MONTHLY ONE-LINER GK DIGEST



December 2020

WWW.BANKEXAMSTODAY.COM

MONTHLY ONE-LINER GK DIGEST: DECEMBER 2020

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

9th International Sand Art Festival and 31st Konark Festival

- The **9th edition of International Sand Art Festival and 31st edition of Konark Festival** was held in Odisha.

India-Uzbekistan Sign 9 Pacts

- **India and Uzbekistan has entered into nine agreements in a virtual summit** held to discuss bilateral relations of both nations.
- During the summit, various bilateral talks were held between Indian **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev.**

International Bharati Festival 2020

- The festival was organised by **Vanavil Cultural Centre, Chennai.**
- PM Modi also conferred the **2020 Bharathi Award to the writer, Seeni Viswanathan.**

US Financial Body to Invest USD 54 Million in India

- The investment is done **to support the development of critical infrastructure projects in India.**
- The investment will be done in equity for the **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) of India.**

NATIONAL NEWS

Apex Committee for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement (AIPA)

- The Government of India has constituted the **Apex Committee for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement (AIPA).**
- The committee will be responsible **to regularly update and report the NDCs** to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Virtual Aadi Mahotsav

- The **Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda** launched the first-ever virtual edition Aadi Mahotsav.
- It is jointly organized by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED).**

Paytm partnered with Suryoday Small Finance Bank

- Paytm has entered into a partnership with Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SFB) Ltd with an aim **to empower MSMEs with instant digital loans.**
- Through this partnership, they will disburse loans to **over 1 lakh small businesses in the next 12 months to 18 months.**

'PayNearby Shopping Card'

- **PayNearby Technologies Pvt Ltd. In partnership with Yes Bank and NPCI** launched the 'PayNearby Shopping Card'.
- The 'PayNearby Shopping Card' is powered by RuPay and is launched **to offer benefits to the e-commerce industry.**

'iMobile Pay' – ICICI Bank

- This app is launched by transforming the ICICI Bank's **state-of-the-art mobile banking app, iMobile.**
- The 'iMobile Pay' is developed **to offer payments and banking services to customers of any bank.**

PM Modi inaugurated construction work of Agra Metro Project

- The **approximate financial outlay for this project is Rs 8379.62 crore** and is said to be completed within 5 years.
- This project will offer connectivity to major tourist spots like **Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Sikandra with the railway station and bus stands.**

Digital Saksham—Mastercard, ni-msme and CII

- The **Mastercard, ni-msme (National Institute for MSME) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** has collaborated to launch Digital Saksham.
- The **Digital Saksham is basically a capacity-building initiative which creates awareness** about the digitization of the MSME sector in India.

Forbes 2020 list of 100 Most Powerful Women

- The 17th Annual Forbes Power List of **100 Most Powerful Women was released.**
- As per this list, **Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman** is among the 100 most powerful women. She is ranked at 41st position in the list.

'Max Life Critical Illness and Disability Rider' Health Insurance & 'Max Fit' App

- The Max Life Insurance Company Limited has launched **'Max Life Critical Illness and Disability Rider',** which is a health insurance rider and 'Max Fit' which is a comprehensive wellness app.

India and Qatar To Setup Energy Task Force

- The decision is taken **to strengthen cooperation in the energy sector.**

- The Energy Task Force will help **to identify specific projects in India's energy sector for investments from Qatar.**

'Vision 2035: Public Health Surveillance In India'

- This white paper is developed by **NITI Aayog and the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada.**
- This white paper defines **India's vision of developing public health surveillance by 2035.**

FADA, ASDC Partnered With Google India

- They have partnered **to fill-up the digital skills gap in auto dealership sector of India.**
- They will be conducting training sessions under **'Grow with Goggle'** initiative of Google India.

RK Singh Launched India's 1st CoE for Skill Development in Power Sector

- It was launched at the campus of **National Institute of Solar Energy (NIS), Gurugram, Haryana.**
- It is developed by **MSDE of GOI Ministry of National Education and Youth** which comes under the French Republic and Schneider Electric.

ADB and GOI Signs Loan Agreement to Upgrade Power Sector in UP

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Indian Government** entered into a loan agreement with an aim to improve rural power distribution networks in Uttar Pradesh.
- For this purpose, **a loan agreement of $300 million was signed between India and ADB.**

Green National Highway Corridors Project

- The Green National Highway Corridors Project of GOI is **to be developed in Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.**
- For this purpose, the GOI has signed a loan agreement of **$500 million with World Bank.**

Kerala Government Partnered with UN Women

- The government of Kerala has collaborated with UN women **to establish the country's first gender data hub.**
- The **Gender Data Hub will be based on the moto of the international conference** on Gender Equality which was held in November 2015.

Merger of 4 Government Film Media Units With NFDC

- The Union Cabinet approved the merger of four of its media units with the **National Film Development Corporation (NFDC).**
- The film media units are merged under one platform in order **to have proper systematic convergence of activities and resources.**

Water Quality Testing and Innovation Challenge

- The **Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in partnership** with National Jal Jeevan Mission launched the 'Water Quality Testing Innovation Challenge'.

- The **'Water Quality Testing Innovation Challenge'** is launched to develop portable devices for testing the quality of drinking water.

India's First Driver-Less Train on Delhi Metro's Magenta Line

- India's first driver-less train on Delhi Metro's Magenta Line was inaugurated by **PM Narendra Modi.**
- He also launched a fully operational **National Common Mobility Card service on Airport Express Line.**

New Bhaupur-New Khurja Section of EDFC

- The **New Khurja- New Bhaupur section of EDFC is 351 km long** and is situated in Uttar Pradesh.
- PM Modi also inaugurated Operation Control Centre of EDFC at Prayagraj. It will be command centre for the **Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor's entire route length.**

President of India laid Foundation Stone for various projects in Diu Town

- He inaugurated the **INS Khukri Memorial and Jalandhar Circuit House** in the Diu Town.
- He also inaugurated the 1st academic session of **IIIT Vadodara, International Campus Diu and Kamleshwar School, Ghoghla.**

ICICI Bank partnered with Google Pay for Digital Registration of FASTag

- This partnership will help users to use **Google Pay to order, track and recharge ICICI Bank FASTag** digitally on the payment platform.
- Thus, ICICI Bank has become 1st Bank to partner **Google Pay to allow digital issuing of its FASTag.**

CSC Partnered with IIT Delhi

- The lab will be known as **'Design and Innovation in VLE's Indigenous Network Ecosystem (DIVINE) Lab'.**
- The lab will be developed **to conduct research into rural entrepreneurial ecosystem** and to design new products and services for the VLEs.

BANKING

Singapore and USA- Biggest FDI Sources for India

- The **DPIIT's (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade)** data for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has mentioned the names of top investing nations in India during April-September 2020.
- As per the data, Singapore has become the top source of FDI by investing **Rs 62,084 crores (USD 8.30 billion).**

Asset Restructuring Web Module—By SIDBI and ISARC

- They have entered into a partnership **to launch the Asset Restructuring Web Module for MSMEs (ARM-MSMEs).**
- The web portal will help MSMEs **to get benefits of RBI's MSME restructuring guideline.**

RBI ordered HDFC Bank to halt its Digital Businesses

- RBI has ordered **HDFC Bank to temporarily stop the launch of all its digital businesses** and other business under IT applications.
- RBI has also ordered **to stop sourcing new credit cards to the customers** and has asked the board members of HDFC Bank to examine the lapses and fix the accountability.

ADB and India signs loan agreement for West Bengal

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the GOI has signed a loan agreement **to improve financial management procedures and operational efficiencies in West Bengal.**
- They have signed a **loan agreement of $50 million.**

RBI's Monetary Policy Committee Meet

- RBI has decided to keep interest rates unchanged **for the third time in a row and has maintained the policy stance at 'accommodative'.**
- As per the decisions from MPC Committee members, the repo rate or the rate at which RBI lends to the **banks in unchanged to 4%.**

'Axis Bank Rupifi Business Credit Card'

- The **'Axis Bank Rupifi Business Credit Card'** is launched by Axis Bank in partnership with Rupifi and Visa.
- It is launched for the MSME sector and **is termed as the contactless co-branded credit card.**

ADB approved loan for upgradation of power Distribution in Bengaluru

- The Asian Development Bank has approved a loan **to upgrade the existing power distribution system in Bengaluru, Karnataka.**
- This loan amount includes **$100 million public sector loan (sovereign loan) and $90 million as a private-sector loan (non-sovereign loan).**

REIT Funds of Funds Scheme- Kotak Mahindra AMC

- The **Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company (Kotak Mutual Fund)** launched Kotak International REIT (Real Estate Investment Trust) Fund of Funds.
- This Kotak's REIT Mutual Fund invest in **real estate projects like residential, office, data centres and hospitality.**

ADB approves USD 2.5 mn Technical Assistance for Biofuel Development

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved technical assistance for the advanced biofuel development in India.**

- The ADB has approved a **USD 2.5 million (about Rs 18 crore)** in this regard.

India's GDP To Contract At 8% in FY21—ADB

- The **Asian Development Bank's 'Asian Development Outlook 2020 Supplement:** Paths Diverge in Recovery from the Pandemic ' for Dec 2020 was published.
- As per ADB, **India's GDP to contract by 8% in FY 2021.**

India's GDP to contract at 9.4% in FY21—Fitch Ratings

- The **Credit rating agency Fitch Ratings** has revised India's GDP forecast for the fiscal year 2021.
- As per Fitch Ratings, **India's GDP to contract 9.4% in FY 2020-21.**

SBI General Insurance Partnered With Mahindra Insurance Brokers

- They have entered into a partnership **to increase insurance penetration in tier 2 and tier 3 cities of India.**
- They will **promote health insurance awareness in the under-served** and under-penetrated rural areas of India.

Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX)—By ADB

- It is launched **for developing countries** who are the members of ADB.
- The APVAX is basically **$9 billion initiative which will help developing member nations of ADB** to procure and deliver coronavirus vaccines.

DBS Bank Partnered With Haqdarshak Empowerment Solutions Private Ltd

- They partnered **to help MSME in India to recover from COVID-19 crisis.**
- They will help **MSMEs through Haqdarshak MSME platform.**

'AceMoney Micro ATM Service'

- Aceware, a fintech company in partnership with ICICI Bank launched **'Ace Money Micro ATM service'** in Kochi, Kerala.
- With the help of this facility, **people will be able to withdraw the amount from their bank accounts from their home.**

'BSE E-Agriculture Markets Ltd' (BEAM)

- BEAM is an **electronic spot platform** which is launched for agricultural commodities.
- BEAM will be a platform which will serve at the **national level and will be an institutionalized, electronic and transparent commodity spot trading mode platform** which will develop a 'single market' mechanism, the vision of Prime Minister.

India's GDP To Contract 7.7% in FY 2021--- By CRISIL

- As per CRISIL, **India's GDP to contract 7.7% in FY 21.**
- Earlier, in September 2020 it has projected the **contraction to 9%.**

'DakPay'--- By IPPB

- The **Department of Posts (DoP) and India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** together launched 'DakPay', which is a new digital payment app.
- 'DakPay' is the complete solution **for digital financial and assisted banking services being provided by IPPB.**

SBI General Insurance Partnered With IntrCity RailYatri

- They have partnered **to offer domestic travel insurance to bus customers who travel through IntrCity RailYatri.**
- Under this, every IntrCity RailYatri traveller can avail the **travel cover of Rs 5 lakhs along with travel ticket.**

India's GDP To Contract 7.4% in FY 2021--- By SBI Ecowrap

- The SBI Ecowrap has forecasted that India's GDP to **contract 7.4% in FY 2021.**
- Also, it has projected that **India to observe GDP growth at 11% in FY 2022.**

'Pioneer Heritage Credit Card'—IndusInd Bank

- The **IndusInd Bank partnered with Mastercard** to launch its first metal credit card named 'Pioneer Heritage Credit Card'.
- The **'Pioneer Heritage Credit Card'** is the part of the 'World Elite' platform of Mastercard.

World Bank Approved Support to 4 Indian Projects

- The World Bank has given **approval to 4 Indian Projects.**
- For this purpose, **World Bank to offer worth over the US $800 million to support development initiatives.**

ADB Offer Loan to Construct Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Power Plant

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has sanctioned loan amount to construct Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Power (LKHEP) plant in Central Assam, India.
- The ADB to offer a **loan amount of $231 million for same to India.**

Central Bank of India Partnered with NPCI

- The **Central Bank of India entered into a partnership with NPCI** (National Payments Corporation of India) 'RuPay Select'.
- The 'RuPay Select' is the contactless debit card which is the bank's **one-of-its-kind health and wellness-focused card.**

India's GDP to Contract 7.3% in FY 2020-21—By NCAER

- The **National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)** has projected India's GDP to contract 7.3% for the current fiscal year 2020-21.
- Earlier in September 2020, it had projected a **contraction of 12.6%.**

'Infinite India'---ICICI Bank

- The **ICICI Bank has come up with an online platform** which will support the foreign companies to launch and expand their businesses in India.
- The name of the online platform is **'Infinite India'.**

ADB Grants Loan to Northern Arc Capital Ltd

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has signed a loan agreement with Northern Arc Capital Ltd (NACL).
- Therefore, ADB has offered a loan of **$40 million to NARC.**

India's GDP to Contract 7.8% in FY21—By Ind-Ra

- The **India Rating and Research (Ind-Ra)** has revised its estimation for India's GDP for the fiscal year 2020-21.
- As per Ind-Ra, India's GDP to contract **7.8% in the financial year of 2020-21.**

AU Small Finance partnered with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance

- The **AU Small Finance Bank Ltd has entered into a partnership with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance.**
- They have partnered to offer insurance solutions of **ICICI Pru Life to the customers of AU SFB.**

'Unicas'—World's First Crypto Bank

- The 'Unicas' will help people **to perform transactions in cryptocurrency and fiat from one account to the other.**
- The bank will offer services **for crypto as well as fiat assets.**

Highlights of RBI's Working Paper

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) working paper** is authored by Harendra Kumar Behera and Michael Debabrata Patra.
- The working paper describes that Inflation rate of **4% is appropriate for India.**

REPORTS

Ease of Doing Business 2020

- As per the ranking, **India stood at 63rd rank position** with the score of 71.
- The report is topped by **New Zealand with a score of 86.8.**

12th World Economic League Table 2021 Report

- The Centre for **Economics and Business Research Ltd (CEBR)** has released the 12th World Economic League Table 2021.
- As per the report, India stood at the rank of **6th largest economy among 195 countries in 2020 from 5th rank position in 2019.**

INDEX AND RANKING

US Air Quality Index

- As per the **latest report of US Air Quality Index**, Lahore is marked at most polluted cities in the world.
- As per the report, particulate matter (PM) rating of **Lahore was 423.**

QS Asia University Rankings 2021

- Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), which is the **global higher education think-tank, has released QS Asia University Rankings 2021.**
- It is released in **partnership with King Abdulaziz University (KAU), Saudi Arabia.**

8th Global Terrorism Index 2020

- As per the index, India is ranked at **8th position with Most Affected Country in the world** due to terrorism in 2019. The score of India is 7.353.
- Afghanistan is the first most affected country in the world **due to terrorism in 2019 with a score of 9.592.**

Urban Governance Index

- The Urban Governance Index is released by **Praja Foundation.**
- The second and third position is marked by **Maharashtra (55.15%) and Chhattisgarh (49.68%) respectively.**

Climate Change Performance Index

- The **New Climate Institute, Germanwatch and CAN (Climate Action Network)** has released Global Climate Change Performance Index.
- India ranked **10th in this index with a score of 63.98.**

Human Development Index 2020

- The report of Human Development Index 2020 was released by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).**
- As per the report, **India stood at the rank position of 131st among 189 countries.** India's score in this index is 0.640.

Human Freedom Index 2020

- The **American think tank Cato Institute and Fraser Institute in Canada** released Human Freedom Index 2020.
- As per the index, **India is ranked at 111th position among 162 countries.**

Nature Index 2020 Artificial Intelligence

- The report on **'Nature Index 2020 Artificial Intelligence' was released by Nature Research** which is an International Scientific Publishing Company.
- As per the report, **India stood at rank 3rd among 25 countries with most publications on AI technology from 2015-2019.** India has published 91,563 AI publications during 2015-2019.

APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Person	Designation
Utpal Kumar Singh	Secretary-General of Lok Sabha Secretariat
AR Rehman	Ambassador of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts
Varsha Joshi	Chairperson of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)
Amitabh Jain	Chief Secretary of Chhattisgarh Government
Sandeep Kataria	Global CEO of Bata Show Organisation
Shrikant Madhav Vaidya	Vice President of World Liquefied Petroleum Gas Association (WLPGA)
Kuldeep Handoo	Brand Ambassador for 'Fit India Movement'
Akshay Kumar	Brand Ambassador for Horlicks Protein Plus by HUL
Uday Shankar	President of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)
Anil Soni	Chief Executive Officer of the newly launched WHO Foundation
Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah	Prime Minister of Kuwait
Annika Sorenstam	President of International Golf Federation (IGF)
Zena Wooldridge	President of World Squash Federation
Justice Rajesh Bindal	Chief Justice of the common High Court of UT of Jammu and Kashmir and UT of Ladakh
Nagendraa Parakh	To head the newly formed Corporation Finance Investigation Department (CFID) of SEBI
Uday Kotak	MD and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank
Prakash Apte	Part-Time Chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank
Dipak Gupta	Joint MD of Kotak Mahindra Bank
Nana Akufo Addo	Presidential Election of Ghana
Sukhbir Singh Sandhu	Chairman of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)
Raja Chairi	Commander of SpaceX Crew-3 mission by NASA and European Space Agency
Shashi Shekhar Vempati	Vice President of Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU)
Satyendra Garg	DGP of Andaman and Nicobar Island
Ranvir Singh Krishna	Police Chief of Puducherry
Vineet Agrawal	President of ASSOCHAM (Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India)
Sumant Sinha	Vice-President of ASSOCHAM (Associated

	Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India)
Aditya Nath Das	Chief Secretary to Andhra Pradesh Government
Nilam Sawhney	Principal Advisor to the CM of Andhra Pradesh Government
Florin Citu	Prime Minister of Romania
Prasanth Prabhakaran	MD and CEO of Yes Securities (India) Limited
Vice Admiral Rajat Datta	DG of Armed Forces Medical Services
Suresh Chandra Mohapatra	Chief Secretary of Odisha
Neetal Narang	First Female President of Softball Federation of India (SFI)
Sourav Ganguly	Brand Ambassador for Class plus
Dr Harsh Vardhan	Board Member of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI)
Prof. Santanu Chaudhury	Head the committee constituted by the Department of Science and Technology (DST)

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Awardee	**Award**
Ranjitsinh Disale	2020 Global Teacher Prize
Adar Poonawalla	'The Straits Times Asian of the Year 2020'
Mondo Duplantis (Sweden, Pole Valuter)	Male World Athletes of the Year 2020
Yulimar Rojas (Venezuela, triple jumper)	Female World Athletes of the Year 2020
Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)	International King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award for 2020
Invest India	2020 UN Investment Promotion Award by UNCTAD
Dr Carolina Araujo	2020 Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematics
Joe Biden and Kamala Harris	Time Magazine's Person of the Year
Ashraf Patel	Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award –India 2020
Paul Sein Twa	Goldman Environmental Prize 2020 by IUCN
Robert Lewandowski (Poland)	Best FIFA Men's Player 2020
Lucy Bronze (England)	Best FIFA Women's Player 2020
Ratan Tata	ASSOCHAM Enterprise of the Century Award
Ratan Tata	Global Visionary of Sustainable Business and Peace award
K. Veeramani	Dr Narendra Dabholkar Memorial Award
Hemant Kumar Pandey	DRDO's 'Scientist of the Year Award'

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	**Day**	**Theme**
1st December 2020	World AIDS Day	**Theme:** Global solidarity, shared responsibility
1st December 2020	56th raising day of BSF	--
2nd December 2020	International Day for the	--

	Abolition of Slavery	
2nd December 2020	National Pollution Control Day	--
2nd December 2020	World Computer Literacy Day	--
3rd December 2020	International Day for Disabilities	**Theme:** 'Not all Disabilities are Visible'
4th December 2020	International Day of Banks	--
4th December 2020	Indian Navy Day	**Theme:** 'Indian Navy Combat Ready, Credible and Cohesive'
5th December 2020	International Volunteer Day or International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development	**Theme:** 'Together We Can Through Volunteering'
5th December 2020	World Soil Day	--
6th December 2020	Mahaparinirvana Divas	--
7th December 2020	International Civil Aviation Day	**Theme:** 'Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development'
7th December 2020	Armed Forces Flag Day	--
9th December 2020	International Anti-Corruption Day	**Theme:** Recover with Integrity
9th December 2020	International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime	--
10th December 2020	World Human Rights Day	**Theme:** Recover Better-Stand Up for Human Rights
11th December 2020	International Mountain Day Theme for 2020: Mountain Biodiversity	--
11th December 2020	UNICEF Day	--
12th December 2020	International Day of Neutrality	--
12th December 2020	International Universal Health Coverage Day	**Theme:** Health for all: Protect everyone
14th December 2020	National Energy Conservation Day	--
16th December 2020	Victory day or Vijay Diwas	--
18th December 2020	International Migrants Day	**Theme:** 'Reimagining Human Mobility'
18th December 2020	UN Arabic Language Day	--
19th December 2020	Goa Liberation Day	--
20th December 2020	International Human Solidarity Day	--
22nd December 2020	National Mathematics Day	--
23rd December 2020	National Farmers Day or Kisan Diwas	--
24th December 2020	National Consumer Rights Day	--
25th December 2020	Good Governance Day	--

MOUS SIGNED

Punjab Gov. signs MoU with I-DAIR

- The **Government of Punjab signed MoU with International Digital Health-Artificial** Intelligence Research Collaborative (I-DAIR).
- They have signed MoU **to develop digital technologies and infrastructures in the health sector.**

India and USA signs MoU in IP Cooperation

- **India and the United States of America** has entered into MoU to enhance cooperation in Intellectual Property (IP).
- Both the nations will collaborate **to conduct training and information exchange in order to have best practices in IP protection.**

NABARD signed MoU with SBI

- The **Karnataka Regional Office of NABARD has signed MoU with SBI** to take up intervention projects in Karnataka.
- The MoU will be beneficial **to around 45000 people from 260 FPOs in 28 districts of Karnataka and to 8500 beneficiaries from SHGs.**

APEDA signs MOU with NABARD

- They have signed MoU **to work collaboratively to synergize the activities in the interest of agriculture and allied sectors to bring better value to the stakeholders.**
- They will also work **to implement the Agriculture Export Policy (AEP).**

IREDA Ltd. signed MoU with SJVN Limited

- The **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA)** has entered into an MoU with SJVN Limited for the purpose of green energy projects.
- As per the MoU, **IREDA will undertake techno-financial due diligence of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and conservation projects for SJVN.**

NTPC signed MoU with IIFM, Bhopal

- The **NTPC Ltd (National Thermal Power Corporation)** entered into MoU with Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal.
- They have signed MoU **for the implementation of Narmada Landscape Restoration Project.**

NBCFDC and NSFDC signs MoA with Central Bank of India

- The **MoA is signed for the implementation of Vanchit Ikai Samooh aur Vargon ki Aarthik Sahayta (VISVAS) Yojana.** The VISVAS is an Interest subvention Scheme of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, GOI.
- Under this agreement, **Central Bank of India will be providing the Interest subvention to the holders under VISVAS Yojana.**

MoRTH Signed MoU With Austria

- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways signed an MoU** with the Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology of the Republic of Austria.
- They signed the MoU **to have Technology Cooperation in the Road Infrastructure Sector.**

Ola Signed MoU With Tamil Nadu Government

- Ola, the SoftBank backed mobility firm signed MoU with **Government of Tamil Nadu.**
- Ola will be setting up its **largest electric scooter manufacturing unit in the world.**

Norway Signs MoU With Clean Ganga Mission

- They have entered into MoU **to develop the sludge management framework in India.**
- Through this partnership, **Norway intends to boost cooperation with India in sectors** like climate change and environmental conservation.

GOI Signs Loan Pact With NDB

- The **Indian Government has signed a loan agreement with the New Development Bank (NDB)** for the purpose to support the Indian economy to recover from COVID-19 pandemic situation.
- Therefore, NDB will offer the **loan of $1,000 million to GOI.**

India & Austria Signed MoU on Technology Cooperation in Road Infrastructure

- India and Austria has entered into MoU **to have Technology Cooperation in Road Infrastructure Sector.**
- This MoU will help **to increase trade and regional integration between both nations.**

India and ADB Signed 4.21 million Dollar PRF Facility for Tripura

- The **Indian Government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB)** have entered into a partnership of 4.21 million dollar Project Readiness Financing (PRF) facility in Tripura.
- The PRF facility is for preparation of infrastructure development projects in order **to develop urban amenities and for developing tourism infra in the state.**

MoU Signed Between Indian Navy and INCOIS

- The **Indian Navy signed MoU with Indian National Centre** for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS).
- They have entered into MoU **to share ocean services, data and expertise in operational oceanography.**

BOB Signed MoU with Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard

- Through this MoU, BOB will be offering customized **banking services along with a host of facilities** to the account holders.
- The banking services will be offered through **'Baroda Military Salary Package'.**

Telangana Government Signed MoU with SAP India

- The **Telangana government** has signed MoU with SAP India.
- The MoU was signed digitise and empower MSMEs of the state by **empowering them with digital skills and cutting edge technologies.**

NMDC Ltd Signed MoU with MECL

- The **National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) signed MoU with Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd (MECL).**
- They entered into MoU **to conduct exploration activities in mutually agreed projects of iron ore**, gold, coal, diamonds and other minerals.

ISRO Signed MoU with IIT Banaras Hindu University

- The MoU is signed to build **Regional Academic Centre for Space (RAC-S)** at the campus of the institute.
- The institute will conduct R&D in **science and technology in the states of UP, MP and Chhattisgarh.**

India and Japan to Enhance Cooperation in Steel Sector

- The MoU was signed by the **Ministry of Steel of GOI with Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan's Government.**
- The partnership will lead **to boost India's steel sector by increasing the manufacturing and quality of steel produced.**

Facebook Signed Agreement with Tips Music

- The **Tips Music announced the signing of an agreement** with social media giant Facebook.
- They have signed a **global music licensing deal.**

India and Bhutan Signed MoU

- India and Bhutan has signed MoU **to have cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.**
- Also, both nations decided **to set up a Joint Working Group which will frame an action plan** to enhance space cooperation and enhance this MoU's purpose.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

One-time Settlement Scheme launched in Goa

- The scheme is basically a **welfare scheme from the Electricity Department.**
- It aims **to provide waivers for the pending electricity bill payments.**

'Jagananna Jeeva Kranthi' Scheme—Andhra Pradesh

- The scheme aims **to distribute 2.49 lakh sheep and goats to SC, ST women belonging to the age group between 45-60 years** in order to improve their standard of living.

- The **2.49 lakh sheep and goat** will be distributed in three phases. **Each unit is comprised of 15 sheep or goat.**

YSR Free Crop Insurance Scheme

- The scheme is said to be beneficial to **around 9.48 lacs of farmers.**
- Under this scheme, **Rs 1,252 crores will be credited directly into bank accounts of 9.48 lacs of farmers.**

'Varasat' Campaign: Uttar Pradesh

- The **Uttar Pradesh Government** launched a 'Varasat' Campaign.
- It is launched **to tackle disputes related to property & land in rural areas of the state.**

SEHAT Health Insurance Scheme of J&K

- SEHAT signifies **Social Endeavour for Health and Telemedicine.**
- The scheme aims **to provide free cashless treatment to the residents of J&K** by providing them health cover of up to Rs 5 lakhs.

'PR Insight'—Mobile App and Web Portal by Punjab

- The **'PR Insight' mobile app and web portal** will look after and improve the delivery of citizen-centric services in order to observe responsive and transparent administration in the State.
- It will work coordinately in response **to the feedback from the people on government policies and schemes.**

'E-Sampada' Web Portal and Mobile App

- The **Minister of State (IC) for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri** launched the 'E-Sampada' web portal and a mobile app.
- The E-Sampada is launched **to serve a single platform to manage estate services of GOI.**

'Digital Ocean' App and Web Platform—By INCOIS

- The Digital Ocean app and platform is basically a set of applications which helps **to organise and present heterogeneous oceanographic data by adopting geospatial technology.**
- It was launched by **Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Science and Technology**, Earth Sciences, Dr Harsh Vardhan.

Global Pravasi Rishta Portal and Mobile App

- The **Ministry of External Affairs, GOI launched the Global Pravasi Rishta Portal and mobile app.**
- This portal and app will help to connect **3.12 crore Indians across the world.**

DEFENCE

India test fires anti-ship version of BrahMos

- The Indian Navy successfully test-fired the **anti-ship version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile.**
- It was test-fired from **INS Ranvijay in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands territory.**

PASSEX Exercise 2020

- The PASSEX (Passage) Exercise 2020 was held between **the Indian Navy and Russian Federation Navy.**
- Aim of this exercise was **to increase interoperability, improve understanding and imbibe best practices in both nations.**

35th India-Indonesia CORPAT

- The 35th IND-INDO CORPAT will help the **Indian Navy to consolidate inter-operability and develop strong coordination across Indo Pacific.**
- India was represented by INS Kulish, which is an ingeniously built **missile corvette and P8I Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA).**

India Successfully Test Fired MRSAM

- India successfully conducted the test-firing operation of **Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM).**
- The MRSAM is jointly developed by **DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)**. It is manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Ltd.

DGNCC Digital Forum Launched by Defence Secretary

- The **Secretary to Defence, Dr Ajay Kumar** launched the DGNCC Digital Forum.
- The DGNCC Digital Forum will be **hosted by DGNCC website.**

PASSEX-2020

- The **Indian Navy and Vietnam People's Navy** held PASSEX-2020 (Passage Exercise).
- The PASSEX-2020 was held in the South China Sea with an aim **to improve maritime cooperation between both nations.**

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Pixxel to launch Remote Sensing Satellite

- The Bengaluru based private satellite-imaging company, Pixxel has decided **to launch its first remote-sensing satellite on the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** workhorse rocket Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) in early 2021.
- For this purpose, it has signed a pact with **New Space India Limited (NSIL).**

IESA and UNIDO Partnered For Energy Storage Innovations

- They have collaborated **to undertake innovations in Energy Storage sector in India.**

- They collaborated **for the launch of UNIDO's 'Facility of Low Carbon Deployment' (FLCTD).**

Narrow Band Internet of Things Network (NB-IoT)—BSNL and Skylo

- The **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) partnered with Skylo** to launch satellite-based Narrow Band Internet of Things network (NB-IoT) in India.
- This is the **world's first NB-IoT by BSNL and Skylo.**

ISRO To Launch CMS-01

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** will be launching CMS-01, which is the communication satellite.
- The launching will take place from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.**

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

4th NSA Level Meet on Trilateral Maritime Security Cooperation

- The **4th NSA Level Meet on Trilateral Maritime Security Cooperation** was held between India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.
- The Indian side was represented by **Ajit Doval, National Security Adviser.**

19th SCO Council of Heads of Government Summit

- The **19th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of Government** summit was chaired by Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu.
- **Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu** mentioned that how India is working to keep its COVID-19 death rate at one of the lowest levels in the world.

20th Sri Lanka Economic Summit

- The **20th edition of Sri Lanka Economic Summit (SLES)** was held and a keynote address at its inauguration ceremony was delivered by Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman.
- The summit was organized by **Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC).**

7th India-Suriname Joint Commission Meeting (JCM)

- The **7th edition of India-Suriname Joint Commission Meeting (JCM)** was held virtually to review the bilateral ties between both nations.
- They held discussions about **regional and multilateral cooperation.**

7th IEF-IGU Ministerial Gas Forum

- The **7th edition of IEF-IGU (International Energy Forum- International Gas Union) Ministerial Gas Forum** was held in Kauala Lumpur, Malaysia.

- India was represented by **Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan.**

7th Meet of India- Mongolia Joint Committee

- The **7th meeting of India-Mongolia of Joint Committee on Cooperation** was held virtually.
- India was represented by **Minister of External Affairs, S Jaishankar and Mongolia was represented by L Oyun-Erdene, Chief Cabinet Secretary of the nation.**

IIT 2020 Global Summit

- The summit was also attended by **Union Education Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank.**
- The summit observed the discussions about the **global economy, technology, innovation, health and New Education Policy 2020.**

India Mobile Congress 2020

- The India Mobile Congress 2020 is organised by the **Department of Telecommunications and Cellular Operators Association of India.**
- Theme for India Mobile Congress 2020: **'Inclusive Innovation- Smart, Secure and Sustainable'.**

6th India-Japan ICT Joint Working Group Meet

- The 6th India-Japan ICT Joint **Working Group meeting was held virtually.**
- The meeting was held **under both nation's ICT (Information and Communication Technology) objective.**

14th ADMM Plus Meet 2020

- It was held to mark the 10th anniversary of ADMM Plus. ADMM Plus is basically a **group of Defence Ministers of 10 ASEAN Nations** and its 8 partner nations.
- While addressing the meet, **Union Minister Rajnath Singh** welcomed Brunei Darussalam as new Chair for ASEAN in 2021.

IndUS Entrepreneurs (TiE) Global Summit 2020

- The **IndUS Entrepreneurs (TiE) Global summit 2020** (TGS 2020) was held virtual.
- It was inaugurated by **Vice President of India Venkaiah Naidu.**

5th India Water Impact Summit (IWIS)

- It was organised by the **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and the Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga).**
- The 5th IWIS was organised **to discuss water-related issues and steps taken to save it.**

FICCI's 93rd Annual General Meeting

- The **FICCI's 93rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Annual Convention** were inaugurated and addressed by PM Narendra Modi via video-conference.

- PM Modi also inaugurated **FICCI Annual Expo 2020, which commenced from 11th Dec 2020 and will continue throughout a year.**

9th Sustainable Mountain Development Summit

- The summit was hosted by **Sustainable Development Forum Uttaranchal** and was organised by Indian Mountain Initiative.
- The summit was held **to build pathways toward a resilient and sustainable mountain economy.**

23rd Meet Of The Financial Stability And Development Council

- The **23rd meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** was chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- The meet was held **to review macroeconomic developments** and to discuss the issues related to global and national financial stability.

India and Bangladesh Virtual Summit

- The summit was held **to discuss bilateral relations between both nations and to strengthen cooperation in post COVID era.**
- Both dignitaries inaugurated **Haldibari-Chilahati rail link** which will connect borders of both nations.

12th GRIHA Summit 2020

- The 12th GRIHA Summit 2020 was inaugurated by **Vice President of India Venkaiah Naidu** in a virtual manner.
- The summit was organised by **GRIHA Council, Hyderabad in partnership with TERI** (The Energy and Resource Institute).

5th Global Technology Summit 2020

- The summit was held **to discuss technology usage informing and shaping geopolitics, to understand the future of data.**
- The dignitaries also held a discussion about **digital inclusion and innovation in various areas** and to use the technology in dealing with pandemics.

6th India-Japan Samvad Conference

- He appreciated the forum's efforts and Japan's contribution **to promoting the ideas and ideals of Lord Buddha,** especially among the youth through this conference.
- While addressing the conference, **PM Modi proposed to form a library of all Buddhist literature and scriptures in India.**

20th IORA Council of Ministers Meet

- The **20th Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting** was held virtually under the Chairmanship of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

- India was represented by **V. Muraleedharan, Minister of State, Ministry of External Affairs.**

India-Vietnam Virtual Summit 2020

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Vietnam**, Nguyen Xuan Phuc jointly addressed the meet.
- It was held to discuss bilateral cooperation between both nations and **to discuss post-COVID-19 era.**

51st Director General Level Border Coordination Conference

- The **51st Director General (DG) Level Border Coordination Meet took place** from 22nd Dec to 26th Dec 2020.
- The meet was held between **India's Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).**

Agriculture Scientists Meet at IISF 2020

- The meeting was inaugurated by **Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Kailash Choudhary.**
- This meet offers a platform **to experts from the agricultural domain to discuss issues and advanced innovations in Agri sector.**

Union Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan Inaugurated IMD Centre at Leh in Ladakh

- The **Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Science and Technology,** Earth Sciences, Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Centre at Leh in Ladakh.
- The centre will also help **to forecast suitable weather conditions for mountaineering, trekking and farming.**