

## Current Affairs=25-27-12-2020

### India's first Lithium refinery to be set up in Gujarat

**India's first Lithium refinery is soon going to be set up in Gujarat.** Manikaran Power Limited, one of the country's largest power trading and renewable energy company will invest around Rs 1,000 crore to set up this refinery.

The refinery will process Lithium ore to produce battery-grade material.

The company will import Lithium ore from **Australia** and will be processing in Gujarat.

Lithium is a rare element and is usually not found in India.

### Karnataka Government launches portal 'FRUITS' for farmers

The Government of **Karnataka** has unveiled an **e-governance portal named 'Farmer Registration and Unified beneficiary Information System (FRUITS)'**, for the benefit of the farmers of the state.

This portal will create a repository of farmland information and farm loan details on a single platform.

All farmers will be registered and given an identification number on the portal.

Using this number, banks and other lending institutions can access the land details of farmers as well as details of their existing borrowings and take a quick decision on lending.

Initially, **Canara Bank** will provide this service under FRUITS on a pilot basis

If the project is found successful, other financial institutions will be brought on to the portal

### Punjab Government launches mobile app and web portal 'PR Insight'

**Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh** launched **Mobile Application and web portal called 'PR Insight'** on 23 December 2020, to improve the delivery of citizen centric services, based upon the feedback of its citizens on government policies.

The basic objective of PR Insight is to re-orient the existing schemes and programmes of the state government to the people's satisfaction after meticulously monitoring their feedback.

The app will monitor the citizens feedback and subsequently ensure responsive and transparent administration in the State.

The 'PR Insight' app has been developed by the Information & Public Relations Department.



## PayU collaborates with Google Pay to launch tokenised payments for merchants

Online payments solutions provider **PayU** has collaborated with **Google Pay** to introduce **tokenised payments for merchants in India.**

Under this collaboration, Google Pay users will now be able to make recurring payments with their debit cards, credit cards, or Google Pay UPI, to a PayU merchant without sharing card details.

Tokenised payments are a highly convenient, safe, and friction-free payment system.

This initiative will help PayU to build lasting trust and loyalty with customers, reduce risks of cart abandonment and payment failures, and scale up their businesses.

## Former Union Minister Jairam Ramesh & US Academician Amit Ahuja jointly wins Kamaladevi NIF Book Prize for 2020

The **2020 Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay New India Foundation (NIF) Book Prize** for the best non-fiction book on contemporary/modern India has jointly been won by former **Union minister Jairam Ramesh** and **U.S.-based academician Amit Ahuja.**

The award carries a citation and a cash prize of **Rs 15 lakh.** This is the **3rd edition of the award.**

Ahuja has been awarded for his book *‘Mobilizing the Marginalized: Ethnic Parties without Ethnic Movements’* (Oxford University Press).

This is the first book of Ahuja, who is an associate professor of political science at the University of California.

Jairam Ramesh won the prize for *‘A Chequered Brilliance: The Many Lives of VK Krishna Menon’* (Penguin Random House), a biography of politician and diplomat VK Krishna Menon.

Both the authors will share the cash prize.

## Legendary Urdu poet Shamsur Rahman Faruqi passes away at 85

**Legendary Urdu poet and critic Shamsur Rahman Faruqi** has

passed away, a month after recovering from COVID-19. He was 85.

He received **Saraswati Samman in 1996** for his work *‘She’r-e Shor-Angez’*, a four-volume study of the eighteenth-century poet Mir Taqi Mir

The Government of India awarded him the civilian honour of **Padma Shri in 2009.**

## PM Modi launches Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY SEHAT to extend coverage to all residents of Jammu & Kashmir

**Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** has launched a scheme **‘Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY SEHAT’** via video-conferencing to extend health insurance coverage to all the residents of **Jammu & Kashmir.**

Under this scheme, the coverage of Ayushman Yojna will be extended to all the residents of Jammu & Kashmir.



Currently about 6 lakh families of the state are getting the benefit of Ayushman Bharat Scheme.

With the SEHAT Scheme, all 21 lakh families will get the benefit of free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh medical expense, on the basis of Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011.

Apart from this, the treatment under the new scheme will not be limited to government and private hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir only, rather, the treatment can be availed from thousands of hospitals empanelled under this scheme in the country.

### India's first tiger reserve hot air balloon safari launched in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve of Madhya Pradesh



India's first 'Hot Air Balloon Wildlife Safari' in a tiger reserve has been launched in the **Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh**.

It is the first of its type service in any tiger reserve of India. The service is being operated by **Jaipur-based Sky Waltz**.

Tourists can watch tigers, leopards, Indian sloth bear and other wild animals from a height, and this activity will be restricted to the buffer area.

### Housing & Urban Affairs Ministry launches 'E-Sampada' mobile app and portal for management of all GoI Estate services



The **Minister of State(I/C) for Housing & Urban Affairs Hardeep S Puri** has launched a new web portal and mobile app, '**e-Sampada**' on 25 December 2020.

The website and mobile app has been introduced by the **Directorate of Estates**, under the MoHUA, to boost

transparency and accountability in providing various Estate Services, while ensuring ease of living for the citizens.

The 'e-Sampada' has been launched by integrating **four websites** (gpra.nic.in, eawas.nic.in, estates.gov.in, holidayhomes.nic.in), and **two Mobile Apps** (m-Awas & m-Ashoka5) of the Directorate of Estates, to bring all the services on the same platform throughout the country.

The new application will provide a single-window for all the services like allotment, retention, regularisation, no dues certificate etc.



## DGT inks pact with MICROSOFT and NASSCOM FOUNDATION for digital skilling of ITI Students through Bharatskills Portal



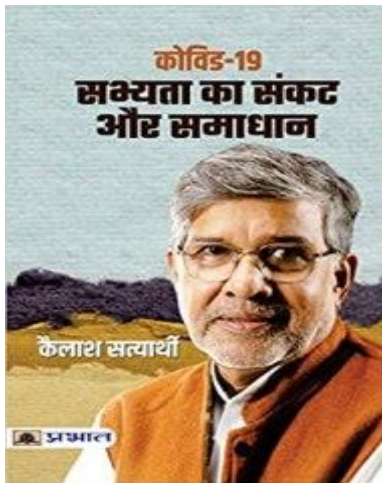
The **Directorate General of Training (DGT)** under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has collaborated with **Microsoft and**

**NASSCOM Foundation** to provide a digital content for ITI students. Around 1,20,000 students in around 3000 ITIs across India would be benefited by this digitized e-learning module. The service will be made available through the **Bharatskills portal**.

It would also include future-ready employability skilling program for upskilling and reskilling.

These new learning initiatives will empower young learners with technical and market-oriented skills.

## Kailash Satyarthi pens new book 'Covid-19 : Sabhyata Ka Sankat Aur Samadhan'



**Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi** has come out with his new book titled '**Covid-19: Sabhyata ka Sankat aur Samadhan**' (**Covid-19: Crisis of Civilisation and Solutions**).

The book was launched by former Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra and Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh on 24th December 2020, virtually.

The book is written in **Hindi** and is published by **Prabhat Prakashan**.

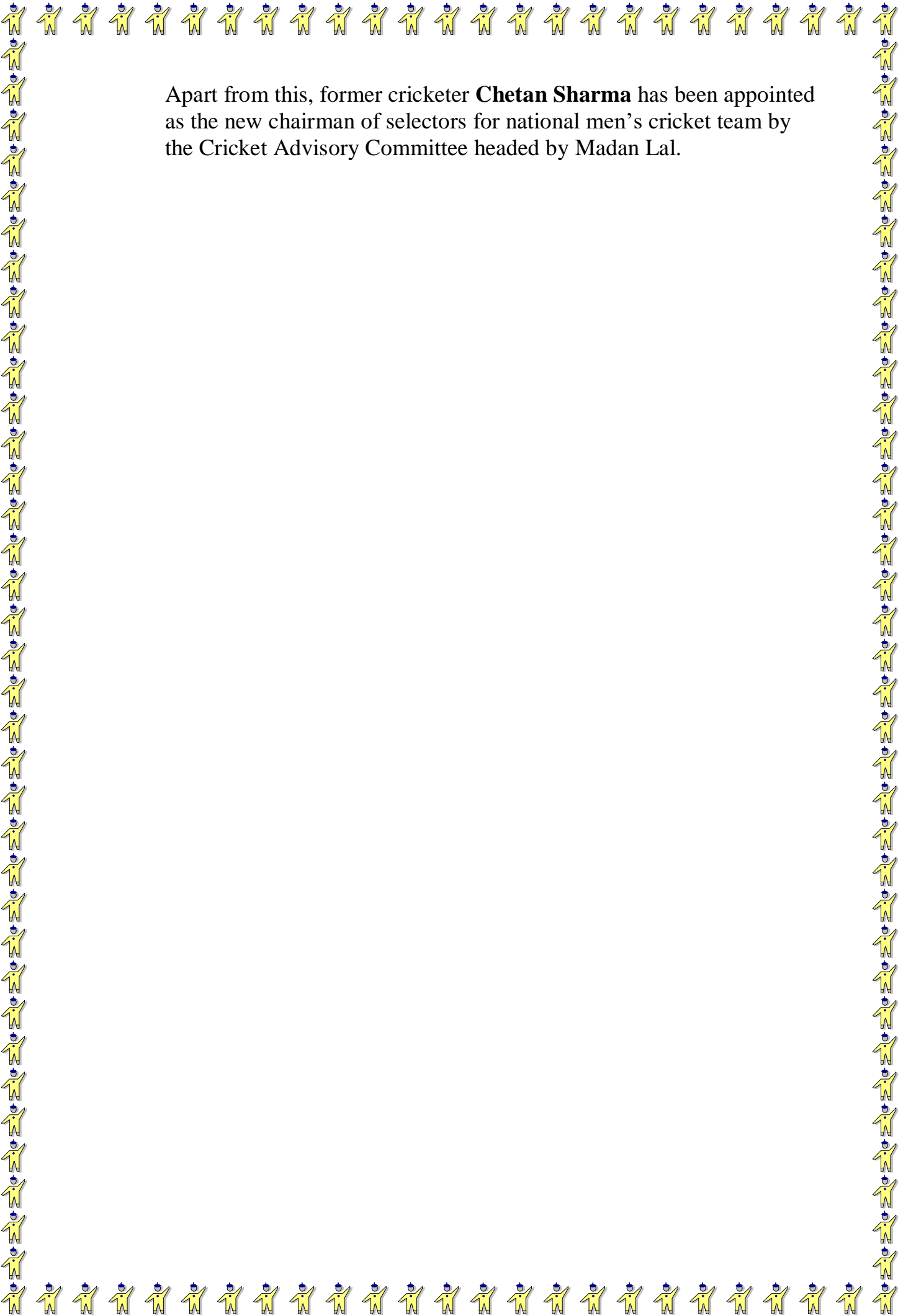
'Covid-19: Sabhyata ka Sankat aur Samadhan'

discusses how the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted the common way of life including the education system, business, politics, public safety, foreign policy, law, medicine, economy and development of countries. It also suggests solution to deal with the ongoing crisis triggered by the disease.

## BCCI approves 10-team IPL from 2022

The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** held its **89th Annual General Meeting in Ahmedabad**. In the meeting it was decided that 10 teams will compete in Indian Premier League (IPL) from 2022 against present 8 teams.

The 2021 season of IPL will be played with the regular 8 teams and bids will be invited for the addition of two new teams from the 2022 season.



Apart from this, former cricketer **Chetan Sharma** has been appointed as the new chairman of selectors for national men's cricket team by the Cricket Advisory Committee headed by Madan Lal.