

CURRENT AFFAIRS OF DECEMBER 2020

Awards

The non-profit organisation which has been awarded 2020 UN Population Award in the institutional category for raising awareness and devising solutions to the issues faced by the elderly population – **Help Age India**

The British racing car driver who has been chosen the BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2020 – **Lewis Hamilton**

The co-founder and CEO of social enterprise Takachar who has been conferred with the Young Champions of the Earth 2020 award by the United Nations Environment Programme – **Vidyut Mohan**

The Brazilian mathematician who has been awarded the 2020 Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians – **Carolina Araujo**

The well-known writer and editor who has been chosen for the 2020 Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize for his book The City and the Sea – **Raj Kamal Jha**

The Indian research institute which has been awarded the International King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award 2020 – **Indian Council of Agricultural Research**

The Indian origin child scientist who has been named the Kid of the Year by Time magazine – **Gitanjali Rao**

The government school teacher from Solapur district in Maharashtra who has been awarded the 2020 Global Teacher Award by UK based Varkey Foundation – **Ranjitsinh Disale**

Sports

The Indian cricketers who have been named captains of the ICC Test and ODI Team of the Decade by ICC – **Virat Kohli and MS Dhoni**

The Serbian tennis player who has been named the ATP Player of the Year 2020 (for a record 6th time) – **Novak Djokovic**

The English footballer who has been named the FIFA Women's Player of the Year 2020 – **Lucy Bronze**

The Polish footballer who has been named the FIFA Men's Player of the Year 2020 – **Robert Lewandowski**

The athletic style of street dancing which has been included as a sport in Olympics from 2024 Paris Games – **Breakdancing (Breaking)**

The Indian batsman cum wicket-keeper who has announced retirement from all forms of cricket – **Parthiv Patel**

The Venezuelan athlete who has been named the Female Athlete of the Year 2020 by World Athletics (formerly IAAF) – **Yulimar Rojas**

The American born Swedish pole-vaulter who has been named the Male Athlete of the Year 2020 by World Athletics (formerly IAAF) – **Armand Duplantis**

The number of ODI matches in which Virat Kohli has scored 12,000 runs to break the record of Sachin Tendulkar who scored them in 300 matches – **242**

Persons

The eminent Malayalam poet, conservationist and women's activist who passed away on 23 December 2020 – **Smt Sugathakumari**

The former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh and former Governor of Uttar Pradesh who passed away on 21.12.2020 – **Shri Motilal Vora**

The Administrator of Lakshadweep and former IPS officer who passed away on 04 December 2020 – **Dineshwar Sharma**

The Indian-American physicist also considered the Father of Fibre-Optics who passed away on 04.12.2020 – **Narinder Singh Kappany**

The owner of leading spices brand MDH and recipient of Padma Bhushan (2019) who passed away on 03.12.2020 – **Mahashay Dharampal Gulati**

Places

The place in Gujarat where the foundation stone of AIIMS was laid through video conferencing by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi – **Rajkot**

The place at which an advanced Hypersonic Wind Tunnel test facility with capacity to simulate Mach 5 to 12 speeds was inaugurated by Shri Rajnath Singh – **Hyderabad**

The city which has won the hosting rights for conducting 2030 Asian Games in the election conducted by the Olympic Council of Asia – **Doha, Qatar**

The Indian state which has been chosen to be the venue of 2023 FIH (International Hockey Federation) Men's Hockey World Cup for the second time in a row – **Odisha**

The historical fort cities in Madhya Pradesh which have been included in the list of World Heritage Cities by UNESCO – **Orchha and Gwalior**

Railways

The railway station in Uttar Pradesh which has been renamed Ma Barehi Devi Dham – **Dandupur**

The stations between which Indian Railways' 100th Kisan Rail was flagged off via video conferencing by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi – **Sangola (MH) and Shalimar (W.B.)**

Miscellaneous

India's first pneumococcal conjugate vaccine developed by Serum Institute of India Pvt Ltd is named – **Pneumosil**

The theme of National Consumer Day being observed on 24 Dec 2020 – **The Sustainable Consumer**

The Indian business group which has been chosen for ASSOCHAM Enterprise of the Century Award 2020 – **TATA Group**

The digital payment service launched by India Posts Payment Bank is named – **DakPay**

The digital platform and mobile app launched by Central Govt for COVID-19 vaccine delivery is named – **CO-WIN**

The company which has been accorded in-principle approval by IRDAI to acquire Bharti AXA General Insurance – **ICICI Lombard**

The former Prime Minister of India, in whose honour a commemorative stamp was released on his birth anniversary by the Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu – **Shri I.K. Gujral**

The tropical cyclone in Bay of Bengal which caused widespread rainfall in Sri Lanka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala was named – **Cyclone Burevi**

ICC Awards of the Decade 2011-20

Sir Garfield Sobers Award for ICC Male Cricketer of the Decade - **Virat Kohli**

Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Award for ICC Female Cricketer of the Decade - **Ellyse Perry**

ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Decade - **Steve Smith**

ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Decade - **Virat Kohli**

ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Decade - **Ellyse Perry**

ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Decade - **Rashid Khan**

ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Decade - **Ellyse Perry**

ICC Men's Associate Cricketer of the Decade - **Kyle Coetzer**

ICC Women's Associate Cricketer of the Decade - **Kathryn Bryce**

ICC Spirit of Cricket Award of the Decade - **MS Dhoni**

Launch of PSLV C-50

Launched from: Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota

Launched on: 17.12.2020

Satellite launched: Communication satellite CMS-01

Human Freedom Index 2020

Released by Cato Institute, USA and Fraser Institute, Canada

Rank	Country	Rank	Country
1.	New Zealand	92.	Nepal
2.	Switzerland	111.	India
3.	Hong Kong	129.	China
4.	Denmark	139.	Bangladesh
5.	Australia	140.	Pakistan

Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval for Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) to boost employment in formal sector and incentivize creation of new employment opportunities during the Covid recovery phase under Atmanirbhar Bharat Package 3.0.

The salient features of the Scheme are as under:

1. Government of India will provide subsidy for two years in respect of new employees engaged on or after 1st October, 2020 and upto 30th June, 2021.
2. Government of India will pay both 12% employees' contribution and 12% employers' contribution i.e. 24% of wages towards EPF in respect of new employees in establishments employing upto 1000 employees for two years,
3. Government of India will pay only employees' share of EPF contribution i.e. 12% of wages in respect of new employees in establishments employing more than 1000 employee for two years.
4. An employee drawing monthly wage of less than Rs. 15000/- who was not working in any establishment registered with the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) before 1st October, 2020 and did not have a Universal Account Number or EPF Member account number prior to 1st October 2020 will be eligible for the benefit.
5. Any EPF member possessing Universal Account Number (UAN) drawing monthly wage of less than Rs. 15000/- who made exit from employment during Covid pandemic from 01.03.2020 to 30.09.2020 and did not join employment in any EPF covered establishment up to 30.09.2020 will also be eligible to avail benefit.
6. EPFO will credit the contribution in Aadhaar seeded account of members in electronic manner.
7. EPFO shall develop a software for the scheme and also develop a procedure which is transparent and accountable at their end.
8. EPFO shall work out modality to ensure that there is no overlapping of benefits provided under ABRY with any other scheme implemented by EPFO

Important Days of December

<p>World AIDS Day: 01 December 2020 Designated by: World Health Organisation Theme: Global Solidarity, Resilient Services First Observed in: 1988</p>
<p>International Day of Persons with Disabilities: 03 December 2020 Designated by : United Nations General Assembly Theme: Building back better: towards an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post COVID-19 world by, for and with persons with disabilities First Observed in: 1992</p>
<p>International Volunteer Day: 05 December 2020 Designated by : United Nations General Assembly Theme: Together We Can Through Volunteering First Observed in: 1986</p>
<p>World Soil Day: 05 December 2020 First launched by : International Union of Soil Sciences (2002) Endorsed by : Food and Agricultural Organisation (Jun 2013) Accepted by : United Nations General Assembly (Dec 2013) Theme: Keep soil alive, Protect soil biodiversity</p>
<p>International Civil Aviation Day: 07 December 2020 Established by : International Civil Aviation Organisation (1994) Adopted by : United Nations General Assembly (1996) Theme (upto 2023): Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development</p>
<p>International Anti Corruption Day: 09 December 2020 Designated by : United Nations General Assembly First Observed in: 2003 Theme: RECOVER with INTEGRITY</p>
<p>United Nations Human Rights Day: 10 December 2020 Designated by : United Nations General Assembly Theme: Recover Better - Stand Up for Human Rights First Observed in: 1948</p>
<p>International Mountains Day: 11 December 2020 Designated by : United Nations General Assembly Theme: Mountain Biodiversity First Observed in: 2003</p>
<p>International Universal Health Coverage Day: 12 December 2020 Designated by : United Nations General Assembly Theme: Protect Everyone First Observed in: 2017</p>
<p>International Migrants Day: 18 December 2020 Designated by : United Nations General Assembly Theme: Reimagining Human Mobility First Observed in: 2000</p>
<p>International Human Solidarity Day: 20 December 2020 Designated by : United Nations General Assembly First Observed in: 2006</p>

Indigenous Games included in Khelo India Youth Games 2021

#	Games	Native to State
1.	Gatka	Punjab
2.	Kalaripayattu	Kerala
3.	Thang Ta	Manipur
4.	Mallakhamba	Maharashtra

Note: The Sports Ministry has formally recognised Yogasana as a competitive sport which will enable it to avail government funding.

Human Development Index 2020

As per Human Development Report released by UNDP

Rank	Country	Rank	Country
1.	Norway	85.	China
2.	Ireland	129.	Bhutan
2.	Switzerland	131.	India
4.	Hong Kong	133.	Bangladesh
4.	Iceland	142.	Nepal
6.	Germany	154.	Pakistan

India Sports Awards 2020 by FICCI

Male Sportsperson of the Year 2020: Bajrang Poonia, Wrestler

Female Sportsperson of Year 2020: Elavenil Valarivan, Shooter

Best Sports Promoting State: Madhya Pradesh and Assam

Lifetime Achievement Award: Manjusha Kanwar, Badminton player

Best Company Promoting Sports (Public Sector): Air Force Sports Control Board

Forbes 2020 - World's 100 Most Powerful Women

Rank	Country
1.	Ms Angela Merkel, German Chancellor
2.	Ms Christine Lagarde, President of European Central Bank
3.	Ms Kamal Harris, US Vice-President elect
41.	Ms Nirmala Sitharaman, Indian Finance Minister
55.	Ms Roshni Nadar Malhotra, HCL Technologies
68.	Ms Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, Biocon

Time Magazine's Persons of the Year

Person of the Year 2020: Joe Biden and Kamala Harris

Athlete of the Year 2020: LeBron James, US basketball player

Entertainer of the Year 2020: BTS South Korean boy band

Books in News

40 years with Abdul Kalam by Dr. A. Sivathanu Pillai

The City and the Sea by Raj Kamal Jha

COVID-19: Sabhyata ka Sankat aur Samadhan by Kailash Satyarthi

Abbreviations in News

NETRA: NEtwork for space object TRacking and Analysis