by the J&K e-Governance Agency within one year.

India to host SCO Council of Heads of Government Meeting

India will host Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government Meeting in virtual format today. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu will chair the meeting. This Summit is held annually at the level of Prime Ministers of SCO and deals primarily with the trade and economic agenda of the organization.

India to have 350 million 5G subscriptions by 2026 according to Ericsson Mobility Report

India is estimated to have 350 million 5G subscriptions by 2026, accounting for 27% of the total mobile connections in the country, according to the Ericsson Mobility Report of November 2020. India's total mobile subscriptions, estimated at 1.13 billion in 2020. Ericsson has forecast global 5G subscriptions by the end of 2020 at 220 million as telecom service providers continue to build and develop their networks.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US President-elect Joe Biden appoints Indian-American Mala Adiga as policy director of his wife Jill Biden

US President-elect Joe Biden has appointed an Indian-American Mala Adiga, as the policy director of his wife Jill Biden, who will be the first lady. Adiga has served as a senior advisor to Jill and a senior policy advisor on the Biden-Kamala Harris campaign. Previously, Adiga was director for Higher Education and Military Families at the Biden Foundation.

India - Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise SIMBEX-20 to begin in Andaman Sea

Indian Navy is scheduled to host the 27th edition of India - Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise SIMBEX-20 in Andaman Sea. It will continue till 25th of this month. The SIMBEX series of exercises between Indian Navy and Republic of Singapore Navy being conducted annually since 1994, are aimed at enhancing mutual interoperability and imbibing best practices from each other.



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7th Joint Trade Committee Meeting held between India & Myanmar

The 7th Joint Trade Committee Meeting between India and Myanmar held through virtual mode. The Meeting was co-chaired by Union Minister for Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar Dr. Than Myint and Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. During the consultations, both sides reviewed various bilateral issues ranging from trade, investment, banking, connectivity, capacity building and upgradation of border infrastructure.

India announces launch of Phase-IV of High Impact Community Development Projects in Afghanistan

India has announced the launch of Phase-IV of the High Impact Community Development Projects in Afghanistan. It envisages more than 100 projects worth 80 million dollars that India would undertake in Afghanistan. External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar said this during the 2020 Afghanistan Conference organized in Geneva through video- conference. The two day conference was co-hosted by the United Nations, the Government of Afghanistan, and the Government of Finland.

Bhutan announces establishment of diplomatic relations with Germany

The tiny kingdom of Bhutan announced the establishment of full fledged diplomatic relations with Germany. The agreement was signed between German Ambassador to India Walter J Lindner and Bhutan's ambassador to India Major General Vetsop Namgyel. Pictures of the event were tweeted by Lindner's official handle.

India-US extend MoU for cooperation on nuclear energy for 10 more years

India and America have extended the Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation on nuclear energy for 10 more years. The joint statement also recognises India's important commitment in 2010 to establish the GCNEP with a vision to promote safe, secure, and sustainable nuclear energy for the service of mankind through global partnership.

India announces 100 projects worth \$80 mn in Afghanistan

India has signed an agreement with Afghanistan for the construction of the Shahtoot Dam, which will provide safe drinking water to two million residents of Kabul city. Indian foreign minister S. Jaishankar, who joined the two-day event, 2020 Afghanistan Conference, organized in Geneva, via video link, said India will undertake more than 100 projects worth \$80 million in Afghanistan. The conference was co-hosted by the UN, the Afghanistan government, and the government of Finland.

High Commission of India organizes art exhibition in Dhaka

A group art-exhibition was inaugurated in Dhaka yesterday to pay tribute to the Bangladesh Father of Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. It has been organised by the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre of the High Commission of India in association with the Bangladesh Shilpa Kala Academy. Education Minister Dipu Moni has inaugurated the exhibition as Chief Guest of the function.



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India, Finland sign MoU in the field of Environment protection and biodiversity conservation

India and Finland signed an MoU for developing cooperation between two countries in the field of Environment protection and biodiversity conservation. The MoU is a platform to further advance Indian and Finnish partnership and support, exchange best practices in areas like prevention of air and water pollution, waste management, and promotion of circular economy. The MoU was signed virtually by Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar from the Indian side and his Finnish counterpart Krista Mikkonen.

APEDA holds Virtual Buyer Seller Meet with Germany

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, APEDA, continued its endeavour to promote export of agricultural products through the virtual medium. Several virtual buyer seller meets were organised with the importing countries in association with the Indian Missions abroad.

France resumes digital tax on Facebook, Amazon

France is resuming collection of a special tax on Big Tech companies like Amazon and Facebook despite the threat of U.S. retaliatory tariffs on French Champagne, cheese, handbags and other goods.

Joint Trade Committee Meeting between India and Myanmar

The 7th Joint Trade Committee Meeting between India and Myanmar was held through virtual mode on 24th November 2020. During the consultation, both sides reviewed bilateral issues, including trade, investment, banking, connectivity, capacity building and border infrastructure upgrades. India-Myanmar relations are rooted in a common history, race, culture and religious ties. As the land of the Buddha, India is a pilgrimage country for the Burmese people.

BANKING & FINANCE

Paytm postpaid launches flexible EMI options

Paytm, India's leading digital financial services platform, announced that the users of its postpaid service can now convert their spends into EMIs. With this, the company aims to enable the consumers to purchase essentials without any budget constraints and pay back the amount in easy installments. The users can avail of Paytm's buy now and pay later facility for a wide range of products and services at more than 5 lakh plus shops and websites.



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SBI raises ₹2,500 cr from Basel-III compliant bonds to fund business growth

State Bank of India (SBI) said it has raised ₹2,500 crore from bonds to fund business growth. The committee of directors for capital raising at its meeting held accorded approval to allot 25,000 Basel-III compliant non-convertible, taxable, perpetual, subordinated, unsecured, fully paid-up debt instruments in the nature of debentures qualifying as AT 1 capital of the bank to the subscribers, it said in a regulatory filing.

RBI rejects Muthoot Finance's proposal to buy IDBI MF

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has not cleared a proposal by Muthoot Finance Ltd to buy IDBI Asset Management Ltd and IDBI MF Trustee Company Ltd from by IDBI Bank Ltd and IDBI Capital Markets & Securities Ltd. The central bank has conveyed to Muthoot Finance that “the activity of sponsoring a mutual fund or owning an asset management company is not in consonance with the activity of an operating NBFC”.

India, Afghanistan ink pact to construct \$250 million Shatoot dam

India on Tuesday announced that it has signed an agreement with Afghanistan for the construction of the Shatoot dam, which would provide safe drinking water to two million residents of Kabul city.

India Post Payments Bank launches Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has joined hands with PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited to launch Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana. The unique scheme offers life cover on death of the insured member due to any reason.

HDFC Bank tops ₹8 trillion market cap first time

HDFC Bank Ltd crossed ₹8 trillion in market capitalisation for the first time, becoming India's third firm and first lender to achieve this milestone. Shares of HDFC Bank touched a fresh record high of ₹1464 apiece in the early deals on the BSE, led by which its market capitalization jumped to ₹8.02 trillion.

Paytm announces 0% fee on wallet payments for merchants

Fintech major Paytm announced that merchants can now receive unlimited payments through Paytm Wallet at 0% fee, along with UPI and Rupay Cards. Merchants will no longer require multiple QRs at their counters. All they need is Paytm 'All-In-One QR' to accept payments from Paytm wallet, Paytm UPI, or any other UPI app.



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BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Cabinet approves ₹2,480 crore FDI in ATC Telecom

Union Cabinet approved ₹2,480 crore foreign direct investment (FDI) in ATC Telecom Infra Pvt Ltd. ATC Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd is looking to acquire 12.32% stake in ATC Telecom Infra Pvt Ltd through the FDI route.

Cabinet approves equity infusion of 6000 crore rupees into NIIF

Union Cabinet has approved equity infusion by Government of 6000 crore rupees in NIIF Debt Platform sponsored by National Investment and Infrastructure Fund, comprising Aseem Infrastructure Finance Limited and NIIF Infrastructure Finance Limited. This was one of the twelve key measures made by the Finance Minister as part of Government's stimulus to the economy, under AatmaNirbhar Bharat 3.0. NIIF Infrastructure Debt Financing Platform is expected to contribute nearly one lakh crore rupees in debt to the infrastructure sector over the next five years.

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

Insurance Regulator Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India(Irdai) gave in-principle approval to the proposed arrangement between ICICI Lombard General Insurance Co. Ltd. and Bharti AXA General Insurance Co. Ltd., according to an exchange filing. Bharti Enterprises owns 51% in Bharti AXA General Insurance, while French insurer AXA has 49%.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Malayalam film 'Jallikattu' is India's official Oscar entry

Malayalam film Jallikattu, directed by Lijo Jose Pellissery, has been selected as India's official entry to the Academy Awards, or the Oscars for this year. Released in Kerala in October 2019, Jallikattu was premiered at the 2019 Toronto International Film Festival and the 24th Busan International Film Festival, where it received much acclaim. Pellissery had received the Best Director trophy at the 50th International Film Festival of India for the film. Jallikattu is the second Malayalam film to be submitted as the country's entry to the Oscars in the past decade after Adaminte Makan Abu in 2011.



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Ashraf Patel named social entrepreneur of the year

Two organizations that train the youth for leadership roles, Pravah and ComMutiny, won the Social Entrepreneur of the Year (SEOY) award instituted by the Schwab Foundation and Jubilant Bhartia Foundation. The award was presented to Ashraf Patel representing Pravah and ComMutiny by Smriti Irani, minister of women and child development and textiles, at a virtual event.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

US President-elect Joe Biden appoints Indian-American Mala Adiga as policy director of his wife Jill Biden

US President-elect Joe Biden has appointed an Indian-American Mala Adiga, as the policy director of his wife Jill Biden, who will be the first lady. Adiga has served as a senior advisor to Jill and a senior policy advisor on the Biden-Kamala Harris campaign. Previously, Adiga was director for Higher Education and Military Families at the Biden Foundation.

New Zealand's Greg Barclay elected as new chairman of ICC

New Zealand's Greg Barclay has been elected as the new independent chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC). The head of the New Zealand Cricket team, NZC, Barclay beat Imran Khwaja in the second round of voting. Imran was interim chairman after Shashank Manohar stepped down from the post in July this year.

Hero appoints Mike Clarke as chief operating officer

Hero MotoCorp Ltd – country's leading two-wheeler manufacturer – announced the appointment of Michael Clark as the chief operating officer of the company. Clarke, who will assume charge from 1st January 2021, would also serve as the head of human resource department and will report directly to Pawan Munjal, chairman of Hero group.

Ola appoints General Motors veteran Jose Pinheiro to head its EV biz

Cab aggregator Ola has appointed former General Motors veteran Jose Pinheiro as its head of global manufacturing and operations for its electric business. Currently, the EV segment accounts for 1% of India's automobile market which leaves enough room for mobility companies to expand into green technologies for benefits like cheaper operational and maintenance costs.



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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Google launches new app in India that will pay users to complete random tasks

Google has launched a new application called Task Mate in India. Through the new application, the company will provide small random tasks to users and once the task is complete, the application will pay a certain amount to the user. Google has, in the application's description, mentioned that the new app is only limited to selected testers at the moment.

India successfully test-fires land-attack version of BrahMos missile

India "successfully" tested fired the surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile BrahMos as part of a series of planned trials of the weapon, known for its precision strike capabilities. The range of the new land-attack version of the missile has been extended to 400 km from the original 290 km but its speed has been maintained at 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound.

Made in India PUBG rival, FAU-G listed on Google Play Store

Since the ban of PUBG Mobile in India, existing alternatives were automatically pushed to the fore-front. However, none of the available options were Indian. That changed after FAU-G: Fearless and United Guards was announced. However, there wasn't any clarity on the launch date of the game. Now the Battle Royale game has finally been listed on Google Play Store.

SPORTS

Daniil Medvedev beat Dominic Thiem to win ATP Tour Finals in London

In Tennis, Daniil Medvedev beat Dominic Thiem to win ATP Tour Finals, the biggest title of his career. Medvedev fought back from losing the first set to beat Thiem 4-6, 7-6, 6-4 in a thrilling final in London last night.

Sports Ministry recognizes Archery Association of India as National Sports Federation

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has granted the annual recognition to Archery Association of India as a National Sports Federation (NSF), validating its elections held for new office-bearers earlier this year. AAI's recognition was withdrawn by the ministry on December 7, 2012 on account of its failure to conduct elections in accordance with the sports code despite the directions of the High Court.



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OBITUARY

Tarun Gogoi, Assam's longest serving chief minister, passes away

Tarun Gogoi, the longest serving chief minister of Assam passed away due to prolonged illness. He was 86. Gogoi first entered Parliament at the age of 35 in 1971 under the leadership of then prime minister Indira Gandhi. Even before becoming a Member of Parliament (MP) from Jorhat, Gogoi was elected to the Municipal Board of Jorhat in 1968. In his five-decade long career in politics, Gogoi had also worked closely with PV Narasimha Rao as union minister of state in the ministry of Food and Food Processing Industry where he served from 1991-1996.

Senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel passes away

Senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel, died at a Gurgaon hospital. He was 71.

Prominent Shia cleric Maulana Kalbe Sadiq passes away

Prominent Shia cleric and All India Muslim Personal Law Board vice president Maulana Kalbe Sadiq died in Lucknow. He was 83. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed his grief over the death of Maulana Sadiq who was an educationist, Islamic scholar and ambassador of communal amity.

Legendary Argentine footballer Diego Maradona passes away

Legendary Argentine footballer, Diego Maradona, widely regarded among the greatest football players of all time passed away yesterday following a heart attack. The 60-year-old had been hospitalised at the start of November, days after celebrating his birthday. Maradona was hospitalised after he complained of regularly being fatigued. His tests at the La Plata clinic revealed a blood clot in Maradona's brain, which doctors later revealed was operated on successfully.

Legendary Bangladeshi actor, Liberation War fighter Aly Zaker passes away

Eminent Bangladeshi actor and cultural personality Aly Zaker passed away in Dhaka. He was 76. He had been fighting cancer for the last several years. He tested COVID 19 positive two days back in a Dhaka hospital where he was undergoing treatment. Aly Zaker was a towering figure of Bangladesh in theatre, Television and films. Aly was involved in the Liberation War movement of Bangladesh against Pakistan. He was also a founder trustee of the Liberation War Museum in Dhaka.

Rajasthan BJP MLA Kiran Maheshwari passes away

Senior BJP leader and MLA from Rajsamand in Rajasthan, Kiran Maheshwari died in Gurgaon. She was 59 and tested positive for coronavirus. Kiran Maheshwari, a three-time MLA from Rajsamand, was undergoing treatment at Medanta hospital for the past few days. She had served, previously, as a member of parliament in the 14th Lok Sabha where she represented the Udaipur Constituency.



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