

Weekly One Liners 28th December to 03rd of January 2021

ICC Awards of the Decade 2020 announced

The winners of the prestigious **ICC Awards of the Decade** were announced on 28th December 2020. The ICC Awards of The Decade recognise the best players across Cricket over the past 10 years.

List of Winners

- **ICC Spirit of Cricket Award of the Decade:** MS Dhoni (India)

ICC Men's Awards

- **Sir Garfield Sobers Award for ICC Male Cricketer of the Decade:** Virat Kohli (India)
- **ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Decade:** Virat Kohli (India)
- **ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Decade:** Rashid Khan (Afghanistan)
- **ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Decade:** Steve Smith (Australia)
- **ICC Men's Associate Cricketer of the Decade:** Kyle Coetzer (Scotland)

ICC Women's Award

- **Rachael Heyhoe Flint Award for ICC Female Cricketer of the Decade:** Ellyse Perry (Australia)
- **ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Decade:** Ellyse Perry (Australia)
- **ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Decade:** Ellyse Perry (Australia)
- **ICC Women's Associate Cricketer of the Decade:** Kathryn Bryce (Scotland)

Mother Teresa Memorial Awards for Social Justice 2020

Harmony Foundation hosted the **Mother Teresa Memorial Awards for Social Justice**. The Awards in its 16th year is the only award endorsed by Sister Prema, the Superior General of the Missionaries of Charity, the organization started by Mother Teresa. The theme for this year's awards was, '**Celebrating Compassion In Times Of Covid**'.

Awardees this year included:

- Dr **Anthony Fauci** (USA) is the Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, USA. He and his task force were among the first ones to realize the seriousness of this pandemic.

- **Father Fabio Stevenazzi** (Milan, Italy), decided to return to medical practice in order to help those infected with COVID 19 has thrust him to be the modern-day example of St Charles Borromeo who in 1576 during the Great Plague that hit the city of Milan and cut the population by half, stayed behind to nurse the sick and renovate hospitals.
- **Dr Pradeep Kumar** (Chennai) took it upon himself to give a befitting burial to his colleague with the help of two ward boys, at a cemetery in the city in the middle of the night.
- **IPS Sanjay Pandey** (DG Home Guards, Maharashtra) went beyond the call of duty as a police officer to open the first relief camp in the Mumbai city suburbs for migrant workers whose livelihood were disrupted by the lockdown to contain the pandemic.
- **Vikas Khanna** (Manhattan, USA) heart still moves to serve the lonely and underprivileged here in India.
- **KK Shailaja** (Minister of Health, Kerala), her extraordinary efforts and pro-activeness in dealing with the pandemic by following experts and scientific advice helped countless Keralites survive the terrors of this pandemic, serving as an example for governments of other states countries to follow.

About Harmony Foundation:

Harmony Foundation is an international NGO that works in the realm of Social Justice. It was founded in **October of 2005**, with its raison d'être, being the establishment, and strengthening, of social cohesion among various communities, and to work towards the benefit of all, without discriminating against any **religion, creed, sex**, or their origins. Instituted in 2005, these Awards, celebrate and commemorate the memory and legacy of Mother Teresa, canonized a Saint by **Pope Francis** in the Vatican.

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Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT scheme

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT scheme**. The main aim behind the scheme is to extend health insurance coverage to all residents of **Jammu and Kashmir**.

About the AB-PMJAY Scheme

- **SEHAT** stands for **Social, Endeavour for Health and Telemedicine**. It is a health insurance scheme for the Union Territory.
- It provides free of cost insurance cover to all the residents of the UT of J&K.
- It also provides financial cover up to Rs.5 Lakh per family on a floater basis to all residents of the UT of J&K and an operational extension of PM-JAY to 15 lakh (approximately) additional families.

Important points about PM- JAY

- It is the **world's largest health insurance/assurance scheme** fully financed by the government, provides a cover of Rs 500,000 per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation across public and private empanelled hospitals in India.
- The benefit of Rs 5,00,000 is on a family floater basis. This means that it can be used by one or all members of the family.
- It covers medical procedures including oncology, cardiology, nephrology etc and up to three days of pre-hospitalisation and 15 days post-hospitalisation expenses like diagnostics and medicines are also included in the scheme.

Harsh Vardhan launches India's 1st indigenous pneumonia vaccine 'Pneumosil'

The Union Health Minister Dr **Harsh Vardhan** launched India's first indigenously developed vaccine against pneumonia. The **Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV)** named '**Pneumosil**' has been developed by Pune-based **Serum Institute of India (SII)** in collaboration with the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and PATH**, an international, nonprofit global health organization based in Seattle.

About the vaccine:

The vaccine will provide protection against 10 variants of pneumococcus bacteria that causes pneumonia, meningitis, ear, and blood infections in children. Pneumococcal disease is the largest contributor to under-five mortality rate worldwide.

India's 1st Testbed TiHAN launched at IIT Hyderabad

Union Minister of Education, **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has virtually laid the foundation stone of "**TiHAN-IIT Hyderabad**", India's first Testbed for Autonomous Navigation Systems (Terrestrial and Aerial) at **IIT Hyderabad**. The **Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation Systems (TiHAN)** for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and Remotely Operated Vehicles at IIT Hyderabad.

About the TiHAN Navigation Systems

- The Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, has sanctioned Rs. 135 crores to IIT Hyderabad under the **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)** to set up a Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation and Data Acquisition Systems.
- Two acres of land has already been allocated in the IIT Hyderabad campus and the facilities are planned in phases.
- All Smart poles are enabled with communication providing technology with some Poles designed with sprinklers to simulate rain scenarios. The developed testbed will be available for use by all the industries, R&D labs, academia conducting research and development in the broad areas of autonomous navigation.

National Affairs

- 'New Bhaupur- New Khurja section' of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) will be inaugurated by the PM Narendra Modi on **29th December, 2020** at 11 AM through video conferencing. During the event, Prime Minister will also inaugurate **EDFC's Operation Control Centre (OCC)** at Prayagraj.

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has flagged off the country's first-ever fully-automated driverless train service on the **Magenta Line of the Delhi Metro**. Apart from this, PM also launched fully operational **National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)** on the Airport Express Line of Delhi Metro, to connect **DMRC with the NCMC service**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has flagged off the **100th 'Kisan Rail'** on 28th December 2020. The 100th run of the Kisan Rail was flagged off from **Sangola in Maharashtra to Shalimar in West Bengal virtually**. Kisan Rail is a mobile cold storage to move perishable things like fruits, vegetables, milk, fish, etc., with complete security.
- The **Central government** has further extended the deadline to file an income tax return (ITR) for **FY 2019-20 by 10 days**, up to **January 10, 2021**. Earlier this deadline was December 31, 2020.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone of **Light House projects (LHPs)** at six sites across **six States** through video conference on **1st January 2021**. The LHPs will be implemented at **Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Rajkot (Gujarat), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Agartala (Tripura) and Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)**.

States in the News

- The **Chief Minister Secretariat of Bihar**, the Disaster Management Department besides the National Informatics Centre (NIC) of the state have jointly been chosen as winners in the "pandemic category" **Digital India Awards 2020**.

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- India's first **hot air balloon wildlife safari** in a tiger reserve was launched in the world-famous **Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve** by **Madhya Pradesh** forest minister Vijay Shah. Now like Africa's forests, tourists in India will also enjoy hot air balloon wildlife safari. The state was planning to introduce this service in **Pench, Kanha and Panna tiger** reserves as well.
- The country's first **pollinator park** with over 40 species of butterflies, honeybees, birds and insects has been developed over four acres at **Haldwani, Uttarakhand**. The objective behind developing the park is to conserve various pollinator species, create awareness among people in general about the importance of conservation of these species and to promote further research on various aspects of pollination, including a threat to habitat and impact of pollution on pollinators.

International Affairs

- The **Myanmar Navy** has officially inducted the submarine **INS Sindhuvir**, which was handed over by the Indian Navy to the country in October 2020. This is the first submarine in the **Myanmar Navy's arsenal**. The submarine has been refurbished for the Myanmar Navy by state-run defence shipbuilder, **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) in Visakhapatnam**.
- USA's plan to set up the first nuclear reactor on the moon by the end of 2026. In early 2021, the US Department of Energy in collaboration with NASA intends to solicit industry design proposals. It also got an impetus with a recent White House directive. The outgoing President Donald Trump, issued the **"National Strategy for Space Nuclear Power and Propulsion"** on 16 December.
- The **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** has become an Associate Member of the **International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO)**. The Headquarter of IOSCO is at **Madrid, Spain**.

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **AU Small Finance Bank** has announced a strategic partnership with **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance** to offer life insurance solutions. The tie-up aims to deliver **"paperless, secure, and hassle-free life insurance"**.

- **Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation, Pune** has recently signed an MoU with **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India** to co-create **India's first Social Impact Bond (SIB)**. This is the first time that a government body will act as the 'outcome funder' in a bond, whereas traditionally most government-funded public projects require large and early investments by the government with a substantial gestation period of outcomes and involve various kinds of risks.

Books and Authors

- Union Minister of State (I/C) for AYUSH and Minister of State for Defence **Shripad Naik** released a Konkani book "**Sutranivednachi sutra- ek anav**", by **Dr Roopa Chari** on 26 December, 2020. It is published by **Sanjana Publications**.
- The family of Late Justice **Rajindar Sachar** in association with **The Indian Society of International Law** and **The Indian Law Institute** is organizing the book launch "**In Pursuit Of Justice: An Autobiography**" written by Late **Justice Rajindar Sachar**. The book has been posthumously published.
- **Alfredo Covelli**, an Italy based author has launched his new book **Vahana Masterclass** for children and Young Audience. The books will be illustrated and published by Scholastic India. Alfredo had a keen interest in our Indian culture and mythology which inspired him to write a story on Lord Ganesh for children.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the Government of India have signed a **\$10 million project readiness financing (PRF)**. This agreement aims to help finance piloting activities, and design and capacity building for an ensuing project that aims to expand horticulture production and farm household income in the hill state of **Himachal Pradesh**.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has signed a **\$231 million loan** with the Government of India to augment **electricity generation capacity** in the state of **Assam**. This is the third tranche loan for the '**Assam Power Sector Investment Programme**' that was approved by the **ADB Board in July 2014**.

Appointments/Resignations

- Union Health Minister Dr **Harsh Vardhan** has been nominated as the board member of the **Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI)**. The seat is currently held by **Myint Htwe** of **Myanmar**. Dr Vardhan will represent the South East Area Regional Office (SEARO)/ Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) constituency on the GAVI Board. Dr Vardhan will assume the charge with effect from January 1, 2021, and serve till December 31, 2023.
- The Central Government has approved the extension of the term of ISRO Chairman **K Sivan**, for a period of **one year**. He was due to retire on **January 14, 2021**. Sivan will now continue as ISRO Chairman and Secretary, Department of Space up to **January 14, 2022**.
- **Soma Mondal** has taken over as the new **Chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)** with effect from **January 01, 2021**. She is the first-ever women-head of the body. She replaces **Anil Kumar Chaudhary**, who superannuated on 31 December 2020.
- The appointments committee of the Cabinet has approved **Suneet Sharma** appointment as **Chairman & CEO** of Railway Board, Ministry of Railways and ex-officio Principal Secretary to Government of India. He took over in his new role with effect from **January 01, 2021**.
- **Umesh Sinha** has been named as the **deputy election commissioner** in the **Election Commission of India**. Sinha, a 1986-batch IAS officer (retired) is at present serving as secretary-general in the commission.

Defence News

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has approved the proposal to export indigenously-developed **Akash Missile System**. The Cabinet has also approved to set up of a committee for faster approvals of exports. The export version of Akash will be different from System currently deployed with Indian Armed Forces.

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** observed the **63rd Foundation Day** of its establishment on **January 01, 2021**. DRDO was established in **1958** with just 10 laboratories to enhance the research work in the Defence sector. At that time, it was tasked with designing and developing cutting edge defence technologies for **Indian Armed Forces**.

Awards and Recognitions

- The **Dr Narendra Dabholkar Memorial Award** for this year has been conferred upon **Dravidar Kazhagam** president **K. Veeramani**. The award was instituted in the memory of the Maharashtra-based rationalist Dabholkar.
- Senior scientist **Hemant Kumar Pandey** has been honoured with **DRDO's "Scientist of the Year Award"** for his contribution in developing several herbal medicines, including the popular drug **Lukoskin** meant for the treatment of **leucoderma**.
- The chairman & CEO of Railway Board, **Vinod Kumar Yadav** has been conferred with the prestigious **"Eminent Engineer Award for the Year 2020"**. This award is given by the **Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET)** for his outstanding contribution towards modernization and reforms over Indian Railways.
- In Madhya Pradesh, **96th Tansen Music Festival** began in **Gwalior** with strict COVID-19 guidelines in place. In the inaugural ceremony renowned santoor player, **Pandit Satish Vyas** was conferred upon the prestigious **Tansen Samman**. Bhopal-based institution **Abhinav Kala Parishad** was honoured with **Raja Mansingh Tomar award**. The festival pays tribute to Tansen, one of 9 gems in Akbar's court.

Science and Technology

- A68a, the giant Antarctic iceberg has become a cause for concern for **South Georgia Island**. The giant iceberg A68, the biggest block of free-floating ice from Antarctica with an area of about 5,800 sq. Km. Since 2017, it has been drifting in the Atlantic Ocean. Due to an ocean current, this year the iceberg was propelled into the South Atlantic Ocean and since then it has been drifting towards the remote sub-Antarctic island of South Georgia. It is a **British Overseas Territory (BOT)**. This has prompted fears about the impact the iceberg could have on the island's abundant wildlife.

- Indian Space startup, **Skyroot Aerospace** has successfully test-fired a solid propulsion rocket engine, named **Kalam-5**. With this, it has become the first private company of India to successfully design, develop and test a full solid-fueled rocket stage. This crucial propulsion technology will be used for their maiden rocket **Vikram-1**, which is under active manufacturing and is targeted to be launched in December 2021 with the help of **ISRO**.

Sports News

- Indian wrestler, **Anshu Malik** has become the first wrestler of the country to finish on the podium position at the **Individual Wrestling World Cup in Belgrade, Serbia**.
- The **Badminton World Federation (BWF)** has imposed a **5-year ban** on Russian shuttler **Nikita Khakimov** for charges of **"betting, wagering and irregular match results"**. Khakimov was part of the Russian men's team that won the bronze medal at the **2020 European Team Championships**.
- **M S Dhoni** won the **ICC Spirit of Cricket Award of the Decade** for his gesture of calling back England batsman Ian Bell after a bizarre run out in the Nottingham Test in 2011. The incident won the ICC Spirit of Cricket Award in 2011.
- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** announced the **ICC Teams of the Decade** based on the performances, consistency of players over the period of last 10 years. Former Indian captain and wicket-keeper batsman **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** has been named as the captain of the ICC ODI Team of the Decade. Dhoni has also been named the skipper of the ICC T20I Team of the Decade. Similarly, **Virat Kohli** has been named the captain of the ICC Test Team of the Decade. Ravi Ashwin is the only other Indian in this list.

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Obituaries

- Padma Shri awardee dance historian and critic, **Sunil Kothari** has passed away. He was qualified as a Chartered Accountant, before turning to the study of Indian dance forms. He authored more than 20 books on the subject of Indian dance forms.
- Former professional wrestler **Jon Huber**, who was popularly known by his ring name '**Luke Harper**' in the WWE has passed away, due to a non-COVID-19 related lung illness.
- Veteran broadcaster, **Indira Joseph Venniyoor** passed away. She was a renowned broadcaster, **All India Radio** veteran & first **English news announcer of Travancore Radio** when its English service began in **1949**.
- Legendary Odia musician, **Shantanu Mohapatra** passed away. He was the first Odia music composer to work with legends like Lata Mangeshkar, Manna Dey and Md Rafi and also the first to work in Hindi, Bengali, Assamese and Telugu film industries.

Miscellaneous News

- The Union Minister of Earth Sciences, Science & Technology, Dr **Harsh Vardhan** virtually inaugurated the web-based application "**Digital Ocean**". It has been developed by Hyderabad-based **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)** an autonomous organization under M/o Earth sciences. Digital Ocean is a first of its kind digital platform for Ocean Data Management.
- The 21-year-old college student, **Arya Rajendran** has been elected the new mayor of **Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, of Kerala**. The **Communist Party of India (Marxist)** leader, Arya is the youngest person in India to occupy the post of mayor anywhere in the country.
- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, **Nitin Gadkari** has announced that a **multi-modal logistics park in Assam**. It will be constructed in **Silchar and the Balacherra-Harengajao section of the Silchar-Saurashtra Highway** will be completed in **March 2022**. Mr Gadkari made this announcement at a public meeting at Zero Point on the East-West Corridor at Madhurmukh at Rangpur.

- Union Minister of Earth Sciences, Dr **Harsh Vardhan** inaugurated the **meteorological centre (MC) of the India Meteorological Department at Leh in Ladakh** via video conferencing. The centre would provide localised weather forecasts in the region, which would result in strengthening the weather-related early warning system for the region.
- **Indian Railways** successfully completed the **180 km per hour speed trial** of its new design **Vistadome** tourist coaches. These Vistadome coaches will make train journeys memorable for the passengers, as well as give a further boost to tourism.

Static Takeaways

- Chief Minister of Bihar: Nitish Kumar; Governor: Phagu Chauhan.
- Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh: Shivraj Singh Chouhan; Governor: Anandiben Patel.
- Uttarakhand Chief Minister: Trivendra Singh Rawat.
- Governor of Uttarakhand: Baby Rani Maurya.
- President of Myanmar: Win Myint.
- Myanmar Capital: Naypyitaw.
- Myanmar Currency: Kyat.
- AU Small Finance Bank Bank HQ: Jaipur;
- AU Small Finance Bank MD & CEO: Sanjay Agarwal.
- GAVI Headquarters location: Geneva, Switzerland.
- GAVI Founded: January 2000.
- Chairman of ICC: Greg Barclay.
- CEO of ICC: Manu Sawhney.
- Headquarters of ICC: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- DRDO Chairman: Dr G. Satheesh Reddy.
- DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Badminton World Federation Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Badminton World Federation Founded: 5 July 1934.
- Badminton World Federation President: Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen.
- Indian Railway Founded: 16 April 1853.
- Indian Railway Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Union Minister of Indian Railways: Piyush Goyal.
- Director of INCOIS: T. Srinivasa Kumar.
- INCOIS Founded: 1998.
- Headquarters of INCOIS: Pragathi Nagar, Hyderabad.

- Chief Minister of Assam: Sarbananda Sonowal; Governor: Prof. Jagdish Mukhi.
- Folk Dance of Assam: Bihu dance, Bagurumba, Bhortal Dance, Jhumur dance.
- Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh: Radha Krishna Mathur.
- Founder and CEO of Skyroot Aerospace: Pawan Kumar Chandana.
- Skyroot Aerospace Founded: 12 June 2018.
- Skyroot Aerospace Headquarters location: Hyderabad.
- Serum Institute of India CEO: Adar Poonawalla.
- Serum Institute of India Founder: Cyrus S. Poonawalla.
- Serum Institute of India Founded: 1966.
- Serum Institute of India Headquarters location: Pune.
- Director of IIT-Hyderabad: Budaraju Srinivasa Murthy.
- Chief Minister of HP: Jairam Thakur; Governor of HP: Bandaru Dattatraya.
- Chief Election Commissioner of India: Sunil Arora.
- Chief Election Commissioner Formed: 25 January 1950.
- Chief Election Commissioner Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Railway Board Founded: March 1905.
- Headquarters of Railway Board: New Delhi.
- SAIL Headquarters: New Delhi.
- SAIL founded: 19 January 1954.
- Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs: Nirmala Sitharaman.
- Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Affairs: Anurag Singh Thakur.
- UNDP Headquarters: New York, New York, United States.
- UNDP Head: Achim Steiner.
- UNDP Founded: 22 November 1965.
- ISRO Chairman: K.Sivan.
- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ISRO established: 15 August 1969.

