

07th Dec – 13th Dec Weekly Compilation

(The Hindu+ Indian Express + PIB + Other World Wide News)

❖ **Hampi Stone Chariot and Vittala Temple**

(The Hindu)

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has taken steps to protect the stone chariot inside Vittala Temple complex at the UNESCO World Heritage site of Hampi. ASI, under the Ministry of Culture, is the premier organization for the archaeological research and protection of the cultural heritage of the nation.

Hampi Stone

- **The Hampi chariot is one among the three famous** stone chariots in India. The other two are in Konark (Odisha) and Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu). It is a shrine dedicated to Garuda, the official vehicle of Lord Vishnu.
- It was **built in the 16th century by the orders of King Krishnadevaraya, a Vijayanagara ruler**. The delicately carved chariot at Hampi reflects skill of temple architecture under the patronage of Vijayanagara rulers who reigned from 14th to 17th century CE.

Vittala Temple

It was **built in the 15th century during the rule of Devaraya II, one of the rulers of the Vijayanagara Empire**. It is dedicated to Vittala and is also called Vijaya Vittala Temple. Vittala is said to be an incarnation of Lord Vishnu. **Dravidian style** adorns the built of the complex, which is further enhanced with elaborate carvings.

Hampi

- It comprises mainly the remnants of the Capital City of Vijayanagara Empire. It is located in the Tungabhadra basin in central Karnataka.
- **Classified as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO (1986), it is also the “World’s Largest Open-air Museum”**.



❖ **United Nations Investment Promotion Award 2020** (Source: Economic Times)

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has declared Invest India as the winner of the United Nations Investment Promotion Award.

- United Nations Investment Promotion Award is the most coveted award for Investment Promotion Agencies given by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- The award recognizes and celebrates the outstanding achievements and best practices of Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) across the globe
- The Awards also highlight the contributions of these organizations in raising private sector investment in sustainable development and in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The response of IPAs to the Covid-19 pandemic became the basis for the evaluation of the 2020 Award.

Invest India: It was set up in 2009 as a non-profit venture under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It is the National

Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of India and acts as the first point of reference for investors in India.

Business Immunity Platform: It was launched by Invest India to provide a comprehensive resource to help businesses and investors get real-time updates on India's active response to COVID-19 (Corona virus)

UNCTAD is a permanent intergovernmental body established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1964. Its headquarters are located in Geneva, Switzerland. It was established to promote development-friendly integration of developing countries into the world economy.

❖ **Lab Grown Meat** **(The Hindu)**

Singapore Food Agency (SFA) has approved the sale of a lab-grown meat product. This is the first time cultured meat has been cleared for sale anywhere in the world.

Lab Grown Meat or Cultured meat is meat produced by in vitro cell culture of animal cells instead of from slaughtered animals.

Difference between lab-grown and plant-based meat

- The plant based meat is made from plant sources such as soy or pea protein while cultured meat is grown directly from cells in a laboratory.
- In terms of cellular structure, cultured or cultivated meat is the same as conventional meat except that cultured meat does not come directly from animals.

The lab grown meat could reduce land use by more than 95%, climate change emissions by 74-87% and nutrient pollution by 94%.

As meat is created in clean facilities, the risk of contamination by pathogens such as salmonella and E coli is significantly reduced thereby reducing the threat posed to public health by growing antibiotic resistance.

❖ **Urban Quality of Life Index** **(Times of India)**

IIT-Bombay researchers have released an Urban Quality of Life Index

The index has compared the quality of life in various cities in India and ranked them on the basis of various categories such as water, power, electricity, literacy rate, employment rate among others. For the first time, the index has factored in gender parity.

IIT-B RANKING OF INDIAN CITIES

Index	Highest ranked	Lowest ranked
Basic amenities	Pune	Patna
Economic development	Mumbai	Patna
Safety and security	Kolkata	Patna
Transportation access	Delhi	Indore
Environmental impact	Mumbai	Lucknow
Infrastructure development	Kolkata	Patna
Gender role	Chennai	Patna

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- Mumbai has topped the index followed by Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai
- Among Gender Parity, Chennai is the most women-friendly city and Patna the least
- Jaipur has the highest crime rate against women and Chennai recorded the lowest crime against women.
- The gap in literacy rate between men and women is the widest in Jaipur (13.2%) and lowest in Kolkata (5.4%). Literacy was the highest in Pune (91%) and the lowest in Hyderabad (83%).
- The unemployment level for women in Patna is higher than the other cities, the gap stood at 346 which is four times the urban average score of 73.

❖ The Cancer Genome Atlas 2020 Conference

(Source: PIB)

Minister of Science and Technology has virtually inaugurated the 2nd TCGA (The Cancer Genome Atlas) 2020 Conference.

- The Conference brings together scientists and clinicians from across the globe to build Indian Cancer Genome Atlas (ICGA).
- **Indian Cancer Genome Atlas (ICGA)** has been initiated by a consortium of key stakeholders in India led by Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Government of India.
- Its objective is to create indigenous, open-source and comprehensive database of molecular profiles of all cancers prevalent in Indian population to better understand the underlying factors patient by patient.

- **The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA)** is a landmark cancer genomics program that molecularly characterized over 20,000 primary cancers and matched normal samples spanning 33 cancer types. It is a joint effort between the US- National Cancer Institute and the National Human Genome Research Institute began in 2006 bringing together researchers from diverse disciplines and multiple institutions.

Additional Info

IndiGen Genome Project: It is being implemented by the CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), Delhi and CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad. Its aim to undertake whole genome sequencing of thousands of individuals representing diverse ethnic groups from India

Pan-Cancer Analysis of Whole Genomes (PCAWG) is an international collaboration of the International Cancer Genome Consortium and The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA). The project revealed the most comprehensive gene map of the genes whose departures from normal behaviour, mutations trigger a cascade of genetic misbehaviour that eventually lead to cancer.

❖ GI's Tag in News

(Indian Express)

Himachal Pradesh government is trying to obtain GIs (Geographical Indication) for five products from the state.

The Five Products are:

- **Karsog Kulth:** Kulthi or Kulth (horse gram) is a legume grown as a kharif crop in Himachal Pradesh. Kulth grown in the Karsog area of Mandi district is believed to be particularly rich in amino acids.
- **Pangi ki Thangi:** It is a type of hazelnut which grows in Pangi valley located in the north-western edge of Himachal. It is known for its unique flavour and sweetness.
- **Chamba Metal crafts:** These include items such as metal idols and brass utensils which, historically, were made by skilled artisans in the courts of kings of Chamba. There are efforts to revive the trade, and a plate made from a brass-like alloy and having carvings of gods and goddesses is still popular.
- **Chamba Chukh:** It's chutney made from green and red chillies grown in Chamba and prepared in traditional and unique ways. The practice has largely declined in rural households of Chamba, but survives to some extent at the small-scale industrial level.
- **Bharmouri Rajmah:** It's more specifically called the Kugtalu Rajmah, since it grows in the area around Kugti Pass in the Bharmour region of Chamba district. It is rich in proteins and has a unique flavour

The World Intellectual Property Organisation defines a GI as a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin

❖ **United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)** (Source: Business Today)

United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) has voted to remove cannabis and cannabis resin from Schedule IV of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs.

- Cannabis was a part of both Schedule I and IV of the UN's Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, while drugs in Schedule I can be used for medicinal purposes with state consent, drugs in Schedule IV are strictly controlled and their usage is a criminal offence.
- Now, both cannabis and cannabis resin will only remain on Schedule I which includes the least dangerous category of substances.
- In India, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, illegalize any mixture with or without any neutral material of any of the two forms of cannabis – charas and ganja or any drink prepared from it.

Cannabis is a generic term used to denote the several psychoactive preparations of the plant Cannabis sativa. According to WHO, cannabis is by far the most widely cultivated, trafficked and abused illicit drug in the world.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs is the UN agency mandated to decide on the scope of control of substances by placing them in the schedules of global drug control conventions. It was founded in 1946 and is headquartered in Vienna, Austria.

Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 is an international treaty to prohibit production and supply of specific (nominally narcotic) drugs and of drugs with similar effects except under license for specific purposes, such as medical treatment and research. India is a party to the convention.

❖ **SIPRI Report** (The Hindu)

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has released a report on the global arms market.

The total sales by the Top 25 arms manufacturers rose by 8.5% to \$361 billion or 50 times the annual budget of the UN's peacekeeping operations. For the first time, **West Asia made its appearance among the 25 biggest weapons manufacturers.**

SIPRI is an independent international institute established in 1966 in Stockholm, Sweden. It is dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament.

❖ Climate Change Performance Index

(Source: PIB)

The index has been developed by not-for-profit organizations German watch and New Climate Institute (Germany) together with the Climate Action Network(CAN International). It is an important tool to enhance transparency in international climate politics and enables comparison of climate protection efforts and progress made by individual countries.

The index is prepared by assessing performances of 57 countries and European Union in four categories:

- GHG emissions (40%)
- Renewable energy (20%)
- Energy use (20%)
- Climate policy (20%)

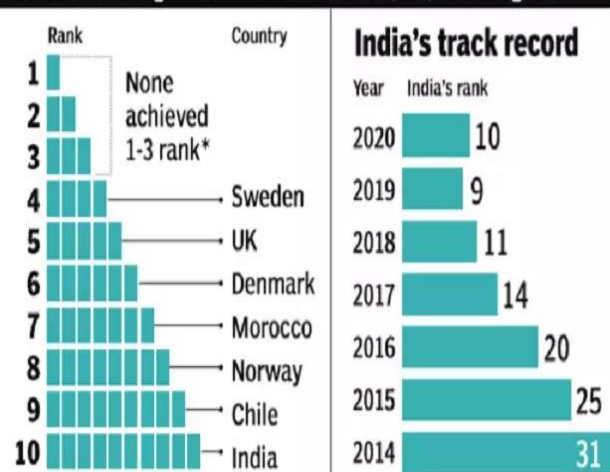
Highlights

- Top three ranks were empty as no country had met the criteria to get placed high enough on the index
- Only two G20 nations, the United Kingdom and India are among the high rankers in CCPI 2021, which covers the year 2020.
- Six other G20 nations including the USA, Canada, South Korea, Russia, Australia and Saudi Arabia are ranked at the bottom of the index.

India ranked 10th in Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2021, India, for the second time in a row, continued to remain in the top 10. Last year, India had been ranked at the ninth position.

BUT SLIPS ONE POSITION

Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) Ranking 2020



*No country performs well enough in all four categories to achieve perfect score on performance index

❖ Lakshadweep- Organic

(Source: The Hindu)

After Sikkim, India's smallest Union territory Lakshadweep with 32 sq.km Land area has set to become 100% organic.

The UT's proposal to declare it as organic was approved by the Centre after receiving certifications under the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) of India through Paramaparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana.

According to FSSAI, 'organic farming' is a system of farm design and management to create an ecosystem of agriculture production without the use of synthetic external inputs such as chemical fertilizers, pesticides and synthetic hormones or genetically modified organisms.

- **PGS** is a process of certifying organic products, which ensures that their production takes place in accordance with laid-down quality standards. The certification is in the form of a documented logo or a statement. It is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
- It is only for farmers or communities that can organise and perform as a group within a village or a cluster of contiguous villages, and is applicable only to farm activities such as crop production, processing, and livestock rearing, and off-farm processing "by PGS farmers of their direct products".

Paramaparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY): The scheme promotes cluster based organic farming with certification. Cluster formation, training, certification and marketing are supported under the scheme

❖ UNESCO'S World Heritage Cities

(The Hindu)

Historical fort cities of Gwalior and Orchha in Madhya Pradesh have been included in the list of UNESCO's world heritage cities urban landscape city program

Gwalior was established in the 9th century and is known for its palaces and temples, including the intricately carved **SasBahu Ka Mandir**.

The Gwalior Fort occupies a sandstone plateau overlooking the city and is accessed via a winding road lined with sacred Jain statues.

Orchha is popular for its temples and palaces and was the capital of the Bundela kingdom in the 16th century.

UNESCO World Heritage Cities Program is one of six thematic programs formally approved and monitored by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. Its objective is to assist States Parties in the challenges of protecting and managing their urban heritage.

❖ **PM-WANI**

(Source: PIB)

Union Cabinet has approved a public Wi-Fi access network called PM-WANI (Wi-Fi Access Network Interface).

Its objective is to enable easily accessible public Wi-Fi hotspots spread across the country.

Stakeholders: PM-WANI will be operated by different players as described as:

- **Public Data Office (PDO):** It will establish, maintain and operate only WANI compliant Wi-Fi Access Points and deliver broadband services to subscribers.
- **Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA):** It will be an aggregator of PDOs and perform the functions relating to Authorization and Accounting.
- **App Provider:** It will develop an App to register users and discover WANI compliant Wi-Fi hotspots in the nearby area and display the same within the App for accessing the internet service.
- **Central Registry:** It will maintain the details of App Providers, PDOAs and PDOs.

There would be no license fee for providing broadband internet through these public Wi-Fi networks.

❖ **Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX)**

(Source: Live mint)

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has launched a \$9 billion vaccine initiative: The Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX)

- It aims to offer rapid and equitable support to its developing members as they procure and deliver effective and safe corona virus disease (COVID-19) vaccines
- If a country has to obtain finances under APVAX, then it should fulfill one of the three criteria:
 - It must be procured through COVAX.
 - It should be prequalified by World Health Organization
 - It should be authorised by a stringent regulatory authority

COVAX is an alliance co-led by Gavi, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and WHO. It aims to accelerate the development and manufacture of COVID-19 vaccines and to guarantee fair and equitable access for every country in the world.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank established in 1966 to promote social and economic development in Asia.

❖ Global Health Estimates 2019

(Indian Express)

World Health Organization (WHO) has released the Global Health Estimates 2019

Global Health Estimates: The report provides a comprehensive and comparable assessment of mortality and loss of health due to diseases and injuries for all regions of the world. The new data of Global Health Estimates cover the period from 2000 to 2019.

Highlights

- **Top Ten Causes of Death:** Ischaemic heart disease, Stroke, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Lower respiratory infections, Neonatal conditions, Trachea, bronchus and lung cancers, Alzheimer disease, Diarrhoea diseases, Diabetes mellitus, Kidney diseases.
- **Non-communicable diseases** make up 7 of the world's top 10 causes of death. This is an increase from 4 of the 10 leading causes in 2000..
- **Heart disease** caused the most deaths and was responsible for 16% of total deaths. Since 2000, it has seen the largest increase in deaths rising by more than 2 million to nearly 9 million deaths in 2019.
- **Alzheimer's disease** and other forms of dementia are now among the top 10 causes of death worldwide. Globally, 65% of deaths from Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia are women.
- **Deaths from diabetes** increased by 70% globally between 2000 and 2019, with an 80% rise in deaths among males
- **Life expectancy** has increased by more than 6 years between 2000 and 2019: from 66.8 years in 2000 to 73.4 years in 2019.