

# Weekly One Liners 07<sup>th</sup> December to 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2020

## Cabinet approves Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for **Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY)** to boost employment in the formal sector by encouraging the businesses to do fresh hiring amid the pandemic. ABRY will also incentivize the creation of new employment opportunities under **Atmanirbhar Bharat Package 3.0**.

### About the Yojana:

- The Cabinet has approved an expenditure of **Rs. 1,584 crores** for the current financial year and Rs. 22,810 crores for the entire scheme period from **2020 to 2023**.
- The scheme will provide subsidy for two years in respect of new employees engaged on or after **October 1, 2020, and up to June 30, 2021**.
- The government will pay both **12 per cent** employees' contribution and **12 per cent** employers' contribution i.e. **24 per cent** of wages towards EPF in respect of new employees in establishments employing up to **1,000 employees for two years**.
- It will pay only employees' share of EPF contribution i.e. **12 per cent** of wages in respect of new employees in establishments employing more than 1,000 employees for two years.

### Eligibility

- An employee drawing monthly wage of less than **Rs. 15,000** who was not working in any establishment registered with the **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** before October 1, 2020, and did not have a **Universal Account Number (UAN)** or EPF Member account number prior to **October 1, 2020**, will be eligible for the benefit.



- Any EPF member possessing **Universal Account Number (UAN)** drawing monthly wage of less than **Rs. 15,000** who made exit from employment during COVID pandemic from **March 1, 2020, to September 30, 2020**, and did not join employment in any EPF covered establishment up to **September 30, 2020** will also be eligible to avail benefit.

## Centre Launches QRMP scheme for GST payers

The Central Government has launched '**Quarterly Return filing & Monthly Payment of Taxes (QRMP)**' scheme for small taxpayers under the **GST system**. Taxpayers with an aggregate annual turnover of up to **Rs 5 crore** in the preceding financial year and have filed their **October GSTR-3B (sales)** return by November 30, 2020, are eligible for this scheme. The notifications for the same were issued by the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)**.

### About QRMP Scheme:

- Persons with aggregate turnover up to Rs 5 crore would be allowed to furnish their GSTR-1 and GSTR-3B returns on a quarterly basis, beginning January-March quarter of 2020-21. Quarterly GSTR-1 and GSTR-3B can also be filed through an SMS.
- Taxpayers can also make GST payments every month, through challan, with effect from **January 1, 2021**.
- This can be done either by self-assessment of monthly liability or **35%** of net cash liability of previous filed **GSTR-3B** of the quarter.
- Under this, the registered person or a taxpayer will furnish a return for every quarter, under sub-rule (1) of rule 61A of the **Central Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017** and pay the monthly tax under **sub-section (7) of section 39 of the same Act**.
- After the above changes, the act is named as the **Central Goods and Services Tax (Thirteenth Amendment) Rules, 2020**.

## Bajrang Punia, Elavenil Valarivan bag Sportsperson of the Year awards

Indian athletes, **Bajrang Punia (Freestyle-Wrestling)** and **Elavenil Valarivan (Shooting)**, bagged the top honours at the virtually held **FICCI India Sports Awards 2020** on the back of the **10th Global Sports Summit**. The two athletes, who have had an impressive 2019-20 season, won the **Sportsperson of the Year awards** in their respective categories.

Here is the list of Winner in different Categories:

Award	Personality
Sportsperson of the Year (Female)	Elavenil Valarivan
Sportsperson of the Year (Male)	Bajrang Punia
Best State Promoting Sports Award	Madhya Pradesh
Best Company Promoting Sports (Private Sector)	Anil Kumble

**About the award:**

The sports awards are an attempt by industry body, **Federation of Indian Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** to acknowledge and recognise the contribution of sportspersons and various stakeholders who deliver excellent results throughout the year.

**Gwalior, Orchha in UNESCO world heritage cities list**

The historical fort cities of **Gwalior and Orchha in Madhya Pradesh** have been included in the list of **UNESCO's world heritage cities** under its **The World Heritage Cities Programme**. Under the plan, UNESCO will suggest best measures and resources for the development and beautification of these places as per the **UNESCO Historic Urban Landscape recommendations**. With this Inclusion, the total number of UNESCO World Heritage Cities of India will increase to 40.

- The inclusion will lead to the beautification of both cities by the MP Tourism Department in collaboration with UNESCO.
- In this regard, UNESCO team will visit the state in 2021 and will prepare a master plan for their development and conservation under the Historic Urban Landscape recommendation.
- Chemical treatment of historic spots like Mansingh Palace, Gujri Mahal and Sahastrabahu Temple will also be done so that art inscribed on them will become more visible.
- Guards will also be deployed at both places to welcome tourists as per the Indian traditions

**About Gwalior:**

- Gwalior was established in the **9th century** and ruled by Gurjar Pratihara Rajvansh, Tomar, Baghel Kachvaha and Scindias. It occupies a sandstone plateau and consists of memorials, forts and palaces

- The famous spots include **Sun Temple, Jal Vilas Palace, Memorial of Tansen, Tigra Dam**, 15th-century Gujari Mahal Palace among others.

**About Orchha:**

- Orchha means 'hidden palace', as its name suggests it is popular for its temples and palaces and was the capital of the Bundela kingdom in the 16th century.
- The famous spots in the town are **Raj Mahal, Jehangir Mahal, Ramraja Temple, Rai Praveen Mahal, and Laxminarayan Mandir**.

**Joe Biden, Kamala Harris jointly named Time's 'Person of the Year' 2020**

US President-elect, **Joe Biden** and Vice President-elect **Kamala Harris** have been jointly named **Time magazine's 2020 "Person of the Year"**. The TIME magazine releases the annual list since 1927, to recognise a person or organisation who affected the news or impacted the country and world the most, for better or worse, during the calendar year.

Apart from this, Time magazine has named the **Korean pop group BTS** as its **Entertainer of the Year**, and basketball star **LeBron James** as **Athlete of the Year**. Zoom founder **Eric Yuan** was aptly named **Businessperson Of The Year**, as the video communications company has come to define the way millions have connected with each other during the pandemic.

**National Affairs**

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the construction work of the **Agra Metro project in Agra, Uttar Pradesh**. The Agra Metro project comprises 2 corridors with a total length of **29.4 km**. It would connect major tourist attractions like **Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Sikandra with railway stations and bus stands**.
- The Union Cabinet has approved a scheme called the **Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Initiative (PM-WANI)**, to improve wireless connectivity and pave the way for free wireless internet in public spaces across the country.

- The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, **Nitin Gadkari** has inaugurated the 1.5 km long **Koilwar bridge** over **Sone river** in **Bihar** through Video Conferencing. This newly inaugurated bridge is a part of the six-lane bridge being made in place of the existing two-lane bridge, for both rail and road traffic, which is **138 years old**.
- The Manila-based multilateral lending agency **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a **USD 2.5 million** (about Rs 18 crore) technical assistance to support **advanced biofuel development in India**. The grant will be funded from the **Asia Clean Energy Fund**, financed by the **Government of Japan** under the **Clean Energy Financing Partnership Facility**, and the Republic of Korea's e-Asia and Knowledge Partnership Fund.

### States in the News

- The Manila-based **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a loan of **\$190 million** (approx Rs 1,400 crore) to modernize and upgrade the power distribution system in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The financial-assistance by ADB will be used for the **Bengaluru Smart Energy Efficient Power Distribution Project**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has addressed the **International Bharathi Festival 2020** through video conferencing. The festival was organised by **Vanavil Cultural Centre** in Chennai to celebrate the **138th birth anniversary** of **Mahakavi Subramanya Bharathi**, an eminent writer, poet and journalist from Tamil Nadu.
- The Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, **G Kishan Reddy** has inaugurated the **National Centre for Divyang Empowerment (NCDE)** at the **CRPF Group Centre** in **Hakimpet** near **Hyderabad, Telangana**.

### International Affairs

- **Bangladesh** has signed its first **Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)** with **Bhutan**, which will allow duty-free access to a range of goods between the two countries and hence boost bilateral trade between them. Under the PTA, **100 Bangladeshi products** will get duty free access to Bhutan, while **34 items** from Bhutan will get duty free access into Bangladesh. Further items can be added in the list later on the basis of discussion between the two countries.

- **China** has become the **second country** in the world to **unfurl its national flag** on the moon surface. Earlier this feat was achieved only by the **USA** when it planted its flag on the Moon during the **Apollo mission in 1969**. If the return journey concludes successfully, China becomes the only **third country** globally to have samples from the moon. Till date, this record is maintained only by the **United States and the Soviet Union in the 1960s and 1970s**.
- **Kuwait** Emir **Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah** has re-appointed **Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah** as **prime minister**. The move comes two days after Sheikh Sabah submitted his government's resignation in a procedural step following parliamentary polls.
- The Prime Minister of **Romania, Ludovic Orban** has stepped down from his post after his ruling **National Liberal Party (PNL)** lost in 2020 parliamentary election. Following this, Romanian President **Klaus Iohannis** appointed the Minister of National Defense, **Nicolae-Ionel Ciuca** as the interim prime minister of the country.
- The Manila-based **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has launched an initiative called, the **Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX)**, for its developing member countries. The bank has allocated **USD 9 billion** for APVAX.

### Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC)**, a PSU under Ministry of Power, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal**, for the implementation of **Narmada Landscape Restoration Project (NLRP)**. IIFM Bhopal is an Autonomous Institute under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)**.

## IBPS CLERK PRELIMS 2020

### Memory Based Package

- Based on Papers of 5<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2020 | 7 PM - 10 PM
- (1+2) Full Length Mocks
- With Live Mock Discussion

Bilingual

- Consulting firm **PwC India** has collaborated with the **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** and **YuWaah (Generation Unlimited in India)** to **upskill 300 million** young Indians over the next 10 years. This collaboration is part of PwC's global multi-sector partnership with UNICEF and Generation Unlimited to upskill and provide about **1.8 billion** youngsters with socio-economic opportunities from school to work by **2030**.

### Banking/Economy/Business News

- The **Reserve Bank of India** has announced that the **Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)** system will be made available round the clock on all days of the year with effect from 00:30 hours on **December 14, 2020**. Presently RTGS system is available for customers between 7:00 AM and 6:00 PM.
- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has launched a tech-based loan management solution '**LenS-The Lending Solution**', to speed up and maintain accuracy in online loan processing and sanctioning of credit proposals. It is envisaged to be implemented in a phased manner for all kinds of loans. Under the Mudra scheme, the processing and sanction of credit proposals up to Rs 10 lakh including **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises ( MSME)** loans (fresh, renewal, enhancement and review) will be done by LenS.
- The private lender **ICICI Bank** has launched a new version of its mobile payment app called **iMobile Pay**, to offer payment and banking services to customers of any bank. The latest version of the app is interoperable and will now allow payments and other banking services to even those customers who do not hold an **ICICI Bank account**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has cancelled the licence of **Karad Janata Sahakari Bank Ltd** in **Maharashtra**, as it does not have adequate capital and earning prospects. As such, it does not comply with the provisions of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**. More than **99 per cent** of the depositors of the bank will get full payment of their deposits from **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)**.

- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has recently launched the **Atmanirbhar Women Scheme** as part of its Baroda Gold Loan. This scheme aims to target the self-reliant woman in India. Under the scheme, the bank is offering loans at **0.50 per cent** concession for women. The bank under the gold loan scheme is offering agri-gold loan at **0.25 per cent** concession and for a retail loan at **0.50 per cent** concession.
- **Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company** (Kotak Mutual Fund), has launched **Kotak International REIT Fund of Funds**, India's first diversified **REIT Mutual Fund**. REIT stands for **Real Estate Investment Trust**.
- The Japanese research and brokerage house **Nomura** has projected **India** to be the fastest-growing **Asian economy in 2021**. Nomura has estimated the gross domestic product (GDP) growth of India for the calendar year **2021 (CY21)** at **9.9%**. For the calendar year 2020 (CY20), Nomura expects GDP growth at **-7.1 per cent**.
- **Fitch Ratings** has revised the GDP growth rate for **India** in its **Global Economic Outlook**, and now expects the economy to contract **9.4 per cent** in the current financial year 2020-21, as compared to **(-)10.5 per cent** forecast earlier. Fitch has also projected the FY22 GDP growth at **11 per cent** and **6.3 per cent** growth in **FY23**.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has projected India's economy to contract **8 per cent** in 2020, as against **(-)9.0 per cent** previously forecast. In its latest **Asian Development Outlook report** released on 10 December 2020, ADB also expects the GDP of India to bounce back with growth of **8.0 per cent** in **2021**.
- **RBL Bank** and **ICICI Prudential** have joined hands under a **bancassurance partnership**. 398 RBL Bank branches across 28 states will distribute **ICICI Prudential Life's protection and savings products**. The protection products of ICICI Prudential Life will help the bank's customers to develop a strong financial plan and its long-term savings products will help the customers of the bank to achieve their financial goals.

## Appointments/Resignations

- US-based Indian-origin health expert, **Anil Soni** has been appointed as the first **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of the newly-created **“The World Health Organization (WHO) Foundation”**.
- The **International Golf Federation (IGF)** elected **Annika Sorenstam** as its new president effective January 1, 2021. IGF President, **Peter Dawson**, is stepping down after 10 years of leadership and service. Sorenstam, a 72-time winner on the LPGA Tour and former No. 1 from Sweden.
- **Zena Wooldridge** from England has been elected as the **World Squash Federation** President. She will become the 10th WSF President to serve since the Federation’s inception in 1967. She is the second female President after New Zealand’s **Susie Simcock**. She replaces outgoing President **Jacques Fontaine**, from France. She previously served six years as President of the European Squash Federation between 2013-2019.

## Science and Technology News

- **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)** has partnered with **Skylotech India (Skylo)**, a global machine connectivity solutions company, to launch satellite-based **narrow band-Internet of things (NB-IoT)**. This initiative is the world’s first satellite-based **NB-IoT network**.
- The Bengaluru-based space-technology start-up **“Pixxel”**, has signed a pact with the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** to launch its first remote-sensing satellite on Isro’s workhorse **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)** rocket in early **2021**. Earlier, the startup had planned to launch this satellite towards the end of 2020 and on a **Russian Soyuz rocket**. Pixxel aims to put a constellation of **30 earth observation micro-satellites** into a sun-synchronous orbit by mid-2023.

## Awards and Recognitions

- The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**, has won the prestigious **International King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award** for 2020. The award was presented annually by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**.

- Journalist-author, **Raj Kamal Jha** has won the **3rd Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize** for his novel, **“The City and The Sea”**. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the winner of the **\$5,000 prize** was announced online in **Copenhagen, Denmark**.
- The Geneva-based **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** has awarded the **2020 United Nations Investment Promotion Award to Invest India**, the **National Investment Promotion Agency of India**. The Invest India was declared the winner from among the 180 global **Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs)**.
- The year **2020 Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians** was awarded to **Dr Carolina Araujo**, Mathematician from the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics (IMPA), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Her work area focuses on birational geometry, which aims to classify and describe the structure of algebraic varieties.

## Summit and Conference

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated and addressed the virtual edition of the **India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2020** on 8th December 2020 through video conference. The objective of IMC 2020 is to align with the Prime Minister’s vision to promote **‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat’, ‘Digital Inclusivity’, and ‘Sustainable development, entrepreneurship & innovation’** and drive foreign and local investments, encourage R&D in the telecom and emerging technology sectors. The theme for IMC 2020 is **“Inclusive Innovation – Smart, Secure, Sustainable”**.



- The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** has decided to host its **2021** annual meeting in **Singapore**, which earlier was scheduled to take place in **Lucerne-Burgenstock, Switzerland** from **13-16 May 2021**. The decision to shift the annual forum from Switzerland has been taken in view of the **Covid-19 situation in Europe**.
- The **5th India Water Impact Summit (IWIS)** kicked off on 10th December 2020 virtually. The event was inaugurated by **Ratan Lal Kataria**, Minister of State for Jal Shakti. The objective of IWIS 2020 is **Comprehensive Analysis and Holistic Management of Rivers and Water Bodies**.

### Ranks and Reports

- **India** is ranked at **10th place** in the '**Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2021**', released on 7th December 2020. The overall score of **India is 63.98**. It is for the second time in a row that India emerged among the top 10 countries with higher climate performance from among 58 economies. India was at **9th** spot last year in the index.
- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has grabbed the **41st spot** in the 2020 list of **Forbes 100 most powerful women in the world**. This is the second time she features in the list, in 2019 ranked at 34 and ranked 41st in 2020. India's leading Businesswomen, **Kiran Mazumdar-shaw**, Chairman of Biocon Limited also featured in the list at 68th position.
- Indian actor, **Sonu Sood** has topped the first-of-its-kind '**50 Asian Celebrities In The World**' 2020 list, published by **UK based Eastern Eye newspaper**.
- Indian singer **Armaan Malik** came in **fifth** for his immense musical output that included barrier-breaking English language songs. Sixth-placed **Priyanka Chopra Jonas** remains the most famous Indian star in the world, while the rest of the top 10 includes pan-Indian star **Prabhas (7)**.

### Sports News

- New Zealand all-rounder, **Corey Anderson** has announced his retirement from international cricket. Anderson has played **13 Tests, 49 ODIs and 31 T20Is** for New Zealand, scoring 2277 runs with two hundred and 10 half-centuries and 90 wickets.

- **Jehan Daruvala** created history, as he became the first Indian to win a **Formula 2 race** at the **2020 Sakhir Grand Prix, Bahrain**. This was the final race of the F2 season. The Formula 2 Championship is a second-tier single-seater racing championship.
- **Sri Lanka** will host the **Asia Cup** in June **2021** while **Pakistan** has earned the rights to host the tournament in **2022**. As per the original schedule, the tournament was supposed to be hosted by Pakistan in 2020, however, it got postponed due to the **COVID-19 pandemic**.
- **Sergio Perez** (Mexico-Racing Point-BWT Mercedes), won the **2020 Sakhir Grand Prix** at the **Bahrain International Circuit** in **Sakhir, Bahrain**. **Esteban Ocon** (Renault-France) secured the second position, followed by and **Lance Stroll** (Racing Point-BWT Mercedes-Canada) at third place.
- Sports Minister **Kiren Rijiju** has launched the **second edition** of **Fit India Cyclothon** through a virtual platform. The mega cycling event will run for 25 days, beginning from **7th December till 31st December 2020**.
- Swedish pole vaulter **Mondo Duplantis** and Venezuelan triple jumper **Yulimar Rojas** are the **2020 Male and Female World Athletes of the Year**. They are their countries' first recipients of the prestigious athletics award announced during the virtual awards.
- India's wicketkeeper-batsman **Parthiv Patel** has announced his **retirement from all forms of cricket**. The 35-year-old left-hander, who made his international debut in **2002**, played **25 Tests, 38 ODIs and two T20Is for India**.
- **Madagascar** has replaced the **Maldives** as the host of the **2023 Indian Ocean Island Games** due to concerns over the **COVID-19 pandemic**. The event had been awarded to the Maldives last year, but members of the **Indian Ocean Island Games Federation** voted to move the Games to Madagascar.
- The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** has registered '**Breakdancing**' as the newest entry into Olympics and an official Olympic sport, with the aim to attract a new and younger audience. Breakdancing will be known as 'Breaking' in Olympics event. Breaking will make its Olympic Games debut at the **2024 Paris Games** (2024 Summer Olympics).

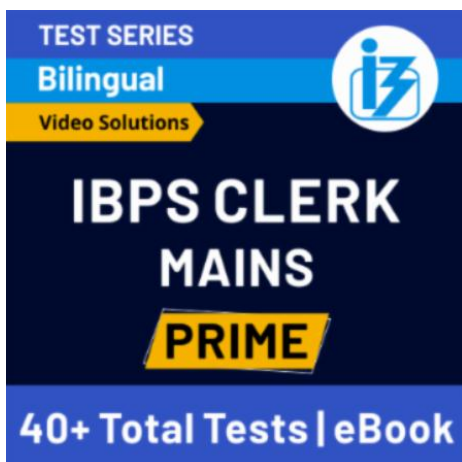
## Important Days

- The **International Civil Aviation Day** is celebrated every year on **December 7** to recognize the importance of aviation to the social and economic development of the world. The Council has decided that from now until 2023, the theme will be: **“Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development”**.
- In India, the **Armed Forces Flag Day** (also known as the **Flag Day of India**) is observed annually on **December 7** since 1949 as an honour to the soldiers, sailors and airmen of India who fought on the borders to keep the country safe.
- **International Anti-Corruption Day** is observed annually on **9 December** to raise public awareness for anti-corruption. The theme of International Anti-Corruption Day 2020: **‘RECOVER with INTEGRITY.’**
- The **International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime** is observed annually on **December 9**.
- **Human Rights Day** is celebrated on **10 December** annually across the world. This Day came into existence on **December 10, 1948**, when the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** was adopted by the United Nations. This year theme of Human Rights Day: **Recover Better – Stand Up for Human Rights**.
- Every year the **UNICEF Day** is observed on **December 11**. The United Nations General Assembly created UNICEF on **December 11, 1946**, as the **United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund** to improve the health, nutrition, education, and general welfare of children devastated due to **World War II**.

- The **International Mountain Day** is observed globally on **December 11** every year. **“Mountain biodiversity”** is the theme of this year’s International Mountain Day, so let’s celebrate their rich biodiversity, as well as address the threats they face.
- **International Day of Neutrality** is a United Nations recognized day held on **December 12** each year to raise public awareness of the value of neutrality in international relations. It was officially declared by a UN General Assembly resolution adopted in February 2017 and first observed on **December 12, 2017**.
- **International Universal Health Coverage Day** is a United Nations’ recognized international day celebrated every year on **December 12**. This year theme of International Universal Health Coverage Day is **‘Health For All: PROTECT EVERYONE’**.

## Obituaries

- Veteran Bengali actor **Manu Mukherjee** passed away. He started his film career with Mrinal Sen’s **Nil Akasher Niche (1958)**. The actor is best remembered for his roles in Satyajit Ray’s **Joy Baba Felunath and Ganashatru**. He had also been part of children’s fantasy film **Patalghar’**.
- **Ravi Patwardhan**, a popular face in Marathi entertainment industry, has passed away. The veteran actor became a household name for his role in Marathi TV series **Agabai Sasubai**.
- **Narinder Singh Kapany**, also known as the father of fibre optics, passed away. The India-born **American physicist** was named as one of the seven **“Unsung Heroes”** by Fortune in their ‘Businessmen of the Century’ issue of November 1999.
- Eminent Hindi writer, **Madhukar Gangadhar** passed away. He was the lead storyteller of the new story movement. He was an associate of Renuji in Patna Akashvani, director of All India Radio in Allahabad & Deputy Director General at Delhi AIR.
- **Paolo Rossi** of Italy, who scored **6 goals** in the **1982 World Cup**, passed away. He is the only male player in history to win the **World Cup, the Golden Boot, the Golden Ball and Ballon d’Or** in the same year. In 1982 was Italy’s first victory after 1938.



### Miscellaneous News

- **Adar Poonawalla**, the Chief Executive of the Pune-based **Serum Institute of India (SII)**, has been named among six **“The Straits Times Asians of the Year”** for 2020, by Singapore’s leading daily, **The Straits Times**, for their work in fighting the **COVID-19 pandemic**.
- The world’s highest mountain peak **‘Mount Everest’** has become taller by **86 cm**, as per a survey conducted jointly by **Nepal and China**. The Government of Nepal and China jointly conducted an exercise to measure the **world’s highest peak**. The new height of Mt Everest has been calculated at **8,848.86 metres**, which is 0.86m more than the previous measurement done by India in 1954.
- The **Ministry of Agriculture** has declared **Lakshadweep** as **India’s first Union Territory** to become **100 per cent organic**. All farming activity in the UT is carried out without the use of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides, which provides access to safer food choices and making agriculture a more environment-friendly activity.

### Static Takeaways

- Minister of Electronics and Information Technology: Ravi Shankar Prasad
- Central Reserve Police Force Director-General: AP Maheshwari.
- Central Reserve Police Force Headquarters: New Delhi, India.
- China Capital: Beijing.
- China Currency: Renminbi.
- China President: Xi Jinping.
- Prime Minister of Bangladesh: Sheikh Hasina; Capital: Dhaka; Currency: Taka.
- Bhutan Capital: Thimphu.
- Bhutan Currency: Bhutanese ngultrum.
- Bhutan Prime Minister: Lotay Tshering.
- Kuwait Capital: Kuwait City.
- Kuwait Currency: Dinar.
- Romania Capital: Bucharest.
- Romania Currency: Romanian leu.
- Romania President: Klaus Iohannis.
- President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa; Headquarters: Manila, Philippines.
- NTPC Founded: 1975.
- NTPC Headquarters: New Delhi, India.

- Director of IIFM: Pankaj Srivastava.
- International Labour Organization Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- International Labour Organization Founder: Paris Peace Conference.
- International Labour Organization Founded: 1919.
- International Labour Organization Director-General: Guy Ryder.
- PNB Headquarters: New Delhi.
- PNB CEO: S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao.
- ICICI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ICICI Bank MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi.
- ICICI Bank Tagline: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka.
- Bank Of Baroda Headquarters: Vadodara, Gujarat, India.
- Bank Of Baroda Chairman: Hasmukh Adhia.
- Bank Of Baroda MD & CEO: Sanjiv Chadha.
- MD of Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company: Nilesh Shah.
- Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs Chairman: M. Ajit Kumar.
- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs Parent Ministry: Ministry of Finance.
- Headquarters of WHO: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Director-general of WHO: Tedros Adhanom.
- International Golf Federation Founded: 1958.
- International Golf Federation Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland.
- Golf became an Olympic sport again in 2016 after 112 years.
- World Squash Federation Founded: 1967.
- World Squash Federation Headquarters: Hastings, United Kingdom.
- Food and Agriculture Organization Head: Qu Dongyu
- Food and Agriculture Organization Headquarters: Rome, Italy.
- Food and Agriculture Organization Established: 16 October 1945.
- Invest India is a non-profit venture under the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Invest India MD & CEO: Deepak Bagla.
- Invest India Established: 2009.
- Invest India Headquarter: New Delhi.
- International Mathematical Union President: Carlos Kenig.



- International Mathematical Union Headquarters location: Berlin, Germany.
- International Mathematical Union Parent organization: International Science Council.
- International Mathematical Union Founded: 1920.
- World Economic Forum Headquarters: Cologny, Switzerland.
- World Economic Forum Founder: Klaus Schwab.
- World Economic Forum Founded: January 1971.
- Forbes is the 103-year-old American Business Magazine, issued weekly.
- Editor in Chief- Steve Forbes.
- First issued in September 1917.
- Sports Authority of India Founder: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- Sports Authority of India Founded: 1982.
- Sports Authority of India Headquarters: Delhi.
- Director-General of Sports Authority of India: Sandip Pradhan.
- Madagascar Capital: Antananarivo.
- Madagascar President: Andry Rajoelina.
- Madagascar Currency: Malagasy ariary.
- International Olympic Committee Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland.
- International Olympic Committee President: Thomas Bach.
- International Olympic Committee Founded: 23 June 1894 (Paris, France).
- International Civil Aviation Organization Headquarter: Montreal, Canada.
- International Civil Aviation Organization Council President: Salvatore Sciacchitano.
- International Civil Aviation Organization Founded: 7 December 1944.
- UNICEF Headquarters: New York, United States of America.
- UNICEF Executive Director: Henrietta H. Fore.
- AIR since 1957 as Akashvani; it was established in 1936.
- The SII was founded by Cyrus Poonawalla (Adar Poonawalla's father) in 1966.
- Adar Poonawalla joined the Serum Institute of India in 2001 and became the CEO of the company in 2011.
- UNESCO World Heritage Centre Director: Mechtild Rossler.
- UNESCO World Heritage Centre Headquarter: Paris, France.
- ISRO Chairman: K.Sivan.
- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited Chairman & MD: Pravin Kumar Purwar.
- Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Lakshadweep Island is the smallest Union Territory in India with 36 Islands. Includes- 12 atolls, 3 reefs, 5 submerged banks, 10 inhabited islands.
- Lakshadweep Capital: Kavaratti.
- Lakshadweep Administrator: Praful Khoda Patel.
- Praful K Patel is currently the Administrator of Dadra Nagar and Haveli and Daman & Diu. He has taken charge of Lakshadweep Administrator from 05th Dec 2020.
- RBL Bank Ltd Incorporated: 1943, under the Indian Companies Act, 1913
- RBL Bank Ltd MD and CEO: Vishwvir Ahuja.
- RBL Bank Ltd Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- RBL Bank Ltd Tagline: Apno Ka Bank.
- The bank's name was changed from 'The Ratnakar Bank Limited' to 'RBL Bank Limited' in August 2014.
- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Ltd Commenced Operations: 2001.
- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Ltd HeadOffice: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Ltd MD & CEO: N S Kannan.

