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NOVEMBER – 2020

COVID – 19 NEWS

AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ROZGAR YOJANA	Union Minister for Finance announced a new scheme to incentivize job creation during COVID-19 recovery has been launched.
Mission COVID Suraksha	The Government of India (GOI) has announced the third stimulus package of Rs. 900 Crore for the Mission COVID Suraksha- The Indian COVID-19 Vaccine Development Mission.
Neutralising antibodies	A new study in Pune has revealed that nearly 85% of the people who had been found infected with novel coronavirus in a serosurvey , conducted earlier, had developed neutralising antibodies
delirium	A new study supports evidence that delirium can predict coronavirus infection in older patients who show no other typical symptoms of Covid-19.
Dry swab-direct RT-PCR method	To ramp up COVID-19 testing, ICMR approves dry swab-direct RT-PCR method. It has been Developed by CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB).
COVID-19 Shri Shakti Challenge	Six women led startups have won COVID-19 Shri Shakti Challenge organized by MyGov in collaboration with UN Women.
Pfizer vaccine	A vaccine jointly developed by Pfizer and BioNTech was 90% effective in preventing Covid-19 infections in ongoing Phase 3 trials.
iGOT e-learning Platform	Ministry of Health has said that uniquely designed Integrated Government Online training'- iGOT platform provides self-contained training material for COVID-19 warriors comprising 56 modules, 196 videos and 133 training documents
Guillain Barre Syndrome	In a rare complication, some patients infected with Covid-19 have been found suffering from Guillain Barre Syndrome (GBS)
Kawasaki disease	In India, a new illness, with some symptoms common with the rare Kawasaki disease, has been affecting children with Covid-19.



COVID-19 and Children

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has released the report "**Averting a lost Covid generation**", which highlights significant and growing consequences of Covid-19 on children.

TAMIL NADU

1) **Thervoy Kandigai Reservoir:**

- ✓ New (5th) major Reservoir of Chennai, after Poondi, Cholavaram, Redhills and Chembarambakkam located in Thiruvallur district.
- ✓ Inaugurated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah during his Chennai Visit.
- ✓ Chennai will get a dedicated reservoir for drinking water supply after a gap of 76 years

2) **Kalaingar Karunanidhi breakfast scheme for school students launched in Puducherry**

3) **Tamil Nadu has ranked the best in organ donation in the country for the 6th consecutive year.**

4) **Tamil Nadu has bagged the best State award for water management for the year 2019** in the fisheries sector

5) **Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation Ltd** awarded best Organisations for 2019-20

6) Tamil Nadu CM launches '**Thee**' app is for the general public to reach the Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services **in cases of fires, floods, mishaps in wells, chemical or gas leaks and other accidents.**

7) **Vinisha Umashankar**, a 14-year-old girl from Tiruvannamalai has won the prestigious **Children's Climate Prize** for designing a **mobile ironing cart using solar panels** to power a steam iron box

8) **Pal Pandi**, the Birdman of Koothankulam has won the "**Nature Conservative Award**"

9) **Tamil Nadu Governor** promulgated an ordinance that **banned online gaming in the state**, with a **fine up to Rs 5,000 and imprisonment of up to six months.**



NATIONAL

- 1) **SEX RATIO: With 1,084 females born per thousand males, Arunachal Pradesh recorded the best sex ratio in the country**, followed by Nagaland at 965 females and Mizoram at 964 according to “Vital statistics of India based on the Civil Registration System (CRS)” report.

For Improving Child Sex Ratio Government is implementing many schemes:

Sukanya Samridhi Yojana	Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao
Girl Child Protection Scheme	Rashtriya Mahila Kosh
Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandhana Yojana	

- 2) The **winter session of Parliament** that usually commences by last week of November is **unlikely to be held due to the high number of COVID-19 cases in New Delhi.**
- 3) **STATUE OF PEACE:** The Prime Minister unveiled ‘Statue of Peace’ (151-inch-tall statue) to mark the 151st Birth Anniversary celebrations of **Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj** in Pali, Rajasthan
- 4) The Prime Minister Modi said that the Government of India is **changing the name of the Ministry of Shipping and it will be known as the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.**
- 5) **Luhri hydropower project:** The newly proposed project is located in **Shimla and Kullu districts on the Satluj river in Himachal Pradesh.**
- 6) **Madhya Pradesh** government has decided to set up a **‘Gau Cabinet’** for the protection and promotion of cattle
- 7) **Mission Purvodaya:** The Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel said that **India cannot become Aatmanirbhar without eastern India becoming self-reliant.** He also said that Purvodaya- eastern India has to drive national growth.
- 8) **Operation Thunder:** INTERPOL, WCO and India Customs intercept 18 tonnes of Red Sandalwood destined for the United Arab Emirates



- 9) **Garima Greh:** Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment e-inaugurated a 'Garima Greh: **A Shelter Home for Transgender Persons**' in Vadodara, **Gujarat**.
- 10) India Targets to **Fully Convert Andaman And Nicobar, Lakshadweep Islands to Green Energy**.
- 11) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued a notification making **FASTags mandatory for all four-wheel vehicles from 1st January 2021**.
- 12) Maharashtra announced the setting up of a **desalination plant in Mumbai**, becoming the fourth state in the country to experiment with the idea. **Tamil Nadu has been the pioneer in using this technology, setting up two desalination plants near Chennai in 2010 and then 2013**.
- 13) **Sahakar Pragya:** Union Agriculture Minister unveiled 'Sahakar Pragya' to impart training to primary cooperative societies in rural areas.
- 14) The **Virtual Court (traffic) and e-Challan project** have (12th November 2020) inaugurated in **Assam**
- 15) Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister inaugurated the **Seismic Survey Campaign** by Oil India Limited.
- 16) **Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge:** The Challenge, launched on the occasion of World Toilet Day (November 19), is aimed at **preventing 'hazardous cleaning' of sewers and septic tanks and promote their mechanized cleaning**.
- 17) **Haryana Government** recently suggested that it would be better if both Haryana and Punjab agreed on Chandigarh as a Union Territory and make their **independent capitals and Benches of High Courts**.
- 18) **Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Bill, 2020** has been passed paving way for **more employment opportunities for locals in private sector**.
- 19) Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) has been trying to develop a **maritime cluster at GIFT City in the state capital Gandhinagar** through its subsidiary Gujarat Ports Infrastructure and Development Company Ltd (GPIDCL).



- 20) Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel laid **the foundation stone for the first 50 LNG fuelling stations, across the golden quadrilateral and major National Highways.**
- 21) **Kerala Public Service Commission** will implement **10% reservation quota in government jobs for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS).**
- 22) **Kerala Government** has introduced **Section 118A in the Kerala Police Act, to penalise ‘offensive,’ ‘abusive,’ and ‘threatening’ social media posts.**
- 23) The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, National Capital Region Transport Corporation Limited (NCRTC) and the New Development Bank (NDB) signed a loan agreement for lending 500 million dollars for the **‘Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System Project’.**
- 24) The Ministry of Food Processing launched the **GIS One District One Product (ODOP) digital map of India.**
- 25) Environmental activists and local residents in Uttarakhand are opposing the cutting of trees for a project to expand **Dehradun’s Jolly Grant airport.**
- 26) The **Jharkhand government** passed a resolution to send the Centre a letter **to recognise Sarna religion** and include it as a separate code in the Census of 2021.
- 27) **Kerala** has decided to withdraw the general consent accorded to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to operate in Kerala.



INTERNATIONAL

- 1) **WHO year 2021** designated as the “*International Year of Health and Care Workers*”
- 2) **The BRICS** has adopted a **new counter-terrorism strategy to effectively deal with terrorism.**
- 3) **Peru’s fifth president Manuel Merino, was forced out of power**, just five days after taking office, as massive protests swept the South American country
- 4) **Bangladesh** has opened its **first Islamic school for transgender Muslims**
- 5) **New Zealand** declares **climate emergency**, pledges to become **carbon neutral by 2025**
- 6) **On November 1**, observed **every year in Gilgit-Baltistan as “Independence Day”**, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan announced that his government would give the region “provisional provincial status”.
- 7) **Pangda village:** new border village built by China. The village is located on territory disputed by China and Bhutan. The area is east of the India-Bhutan-China trijunction on the Doklam plateau.
- 8) **China** will build a “**super**” **dam** on the lower reaches of the **Yarlung Zangbo river close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Tibet**, in a move that could have a far-reaching impact on northeast India’s water security.
- 9) The Government of India is providing assistance to Friendly Foreign Countries to overcome natural calamities and COVID-19 pandemic, and towards the same **INS Airavat is carrying a consignment of 100 Tonnes of food aid for the people of Sudan.**
- 10) **Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA):** Japan and Australia have signed a landmark defence deal in a bid **to counter China’s growing influence in the South China Sea and over the Pacific island nations.**
- 11) **Hurricane Iota** made landfall in Nicaragua in **Central America**
- 12) Super **Typhoon Rolly or Goni** slammed into the **Philippines**
- 13) For the third time in ten years, **the United States territory of Puerto Rico has voted in favour of statehood**, and thus be treated at par with the current 50 states of the country.



ECONOMICS

- 1) **The RBI** has proposed the **amalgamation of the Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) with DBS Bank India.**
- 2) **India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contracted 7.5% in the second quarter of 2020-21**, following the record 23.9% decline recorded in the first quarter, as per estimates released by the National Statistical Office.
- 3) **China** sold **negative-yield debt** for the first time, and this saw a high demand from investors across Europe. As yields in Europe are even lower, there was a huge demand for the 4-billion-euro bonds issued by China.
- 4) The **15th Finance Commission** led by **Chairman N K Singh**, submitted its Report for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 to the President of India.
- 5) **12 KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS UNDER AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT 3.0:**

Booster dose | A look at the fresh stimulus steps announced by the Finance Minister

Jobs

A new **Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana** mooted to spur job creation

- Govt. to foot **two years' EPF dues** (24% of wages) for new employees hired between Oct. 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021
- People earning less than **₹15,000 per month** who lost jobs between March 1 and Sept. 30 to be covered if re-employed
- Firms with more than 50 employees must hire **at least 5 more** to be covered

Additional ₹10,000 crore announced for the PM Garib Kalyan Rozgar Yojana which could be used for MGNREGS or PM Gram Sadak Yojana

Salaried taxpayers

Some income tax relief for purchase of residential units of value up to **₹2 crore**

- Permissible differential under Income Tax Act between circle rate and agreement value to be raised from **10% to 20%** for primary sale of new units till June 30, 2021

Infrastructure

₹18,000 crore allocated to PM Awas Yojana to build urban housing, over the ₹8,000 crore allotted in the Budget

- Govt. expects this would create **78 lakh new jobs** and drive

Stressed sectors

Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme extended till March 31, 2021

- New scheme to provide credit to firms in the healthcare sector and 26 other sectors identified as 'stressed'

Farmers


Govt. to provide **₹65,000 crore** as fertilizer subsidy to ensure adequate availability in view of the expected rise in sown area

Additional ₹10,000 crore announced for the PM Garib Kalyan Rozgar Yojana which could be used for MGNREGS or PM Gram Sadak Yojana

demand for 25 lakh MT of steel and 131 lakh MT of cement

- Free up infrastructure contractors' capital by reducing performance security charges, and scrapping earnest money deposits for bidding on government projects
- ₹6,000 crore** equity infusion in debt platform of National Infrastructure Investment Fund, which will be used to raise **₹1.1 lakh crore** for infra projects by 2025
- ₹10,200 crore** additional funding for capital and industrial expenditure

If you take all the packages and the RBI measures announced so far, a total of ₹29,87,641 crore has been given so far as stimulus. A total of 15% of GDP. The Central government on its own has provided 9% of GDP as stimulus



NIRMALA SITHARAMAN

SPORTS

- 1) Legendary Argentine footballer, **Diego Maradona**, widely regarded among the greatest football players of all time passed away.
- 2) The **Target Olympic Podium Scheme** is a flagship program of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports which is an attempt **to provide assistance to India's top athletes**.
- 3) The **Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre (INWTC), Mumbai** is organising the commencement of sailing activities in Mumbai harbour with the **Maiden IN-MDL Cup, National Yachting Championship**.
- 4) **Daniil Medvedev** won the **Nitto ATP Finals 2020** held in England

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

SUMMITS / CONFERENCES	PURPOSE / THEME / OUTCOME	PLACE / By
3rd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo (RE-Invest 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ THEME: "Innovations for Sustainable Energy Transition" ✓ India Targets 175 GW Renewable Energy by 2022 	Held virtually from 26 th – 28 th November 2020
15th G20 Summit	<p>New Global Index will be based on 4 pillars of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Talent, ✓ Technology, ✓ Transparency and ✓ Trusteeship towards the planet. 	Convened by Saudi Arabia virtually
India-Luxembourg Summit	The Luxembourg Prime Minister conveyed the intention of Luxembourg to join the International Solar Alliance. PM Modi invited Luxembourg to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.	Held virtually on 19 th November 2020
India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2020	THEME: "Inclusive Innovation - Smart Secure Sustainable"	Held virtually



SCHEMES / YOJANAS

SCHEMES / YOJANAS	PURPOSE / Why in News?	MINISTRY / CABINET / STATE
Indira Gandhi Matritva Poshan Yojana	a maternity benefit scheme, which mothers will get ₹6,000 for the second child.	Rajasthan
Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM)	The scheme aims to add solar and other renewable capacity of 25,750 MW by 2022	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)

DEFENCE & SPACE

DEFENCE & SPACE	PURPOSE	COUNTRY / STATE / ORGANIZATION
PSLV-C49 – (51st Flight)	<p>Carrying,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Nine customer satellite from Lithuania (1), Luxembourg (4) and USA (4) ✓ EOS-01 is an earth observation satellite, intended for applications in agriculture, forestry and disaster management support. 	ISRO
Shukrayaan Mission	India to launch Shukrayaan Venus mission in 2024. It will be India's first mission to Venus.	ISRO
Virgin Hyperloop pod	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The futuristic transport concept involves pods inside vacuum tubes carrying passengers at high speeds. ✓ In the trial, two passengers - both company staff - travelled the length of a 500m test track in 15 seconds, reaching 107mph (172km/h). 	Tested in the desert of Nevada
Satellites to detect drug cultivation	Odisha Space Application Centre (OSAC) has proposed to help law enforcement agencies detect illicit hemp (a variety of cannabis) cultivation using remote sensing and artificial intelligence technologies.	Odisha



MARCOS	MARCOS are being deployed in the Eastern Ladakh alongside the Indian Army against the Chinese military. MARCOS are present in the vicinity of the Pangong Tso lake where they will soon be conducting missions using boats	
Chang'e-5 lunar mission	On November 24, China's Chang'e-5 lunar mission will become the first probe in over four decades to attempt to bring back samples of lunar rock. The spacecraft is set to return to Earth around December 15.	China
Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich Satellite	The mission dedicated to measuring changes in the global sea level.	Rocket: SpaceX Falcon 9
Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile System (QRSAM)	The second flight test of Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile System (QRSAM) was successfully conducted	DRDO
Ariel (Atmospheric Remote-sensing Infrared Exoplanet Large-survey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ariel will be launched in 2029. ✓ It will perform a large-scale survey of over a thousand exoplanets over a period of four years. ✓ The explorer that will study the nature, formation and evolution of exoplanets. 	European Space Agency (ESA)
Anti-Satellite (A-SAT) Missile	'Mission Shakti' was country's first ever Anti-Satellite (ASAT) Missile Test successfully conducted on 27 th March 2019 from Dr AP J Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha	DRDO
SPACEX's Crew Dragon Spacecraft	SpaceX's Crew Dragon spacecraft lift off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida carrying a crew of four people to the International Space Station (ISS) on a six-month-long mission.	SpaceX
16 Psyche – Golden Asteroid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ It is an asteroid which orbits between Mars and Jupiter. ✓ A recent study has found that this asteroid could be made entirely of metal and is worth an estimated \$10,000 quadrillion — more than the entire economy of Earth 	NASA
Enhanced PINAKA rocket	Enhanced PINAKA rocket successfully flight tested from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.	DRDO



MQ-9B Sea Guardian unarmed drones	The Indian Navy has inducted two MQ-9B Sea Guardian unarmed drones procured from the U.S. on lease	
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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NEW DISCOVERIES	PURPOSE	PLACE / BY
PARAM SIDDHI	Indian supercomputer Param Siddhi has achieved global ranking of 63 in TOP 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in the world	developed jointly with support of Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) under NSM
Deep Ocean Mission	India will soon launch an ambitious 'Deep Ocean Mission' to explore the deep ocean similar to the space exploration	
Thirty Meter Telescope Project	Indian astronomers collaborated with 2020 Physics Nobel Laureate Prof. Andrea Ghez on Thirty Meter Telescope Project.	

ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

SPECIES / ENVIRONMENT	TYPE / PURPOSE	PLACE / BY
Panna National Park	declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve	Madhya Pradesh
KAAVAN	world's loneliest elephant - embarked on a mammoth move from Pakistan to retirement in a Cambodian sanctuary.	
Roridomyces phyllostachydis	a bioluminescent or light emitting variety of mushroom. 1 st mushroom in the Roridomyces genus to be found in India.	Meghalaya's Mawlynnong



Chapare virus	Chapare virus are generally carried by rats and can be transmitted through direct contact with the infected rodent, its urine and droppings, or through contact with an infected person.	Bolivia
Travancore Tortoise	It is a large forest tortoise growing up to 330 millimetres in length	Western Ghats
Willow warbler	It is one of the longest migrating small birds that breeds throughout northern and temperate Europe and the Palearctic sighted for the first time in the country	Thiruvananthapuram
Mount Ili Lewotolok	It is a volcano located in eastern Indonesia erupt	

MILITARY EXERCISES

SIMBEX-20	India - Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise
SITMEX-20	India, Singapore and Thailand Trilateral Maritime Exercise
AUSINDEX	India and Australia Bilateral Maritime Exercise
CORPAT	India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT)

CYCLONE

Cyclone 'Nivar'	Named by Iran	Formed on: 23 rd November 2020 Peak strength on: 25 th November 2020 Dissipated on: 27 th November 2020	Crossed b/w Puducherry & Mamallapuram Wind Speed: 120 - 130 kmph
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It is the **4th cyclone** that has taken shape in the **North Indian Ocean region this year**. The first three cyclones were **Cyclone Gati** (made landfall in Somalia in November - *named by India*), **Cyclone Amphan** (eastern India witnessed it in May - *named by Thailand*), and **Cyclone Nisarga** (in Maharashtra *named by Bangladesh*).



APPS & PORTALS

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.
National Portal for Transgender Persons	Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment launched a 'Nationgsaal Portal for Transgender Persons'.
ANANDA App	LIC of India has launched a New Business digital application named ANANDA.
Abhayam App	Andhra Pradesh government has launched the app, which helps women and children travelling in taxis and autorickshaws to raise an alarm in case of any emergency

WOMEN IN NEWS

Kamala Harris	first woman of Indian-American and African-American origin to be a member of the United States Senate (Vice - President).
Vidisha Maitra	elected to the UN Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly.

APPOINTMENTS & PERSONS IN NEWS

PERSONS	POSITION / DESIGNATION
Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha	Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)
Arham Om Talsania	a six-year-old boy from Gujarat <i>who has become the world's youngest computer programmer</i>

NEWLY APPOINTED PRESIDENT / PRIME MINISTER

Joe Biden (Political party: Democratic)	46 th President of the United States of America
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NEWLY APPOINTED CHIEF MINISTER

Nitish Kumar	Chief Minister of Bihar (4 th consecutive term)
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AWARDS

AWARD	PERSON / Organization
The Booker Prize 2020	Douglas Stuart for the novel Shuggie Bain
Vatayan Lifetime Achievement Award	Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal
LILAVATI AWARD-2020	Union Minister of Education virtually launched Lilavati Award-2020: AICTE's Innovative education program to empower women
28th Ezhuthachan Puraskaram	Paul Zacharia

FESTIVAL

10th National Science Film Festival	Held Virtually
India International Cherry Blossom Festival	Shillong, Meghalaya
Chandi Padvo festival	Surat

COMMITTEE'S

National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC)	To review the status of Cyclone happened in Tamil Nadu & Puducherry
Shashi S. Vempati Committee	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has constituted a committee to review "Guidelines on Television Rating Agencies in India"



IMPORTANT DAYS

DAYS	EVENTS	THEMES/ SIGNIFICANCE
November 5	World Tsunami Awareness Day	
November 10	World Science Day for Peace and Development	THEME: "Science for and with Society in dealing with the global pandemic"
November 11	National Education Day	
November 12	National Bird Day	
November 13	Ayurveda Day	
November 14	World Diabetes Day	THEME: "The Nurse and Diabetes."
November 16	International Day for Tolerance	
	National Press Day	
November 19	World Toilet Day	THEME: "Sustainable sanitation and climate change"
November 20	Awaas Diwas	
	World Children's Day	
November 21	World Television Day	
	World Fisheries Day	
November 25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women	THEME: "Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!"
November 26	Constitution Day / Samvidhan Diwas	To commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India.
November 27	National Organ Donation Day	

✓ **Newborn Care Week is celebrated every year in India from 15 to 21 November.**

