

OCTOBER EDITION



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THE HINDU REVIEW

OCTOBER 2020



CURRENT AFFAIRS | MONTHLY CAPSULE

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The Most Important Current Affairs October 2020

RBI defers Basel III provisions amid Covid Uncertainty

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has deferred implementation of provisions made under **Basel III** capital due to uncertainty related to **COVID crisis**.
- In this regard, RBI will repel the final tranche of the **capital conservation buffer (CCB)** and the implementation of **net stable funding ratio (NSFR)** by six months i.e. **April 1, 2021**.

RBI increased the timeline for additional market borrowing provided to states/UTs by 6 months

- In April 2020, RBI increased the **Ways and Means Advances (WMA)** Limits and overdraft (OD) regulations for states and Union Territories (UTs) to provide additional flexibility for dealing with the Covid-19 crisis until September 30, 2020.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has set the limits for **Ways and Means Advances (WMA)** for the second half of the financial year 2020-21 (October 2020 to March 2021) for Central Government at **Rs. 1,25,000 crore**.
- The Reserve Bank will trigger fresh floatation of market loans when the Government of India utilizes **75% of the WMA limit**.
- Now to further aid the state governments from financial problems, RBI extended this timeline by six months i.e. till March 31, 2021.
- Notably, RBI decided to increase the number of days for which a state/ UT can be in overdraft continuously to **21 working days from 14**.
- Also, the number of days for which a state/ UT can be in overdraft in a quarter was increased to **50 working days from 36**.

RBI extends enhanced borrowing limit for banks under MSF till Mar 31, 2021

- RBI also extended the enhanced borrowing facility provided to banks under the **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)** scheme by six months till March 31, 2021.
- It was initially available up to June 30, 2020, and was later extended up to September 30, 2020, due to economic disruptions amid COVID-19.
- On March 27, this borrowing limit for scheduled banks was increased from **2% to 3%** of their Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL).

Nobel Prize 2020 announced

- The **Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2020** was awarded jointly to **Harvey J. Alter (America), Charles M. Rice (America) and Michael Houghton (Britain)** for the discovery of the **Hepatitis C virus**.
- The **Nobel Prize in Physics 2020** was divided, one half awarded to **Roger Penrose** for the discovery that **black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity**. The other half jointly to **Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez** for the discovery of a **supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy**.
- The **2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry** is awarded to **Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna** "for the development of a method for genome editing". The Nobel Prize in Chemistry is awarded by **The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden**.
- The **Nobel Prize in Literature for 2020** is awarded to the American poet **Louise Glück** "for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal".
- The **Norwegian Nobel Committee** has decided to award the **Nobel Peace Prize for 2020** to the **World Food Programme (WFP)**. The World Food Programme is the world's largest humanitarian organization addressing hunger and promoting food security. In 2019, the WFP provided assistance to close to 100 million people in 88 countries who are victims of acute food insecurity and hunger.

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- The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the **Sveriges Riksbank (Sweden's central bank) Prize in Economic Sciences** in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2020 to **Paul R. Milgrom** and **Robert B. Wilson** "for improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats".

GoI appoints three new economists as RBI's MPC members

The **Government of India** has appointed three new economists as members of the six-member rate-setting **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**. The government had formed a committee for selection of these three new members of MPC. This search-cum-selection committee for MPC was headed by Economic Affairs Secretary **Tarun Bajaj**.

The new members are:

- Prof. **Ashima Goyal**, a professor at the Mumbai-based Indira Gandhi Institute of Developmental Research
- Prof. **Jayanth R Varma**, a professor of finance at the Indian Institute of Management in Ahmedabad
- Dr. **Shashanka Bhide**, an agricultural economist and a senior adviser with the National Council of Applied Economic Research in New Delhi

About Monetary Policy Committee

- MPC committee of RBI comprises six members which include three officials of the Reserve Bank of India and three external members nominated by the Government of India.
- The three members from RBI Side are **Dr. Mridul K. Saggarr**, **Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra** and **Shri Shaktikanta Das**.
- Governor of RBI is the Ex-Officio Chairman of MPC.
- They replace the three previous external MPC candidates, **Chetan Ghate**, **Ravindra Dholakia** and **Pami Dua**, whose terms expired with the last policy meeting in August 2020.

RBI's 3rd Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2020-21 Released

The **Monetary Policy Committee** of the **Reserve Bank of India** met on 7th, 8th and 9th October for its third meeting of 2020-21. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor **Shaktikanta Das** has announced crucial policy decisions at the Bank's **3rd bi-monthly monetary policy**.

On the basis of an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) at its meeting decided to:

- The **repo rate** under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) has been kept unchanged at **4.00%**.
- The **reverse repo rate** under the LAF has been kept unchanged at **3.35%**.
- The **marginal standing facility (MSF) rate** and the **Bank Rate** have been kept unchanged at **4.25%**.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will introduce on-tap targeted long-term repo operations (TLTRO) for banks to borrow up to **Rs 1 trillion** from the window and invest in corporate bonds and other debt instruments of certain sectors. The on-tap TLTROs will have tenors of up to three years at a floating rate linked to the policy repo rate and the scheme will be available up to **31 March 2021**.
- Real GDP growth is expected to be negative.** The RBI's MPC has pegged the real GDP growth for FY21 to contract by **9.5%**.

Accommodative stance of RBI's Monetary Policy Statement:

The MPC also decided to continue with the accommodative stance as long as it is necessary to revive growth and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, while ensuring that inflation remains within the target going forward.

Indian Air Force Day: 08 October

Indian Air Force Day is celebrated every year by the Indian Air Force on **8th of October**. This year Indian Air Force celebrated its **88th** anniversary. Indian Air Force was officially established on **8 October 1932** by the British Empire as the Royal Indian Air Force. The name was changed to Indian Air Force in **1950**.

The special occasion will be celebrated with a ceremonial parade and flypast involving a variety of aircraft at the Hindon airbase. IAF's frontline warplanes like **Rafale**, **Su-30MKI**, **Apache**, **Tejas**, **'Gajraj'** will showcase its lethal firepower. 56 aircraft, including 19 fighters and seven transport aircraft along with 19 helicopters, would be taking part in aerial display during this year's Air Force Day Parade. The Rafale fighter aircraft would fly in the **'Vijay'** formation along with the Jaguars and then in the **'Transformer'** formation with the Sukhoi-30 MKI and Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas fighter aircraft during the IAF Day parade this year.

Why Indian Air Force Day is celebrated on 8th October?

The IAF was founded on **October 8, 1932**, and the force has participated in several crucial wars and landmark missions. It was officially established as an auxiliary air force of the **British Empire** which honoured India's aviation service during **World War II** with the prefix Royal. After India gained independence from the United Kingdom in **1947**, the name Royal Indian Air Force was kept and served in the name of Dominion of India. With the government's transition to a Republic in 1950, the prefix Royal was removed

PM Modi dedicates Atal Tunnel to the nation

The Prime Minister of India, **Narendra Modi** has dedicated Atal Tunnel to the nation, on 3rd October 2020. In December 2019, the Government has decided to name the **Rohtang Tunnel** as Atal Tunnel in honour of the former Prime Minister and scholar Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The Atal Bihari Vajpayee government had taken the decision to construct a strategic tunnel below the Rohtang Pass on June 3, 2000, and the foundation stone for the access road to the south portal of the tunnel was laid on May 26, 2002.

About Atal Tunnel:

- Atal Tunnel is the world's longest highway tunnel above **10,000 feet** from the Mean Sea Level (MSL).
- The tunnel has been named after former Indian Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.
- Atal tunnel has been built, by the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**, under the **Rohtang Pass** in the eastern **Pir Panjal Range** of the Himalayas on the **Leh-Manali Highway** in **Himachal Pradesh**.
- The total length of the tunnel is **9.02 km** and at an elevation of **3,100 metres (10,171 ft)**.
- The overall cost of completion of the project is around **Rs. 3200 crore**.

Russia approves 2nd coronavirus vaccine "EpiVacCorona"

Russia has given regulatory approval to a second **Covid-19 vaccine**, named '**EpiVacCorona**', after early-stage studies. The new coronavirus vaccine comes two months after a similar move for Russia's first vaccine **Sputnik V** prompted widespread criticism from scientists both at home and abroad.

Russia became the first country to give regulatory approval to a Covid-19 vaccine in August when Sputnik V was officially registered ahead of the large-scale clinical trial. Russian President **Vladimir Putin** announced that the country has registered the second Covid-19 vaccine.

About EpiVacCorona:

- The second Russian vaccine to receive regulatory approval was developed by the Vector **State Research Centre of Virology and Biotechnology**.
- The two-shot vaccine, 'EpiVacCorona', was tested among **100 volunteers** in early-stage, placebo-controlled human trials, which lasted more than two months and were completed two weeks ago.
- The volunteers were between **18 and 60 years old**.
- Vector's vaccine EpiVacCorona relies on chemically synthesized peptide antigens of SARS-CoV-2 proteins, conjugated to a carrier protein and adsorbed on an aluminium-containing adjuvant, according to details posted at **ClinicalTrials.gov**, a database of privately and publicly funded clinical studies conducted around the world.

Rafael Nadal wins French Open 2020

Rafael Nadal beats **Novak Djokovic** to win the **men's 2020 French Open Title**. This is his **13th French Open men's singles title** and **20th Grand Slam title**. In Women's single, **Iga Swiatek** of Poland, claimed a historic win, by becoming the youngest women to win the title in the history of the championship. She defeated **Sofia Kenin**, of the United States and became the first Polish player to win the singles' Grand Slam.

Winners of French Open Tennis 2020:

Category	Name of the Sportsperson
Men's Single	Rafael Nadal (Spain)
Women's Single	Iga Swiatek (Poland)
Men's Double	Kevin Krawietz & Andreas Mies (Germany)
Women's Double	Tímea Babos (Hungary) & Kristina Mladenovic (France)

PM Modi to release commemorative coin to mark 75th Anniversary of FAO

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will release a commemorative coin of **Rs 75** denomination on the occasion of **75th Anniversary of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)** on **16 October 2020**. PM Modi will also dedicate to the Nation 17 recently developed biofortified varieties of **8 crops**.

The event marks the highest priority accorded by the government to agriculture and nutrition and is a testament of the resolve to completely eliminate hunger, undernourishment and malnutrition. Anganwadi centres, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, organic and horticulture missions across the country will be part of the event. India's proposals for declaring **2016** as the **International Year of Pulses** and **2023** as the **International Year of Millets** have also been endorsed by the FAO.

FM Nirmala Sitharaman announced LTC cash voucher scheme

Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has announced **leave travel concession (LTC) cash voucher scheme** and special festival advance scheme for government employees with an aim to increase consumer spending. She announced proposals regarding consumer spending and capital expenditure. Under consumer spending, she announced proposals within two components: **LTC cash voucher scheme and special festival advance scheme**.

About the leave travel concession (LTC) cash voucher scheme:

- Central government employees get leave travel concession in a block of four years—one each to a destination of choice and home town or two for home town.

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- Under this, the air or rail fare is reimbursed as per pay scale/entitlement. Also, leave encashment of ten days (**pay+dearness allowance**) is paid.
- However, employees will not be able to avail the LTC in the 2018-21 year block due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. This is where the LTC will benefit government employees.
- In lieu of one LTC during 2018-21, employees will receive a cash payment. There will be full payment on leave encashment and fare will be paid as per three slabs depending upon the class of entitlement. Further, there will be **no tax on fare payment**.
- An employee opting for this scheme will have to buy goods and services worth three times the fare and one time leave encashment, and do so before **March 31, 2021**.
- The money is to be spent on goods attracting GST of **12%** or more and only digital payments will be allowed. Also, employees will have to provide a GST invoice.
- The finance minister said the scheme would cost **Rs 5,675 crore** if central government employees opt for it. However, for PSB and PSU employees, its cost would be **Rs 1,900 crore**.
- Sitharaman further projected that with even **50% states** opting for this scheme, the government expects to infuse **Rs 9,000 crore** into the economy.

SC appoints former judge to monitor steps to prevent stubble burning

The **Supreme Court** has appointed Justice **Madan B Lokur**, a former judge of the apex court, as a one-man monitoring committee to prevent stubble burning in the states of **Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh**, amid rising levels of pollution in the national capital and adjoining regions.

The bench also directed court-appointed **Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA)** and chief secretaries of Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh to help the Lokur panel with physical surveillance of fields to check instances of stubble burning and other related matters.

The new committee will monitor the stubble burning and take preventive steps. It will get assistance from chief secretaries of all states as well as **National Cadet Corps (NCC), National Service Scheme** and **Bharat Scouts**. The panel shall submit its report on stubble burning within **15 days** to the apex court.

India conducts successful night trial of nuclear-capable Prithvi-2 missile

India has successfully conducted the night trial of its nuclear-capable **Prithvi-2 missile** from Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur near Balasore, off Odisha coast. The user flight trial was carried out by the Strategic Forces Command of the armed force under the watch of DRDO scientists as part of a training exercise.

About Prithvi-2:

- The state-of-the-art missile is India's first indigenous **surface-to-surface strategic missile**, developed by **DRDO** under the **Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme**.
- The **9-metre** tall liquid-propelled Prithvi-2 has a range of **350 km** and can carry a **1-tonne warhead**.
- It uses Advanced Inertial Guidance System (AIGS) with manoeuvring trajectory to reach the target with a few metre accuracy.
- It has been designed to deliver advanced warheads deep into enemy territory. The missile dives at the target at an **80-degree angle**.

8th India-Sri Lanka Maritime Exercise SLINEX-20 begins

The 8th edition of the annual Indian Navy (IN) – Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-20 starts at Trincomalee, Sri Lanka from 19 to 21 October 2020. The Indian Navy will be represented by the indigenously built ASW corvettes Kamorta and Kiltan. The Sri Lanka Navy will be represented by SLN Ships Sayura (Offshore Patrol Vessel) and Gajabahu (Training Ship).

About SLINEX-20:

- The SLINEX-20 will enhance interoperability, improve mutual understanding and exchange best practices and procedures for multi-faceted maritime operations between both navies.
- The exercise is being conducted in a non-contact '**at-sea-only**' format in the backdrop of **COVID-19 pandemic**.
- SLINEX series of exercise emphasises the deep engagement between India and Sri Lanka which has strengthened mutual cooperation in the maritime domain.

ISA Solar Awards conferred for the first time

For the first time, since the inception of the framework agreement of ISA, the **Solar Awards** were presented during the **third Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)** to the countries of the region as well as institutions working for solar.

Three categories of awards were conferred which included:

- **Visvesvaraya award** recognises the countries with a maximum floating solar capacity in each of the four regions of ISA.
- **Kalpna Chawla awards** recognise the outstanding contribution of scientists and engineers working in the field of solar energy.
- **Diwakar award** recognizes organisations & institutions that have been working for the benefit of differently-abled people and have maximised the use of solar energy in the host country.

List of Winners:

- Visvesvaraya award: **Japan** for the Asia Pacific region and the **Netherlands** for Europe and Others region.
- Kalpna Chawla awards: **Dr Bhim Singh** from IIT Delhi (India) and **Dr Aesha Alnuaimi** from Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (United Arab Emirates).
- Diwakar award: **Arpan Institute** (Haryana) and **Arushi Society**.

India hosts 7th meeting of Ministers of Justice of SCO

The **7th meeting of Ministers of (Law and) Justice of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** Member States was virtually hosted by Indian Minister of Law & Justice, Communication and Electronics & Information Technology, **Ravi Shankar Prasad**. The Indian side urged the SCO Member States to promote the exchange of ideas, best practices and experiences in identified areas through the platform. He also mentioned initiating Pro Bono Legal Services to provide free legal aid to marginalized sections of the society.

The virtual meeting was attended by justice ministers from **China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan**, according to a statement by the Ministry Of Law and Justice. The Seventh Session of the Justice Ministers of SCO member states deliberated on areas of cooperation; emphasized the high relevance of

mutual exchange of legal information on counteraction to the spread of the coronavirus pandemic and acknowledged the need for cooperation in ADR mechanism area, among others.

The salient features of the Joint Statement are as under:

1. To strengthen the work on the implementation of the Agreement on Cooperation between the Ministries of Justice of the SCO Member States (Dushanbe, 18 August 2015).
2. To continue the work on the implementation of the Action Plans of the working groups of experts on forensic activities and legal services for 2018-2020, as well as to develop Action Plans for 2021-2023.
3. Consider organizing exchange programs for representatives of the ministries (law and justice of the SCO member-states) to study the best practices in alternative dispute resolution.
4. To continue discussing the parties' positions on the issues of mutual legal assistance and development of legal services in accordance with national legislation.
5. Actively develop cooperation with the ministries of justice of the SCO observer and dialogue partner states.
6. Continue efforts to develop an online platform for the exchange of legal information, taking into account national laws.

India ranked 94 in Global Hunger Index 2020

India ranked **94** among **107 nations** in the **Global Hunger Index 2020**. With a score of 27.2, India has been placed in the "serious" category in the GHI scale. Although there is an improvement in a score as compared to 38.9 in 2000, 37.5 in 2006, and 29.3 in 2012 but still it represent a serious level of hunger. Last year, India's rank was **102** out of 117 countries. According to the report, 14 per cent of India's population is undernourished. It also showed the country recorded a 37.4 per cent stunting rate among children under five and a wasting rate of 17.3 per cent. The under-five mortality rate stood at 3.7 per cent.

The neighbouring **Bangladesh, Myanmar** and **Pakistan** too are in the 'serious' category but ranked higher than India in this year's hunger index. While Bangladesh ranked **75**, Myanmar and Pakistan are in the **78th** and **88th** position. Nepal in **73rd** and Sri Lanka in **64th** position are in 'moderate' hunger category, the report showed.

Global Front:

For the 2020 GHI report, data were assessed for 132 countries. Out of these, there were sufficient data to calculate 2020 GHI scores for and rank 107 countries (by way of comparison, data availability allowed for the ranking of 117 countries in the 2019 report). For 25 countries, individual scores could not be calculated and ranks could not be determined owing to lack of data.

About Global Hunger Index:

The GHI is a tool designed to measure and track hunger at the global, regional, and national levels to make a reasonable assessment. Data from the United Nations (UN) and other multilateral agencies are used for the calculation GHI on the basis of 4 Indicators which are:

- Share of the population that is undernourished
- Share of children under the age of five who are wasted
- Share of children under the age of five who are stunted
- The mortality rate of children under the age of five

A score of less than 9.9 signifies "low" hunger, that of 10-19.9 represents "moderate" levels of hunger, 20-34.9 points to "serious" hunger, 35-39.9 signifies "alarming" and over 50 "extremely alarming" levels of hunger.

Narendra Singh Tomar launches AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR scheme

Union Agriculture Minister, **Narendra Singh Tomar** has launched "**AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR**". The scheme is a unique way to assist cooperatives to play an important role in the creation of healthcare infrastructure in the country.

About AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR:

- AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR scheme has been formulated by the **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)**.
- The NCDC would extend term loans to prospective cooperatives to the tune of 10 thousand crores in the coming years.
- NCDC's scheme will be a step towards strengthening farmers welfare activities by the Central Government.
- NCDC's Ayushman Sahakar scheme aims at bringing transformation in the health services primarily in the rural areas.

- The scheme also provides working capital and margin money to meet the operational requirements of the health facilities. It provides interest subvention of one per cent to women majority cooperatives.

PM Modi launched 3 projects in Gujarat

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated three projects in his home State **Gujarat**, one each related to farmers' welfare, healthcare, and tourism development, via video conference from New Delhi. The projects inaugurated include:

Kisan Suryodaya Yojna

- The 'Kisan Suryodaya Yojna' is an **Agri scheme** which aims to provide power supply during daytime from **5 am to 9 pm (16 hours)** for irrigation purposes to farmers.
- The state government has allocated a budget of **Rs 3,500 crores** for installing transmission infrastructure under this scheme by **2023**.
- Initially, **Dahod, Patan, Mahisagar, Panchmahal, Chhota Udepur, Kheda, Tapi, Valsad, Anand and Gir-Somnath districts** have been covered under the scheme for 2020-21. The rest will be included in a phased manner by 2022-23.

India's biggest cardiac hospital in Ahmedabad

- The Paediatric Heart Hospital was inaugurated at **U.N Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre at Civil Hospital** campus in Ahmedabad and a Mobile Application for telecardiology.
- The new facilities have been set up at the cost of Rs 470 crore and will be India's biggest hospital for cardiology.
- It has increased the existing **450 beds to 1251 beds, 531 cardiac ICU beds, 15 cardiac modular operation theatres and 6 cardiac cath labs**.

World's longest temple ropeway project at Girnar in Junagadh

- **Girnar hill ropeway at Junagadh** is Rs 130 crore project. It would attract more tourists and pilgrims to this historical place which will boost employment opportunities.
- The **2,320 metres long ropeway** has a capacity of carrying **1,000 passengers every hour**.

Bangladesh govt orders 'no mask, no service' policy

Bangladesh government has decided that **no service** will be provided to people who **don't wear a mask**. The cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** decided that no one will be allowed to enter offices without the mask. It decided that all offices must install notice boards saying '**no mask, no service**' in order to control the spread of COVID 19 virus in the country.

Involving community leaders in the campaign to wear a mask, the Cabinet Secretary said that the government has also talked to the Islamic scholars and religious leaders to publicise this at all mosques through the Imams.

Indian Army launches indigenous mobile application SAI

The **Indian Army** has launched a secured messaging application platform named '**Secure Application for the Internet**' (**SAI**). This mobile application for Android will support end-to-end secure voice, text and video calling services. This application is similar to applications like Telegram and WhatsApp.

According to the Ministry of Defence:

- SAI has been vetted by CERT-in empanelled auditor and Army Cyber Group. It also informed that the process for filing Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) hosting the infrastructure on NIC and working on iOS platform is currently in progress.
- Ministry of Defence also informed that SAI will be used by pan Army to ensure securing messaging.
- Upon reviewing the functionalities of the application, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh praised Col Sai Shankar for his skill and ingenuity for developing the application.

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3rd India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue begins in New Delhi

India is hosting the third **India-US two plus two Ministerial Dialogue** at Hyderabad House in **New Delhi**. The Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** and External Affairs Minister **Dr S. Jaishankar** are leading the Indian delegation. The United States Secretary of State **Mike Pompeo** and Secretary of Defence **Mark Esper** are leading the US delegation. The First two plus two dialogue was held in **New Delhi** in September 2018 and the Second in **Washington DC** in 2019.

Besides, covering all bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest during the third dialogue, the two sides also signed the **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-Spatial Cooperation (BECA)** to further expand the geospatial cooperation between them and improve the accuracy of missile systems of India.

GoI sets up committee to commemorate 400th anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur

The Centre has set up a high-level committee headed by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** to commemorate the **400th** birth anniversary of **Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur**. Union Home Secretary **Ajay Kumar Bhalla** will be the member secretary of the **70-member high-level committee**.

About the committee:

- The committee will look into the approval of policies, plans, programmes and supervision and guiding the commemoration, as well as for deciding dates for detailed programmes of celebration.
- Some of the other members of the committee include former prime minister Manmohan Singh, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Union ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari, Nirmala Sitharaman, Hardeep Singh Puri, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, Chief ministers of Haryana, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha and Rajasthan.

14th Asian Film Awards 2020 announced

The 14th edition of **Asian Film Awards** was organized by the **Asian Film Awards Academy**. Indian Movie Gully Boy has received the award for the Best Original Score at 14th Asian Film Awards. The award went to **Karsh Kale**

and The Salvage Audio Collective. Gully Boy has been directed by Zoya Akhtar. In Gully Boy, Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt played leading roles.

14th Asian Film Awards Winners List:

Award	Name Winner
Best Actor	Lee Byung-hun – The Man Standing Next (South Korea)
Best Actress	Zhou Dongyu – Better Days (China)
Best Cinematography	Dong Jinsong – The Wild Goose Lake
Best Costume Designer	Pacharin Surawatanapongs– Happy Old Year
Best Director	Wang Xiaoshuai for So Long, My Son (China)
Best Editing	Yang Jin-mo – Parasite
Best Film	Parasite (South Korea)
Best Newcomer	Jackson Yee – Better Days
Best New Director	Hikari – 37 Seconds
Best Supporting Actor	Ryo Kase – To the Ends of the Earth
Best Supporting Actress	Ko Shu-chin – A Sun
Best Screenplay	Bong Joon-ho, Han Jin-won – Parasite
Best Original Music	Karsh Kale, The Salvage Audio Collective – Gully Boy
Best Production Design	Ha-jun Lee – Parasite
Best Visual Effects	Tomi Kijo, Renovatio Pictures – Detention
Best Sound	Yoshifumi Kureishi – Listen to the Universe

Banking and Financial Current Affairs

- **Indian Bank** has launched a green initiative named **“IB-eNote”** to enable a total paperless working environment. This tool enables processing and tracking of notes put up by various offices digitally. The bank for this initiative has customised SharePoint, one of the features of Microsoft Office. The Bank also launched **‘Ind Guru’**, an e-learning platform for its employees.

- **ICICI Bank** has launched a debit card facility for the customers availing the **Loan Against Securities (LAS)** from the Bank. The debit card is available on the **Visa platform**. With this launch, ICICI Bank has become the first bank in India to launch such a facility.
- **Axis Bank** has launched a new entry-level credit card named **Axis ACE Credit Card**, with a focus on increasing participation of users in the **digital economy**. It also aims to bring a seamless, digital experience to users from application to issuance. The card has been launched in collaboration with **Google Pay** and will run on **Visa (Signature) platform**.
- India's leading private sector bank, **HDFC Bank** and **Apollo Hospitals** have collaborated to launch the "**HealthyLife Programme**", a holistic healthcare solution. This programme will be launched for HDFC Bank customers, to make healthy living accessible and affordable while making the process convenient and easy for the customers.
- **IDBI Bank** announced the launch of banking services on **WhatsApp**. The WhatsApp Banking service is being offered through a dedicated WhatsApp verified number ensuring end-to-end encryption, the Bank stated.
- **Indian Bank** has introduced an initiative for funding start-ups, '**IND Spring Board**', in collaboration with the **IIT-Madras Incubation Cell (IITMIC)**. The Chennai-headquartered bank seeks to bridge the gap in funding for start-ups through this collaboration with IITMIC.
- **State Bank of India (SBI)** has signed a loan agreement of up to **\$1 billion** with **The Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)**. The loan will facilitate the operations of Japanese car companies in India. The financing will assist in Government of India's '**Make in India**' initiative.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has barred **Payment System Operators (PSOs)** from launching any new **proprietary QR code** for payment transactions. Currently, there are two interoperable QR codes — **UPI QR** and **Bharat QR**. The decision to continue with the two existing **Quick Response (QR) codes** was based on the recommendations of the committee which was set up by the Reserve Bank under the chairmanship of **Deepak Phatak** to review the current system of such codes in India and suggest measures for moving towards interoperable QR codes.

Economy Current Affairs

- The **World Bank** projected India's GDP to contract by **9.6%** this **FY-21**, which is reflective of the national lockdown and the income shock experienced by households and firms due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The World Bank earlier in June had estimated the Indian economy to shrink by **3.2%** in the current fiscal.
- According to 'World Economic Outlook' report, the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has projected the Indian economy to contract by **10.3 per cent** in 2020-21, from its earlier prediction of **4.5 per cent** due to rise in Covid cases. However, IMF estimates the GDP of India to grow at **8.8 per cent** in 2021-22, as compared to **6 per cent** predicted earlier, regaining the position of the fastest-growing emerging economy.

Business Current Affairs

- Finance Minister, **Nirmala Sitharaman** has launched "**MSME Prerana**", an online business mentoring programme for MSMEs by state-run **Indian Bank**. The programme, to be made available in local languages, is aimed at empowering entrepreneurs through skill development and capacity building workshops.
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has raised the banks' maximum aggregate retail exposure limit to entities with turnover up to **Rs 50 crore** to **Rs 7.5 crore**. Earlier this limit was **Rs 5 crore**. The decision has been taken to increase credit flow to **small businesses**.
- **India** and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has signed a **300 million US dollar loan** to finance inclusive and sustainable water supply and sanitation infrastructure and services in 14 secondary towns of the state of Rajasthan. The project aims at providing better quality and more sustainable **Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS)** services in the project towns. It will improve quality of life in these towns, including for the poor and vulnerable after signing the loan agreement.
- The **central government** will borrow **Rs 1.1 lakh crore** under the special window to meet the shortfall of **Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation**. Under the Special Window, the estimated shortfall of Rs 1.1 lakh cr (assuming all States join) will be borrowed by Government of India in appropriate tranches.

- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has constituted a Standing Committee, **Market Data Advisory Committee (MDAC)** to recommend appropriate policy for access to securities market data, identify segment-wise data perimeters, data needs and gaps, recommend data privacy and data access regulations applicable to market data. The committee is headed by **Madhabi Puri Buch**, Whole Time Member, SEBI and has CEOs of stock exchanges and depositories, representatives of various stakeholders and senior officials of SEBI as members.
- **ICICI Bank** has shut down his operations in **Sri Lanka** after getting approval from the **Sri Lankan monetary authority**. The Monetary Board of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, having considered the request made by ICICI Bank, has granted approval to close down the business operation of the bank in Sri Lanka and **cancel the licence issued to it**.
- A leading merchant payment network, **BharatPe** has announced the launch of **digital gold on its platform**. The launch of this new category of fintech product is in line with the company's commitment to offering the entire gamut of financial products to **Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)**.

International Current Affairs

- An **IEEE Spectrum report**, the Beijing-based company is set to send the world's first mining robot named **'asteroid mining robot' into space** by November 2020 to identify and extract resources. The mining robot will be launched into space by a Chinese Long March series rocket.
- The **Kuwaiti** government, headed by Prime Minister(PM) **Sabah Al Khalid Al Sabah** submitted its **resignation** to Emir **Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah** in anticipation of the upcoming general elections that are due to be held in November 2020. He took charge as the PM in **2019**.

- **Russia** successfully test-fired a **Tsirkon hypersonic cruise missile** in the Arctic. The Missile was fired from the Admiral Gorshkov frigate in the White Sea, Russian Arctic. The missile covered a distance of **450 km** with the maximum altitude of its trajectory at **28 km**.
- King of **Jordan, Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein** has appointed **Bishr al-Khasawneh**, policy advisor to the king, as new Prime Minister of the country.
- As part of the **United Nations International Day of Girl Child** (11th October 2020), a 16-year old **Aava Murto** assumed the post of **Finland's Prime Minister** for **one day** on 7th October 2020 to raise awareness about gender equality. It was done as part of the **"Girls Takeover" Program**.
- **Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Asia Pacific Group** has kept **Pakistan** in its **'Enhanced Follow Up' list**. The organisation had downgraded Pakistan status from **"regular follow-up"** to **"enhanced follow up"**.
- Kyrgyzstan President, **Sooronbai Jeenbekov** has resigned from his post, following 10 days of unrest caused by protesters who have demanded his removal from office. On 4th October 2020, he was re-elected as the President in Parliamentary election, causing political turmoil throughout the country.
- The **Prime Minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern**, won a landslide victory in the country's general election, to be elected as the PM for the second consecutive **three-year term**.
- **Singapore** became the **World's First Country** to attach **Facial verification** in the **National Identification Database**. The function is called **"SingPass Face Verification"**. This technology is being rolled out to the city-state's SingPass digital identity scheme, offering access to no less than 400 online services, including tax declarations and public housing applications.
- Former Lebanese Prime Minister, **Saad al-Hariri** has been re-appointed to the post, after winning a slim majority of votes in parliament election. Hariri received **65 parliamentary** votes out of 118, giving him the mandate to form his new government. In October 2019, Hariri announced his resignation amid 2019-20 mass-protests.
- **Andorra** has joined the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, to become its **190th member**. Andorra is a microstate situated between France and Spain. However, it is the largest microstate in Europe.

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- The global terror financing watchdog, **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** has announced that **Pakistan** will continue to remain on its grey list till **February 2021**. This decision has been taken since Pakistan has not been able to fulfil six out of the 27 mandates to check terror funding. FATF has strongly urged Pakistan to swiftly complete its full action plan by February 2021.
- Indian-origin **Wavel Ramkalawan** has been elected as the President of **Seychelles**. Seychelles has elected an opposition candidate as president for the first time since 1977. He has defeated the incumbent **Danny Faure**. Ramakalwan is a priest of Indian Origin whose grandfather came from Gopalganj, Bihar.
- The **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** alliance, plans to build a headquarters for **space operations** at its airbase in **Ramstein in Germany**, to counter a rising Russian and Chinese threat.
- **Alpha Condé**, the incumbent president of Guinea and leader of Rally of the Guinean People (Rassemblement du Peuple Guinéen – RPG) party won the **3rd term** as the President of Guinea by winning the 2020 presidential elections. He won the election against **Cellou Dalein Diallo** with 59.49 % votes. Diallo got 33.5% votes in the election. Winning the 2020 elections, Alpha Condé is set to govern the country for the **next 6 years**.
- **Luis Arce** has been chosen as the President-elect of **Bolivia**, after winning a landslide victory in the **2020 Bolivian general election**. He captured **55.1%** of the total votes. Arce will take the charge of the office on 8 November 2020. He would succeed **Jeanine Anez**, who is serving as the interim President of Bolivia.
- **Japanese Prime Minister, Yoshihide Suga** has stated that the country will achieve zero **carbon emissions** by **2050**. The Prime Minister stated he intends to make a sustainable economy a pillar of his growth strategy and put maximum effort into achieving a green society.
- The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has announced a special **refinance facility of Rs 800 crore** for **Fiscal Year 2021**. With this, NABARD will support the Government of India's **Water, Sanitisation and Hygiene (WASH) programme**.
- **India and Myanmar** are working towards the operationalization of the **Sittwe port** in the **Rakhine state of Myanmar** in the first quarter of **2021**. The port is part of the Kaladan multi-modal transit transport project which is being viewed as India's gateway to Southeast Asia.
- Union Minister of Textiles, **Smriti Irani** has launched the first-ever Brand and Logo for **Indian Cotton** on Second World Cotton Day through video conferencing. Now India's premium cotton would be known as '**Kasturi Cotton**' in the world cotton trade. The Kasturi Cotton brand will represent Whiteness, Brightness, Softness, Purity, Luster, Uniqueness and Indianness.
- The **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs** will integrate the application programming interface (API) between **SVANidhi portal** and various banks to expedite loan sanctioning and disbursement process under Modi government's PM SVANidhi scheme for nano entrepreneurs.
- To begin with, the ministry launched the API integration between the **PM SVANidhi portal** and **SBI's eMudra portal**. Ministry would perform similar integration with other banks as well for which a consultative meeting will be held shortly.
- The Union Minister **Piyush Goyal** has been assigned the additional charge of **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** in addition to his existing portfolios, following the death of union minister **Ram Vilas Paswan**. Goyal is currently serving as the **Union Minister of Railways and Minister of Commerce and Industry**.
- The **Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank)** on behalf of the Government of India has extended a Line of Credit (LoC) of **USD 400 million** (about Rs 2,932 crore) to the **Maldives**. The soft loan will be used for financing the **Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP)** in the Maldives, which is the single-largest connectivity and infrastructure project in the island nation.

National Current Affairs

- The Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, **Kiren Rijiju** has launched the new logo of **Sports Authority of India's (SAI)** on 30 September 2020 at Delhi's Major Dhyani Chand Stadium.

- Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, **Narendra Modi** has approved the implementation of the **Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS)** project. The total project cost is **Rs 5718 crore** with the financial support of World Bank amounting to the USD 500 million (approximately **Rs. 3700 crores**). The project will cover 6 states namely **Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Odisha**.
- **India and France** were re-elected as the **president and co-president** of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** for a term of **two years** at the virtual meeting of the third assembly.
- **India** has contributed **one million dollars** to the **United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)** for **Palestine Refugees** in Near East. This aid will support the Agency's programmes and services, including education, health care, relief and social services.
- The **Election Commission of India** has set up a 2-member committee to examine the issue of revising the expenditure limit for candidates for **Lok Sabha** and assembly polls. The committee will comprise of **Shri Harish Kumar, Ex. IRS and DG (Investigation), Shri Umesh Sinha, Secretary-General and DG (Expenditure)**.
- The country's largest para-military force, **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** has collaborated with **IIT Delhi, Defence Research and Development Organisation, and Joint Advanced Technology Centre (JATC)** to augment its **Research and Development capabilities**.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the **Government of India** have signed a loan agreement worth **USD 177 million**, to upgrade **450 km** of state highways and major district roads in **Maharashtra**.
- The Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, **Nitin Gadkari** virtually laid the foundation stone for the first-ever **multi-modal logistic park of India**, at **Jogighopa**, in **Bongaigaon district of Assam**.
- In India, the **National Police Commemoration Day** is observed on **21st October** every year. The day is marked to remember and honour the brave policemen who have laid down their lives in the line of duty. On **21 October 1959**, twenty Indian soldiers were attacked by Chinese troops in **Ladakh's Hot Spring area**, in which, ten Indian policemen lost their lives and seven were imprisoned.
- **India** has assumed the **Chairmanship** of the Governing Body of **International Labour Organization (ILO)**, after a gap of **35 years**. The Labour and Employment Secretary, **Apurva Chandra**, has been elected as the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the ILO for the period **October 2020- June 2021**.
- **NITI Aayog** has constituted a 14-member advisory committee to look into introducing reforms in the **urban planning education system**. The panel will be headed by NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman **Rajiv Kumar**. The members of the committee include **Amitabh Kant**, CEO of NITI Aayog and secretaries of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Ministry of Education (MoE) and Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (I/C), **Prahlad Singh Patel** has virtually launched the "**Life in Miniature**" project, a collaboration between the National Museum, New Delhi, Ministry of Culture, and Google Arts & culture.
- **Department of Posts (DOP)**, Ministry of Communications released a commemorative **postage stamp** on the **75th anniversary of the United Nations Organisations**. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson, **Anurag Srivastava** stated India attaches the highest priority to the expansion of the UN Security Council so that it reflects contemporary realities of the world.
- The **Vigilance Awareness Week 2020**, is being celebrated from **27 October to 2 November 2020**. The is observed every year by the **Central Vigilance Commission** during the week in which the birthday of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (31 October)** falls. The theme for 2020 Vigilance Awareness Week is **Vigilant India, Prosperous India (Satark Bharat, Samridhh Bharat)**.
- Every year, **October 27** is celebrated as **Infantry Day** by the Indian Army in Jammu & Kashmir (known by the nickname, **Chinar Corps**). The Chinar Corps celebrated the **74th** Infantry Day on October 27, 2020, to honour the supreme sacrifice of the gallant soldiers in fighting the Pakistani invaders, in Jammu and Kashmir, in **1947**.
- The Union Minister of State for Shipping (I/C), **Mansukh Mandaviya** has inaugurated the '**Direct Port Entry (DPE) facility**' of **V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust in Tamil Nadu**. This will help in increasing Ease of Doing Business for the exporters, as the facility will bring efficiency and reduce dwell time, lower tariff cost and improve the competitiveness of shipper in the international trade.

- The Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, **Arjun Munda** has launched two **Centers of Excellence (CoE)** for Tribal Welfare in a collaboration between **Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA)** and **Art of Living (AoL)** through video conference. The first CoE has been launched in **Aurangabad district of Maharashtra** for training about 10000 tribal farmers in the field of sustainable natural farming based on Go-Adharith farming techniques. Farmers will be helped in getting the Organic certification and marketing opportunities to make each of them Atmanirbhar Tribal Farmers.
- **PM Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the **4th India Energy Forum** by **CERAWEEK** organised by **HIS Markit**. The theme of this edition is “**India’s Energy Future in a World of Change**”. India is the third-largest and the fastest-growing aviation market in terms of domestic aviation and Indian carriers are projected to increase their fleet size from **600 to 1200 by 2024**.
- The state government of **Gujarat** has announced a ‘**Digital Seva Setu**’ programme to ensure optimum utilisation of technology for **public welfare in rural areas**. The program has been initiated under the **Centre’s BharatNet Project**.
- **Meghalaya government** has entered into a partnership with **Israel** to establish a one of a kind **Centre of Excellence(CoE)** on high-value vegetables in the state to improve and promote the livelihoods of farmers. CoE is important for tapping the diverse biodiversity and available resources in the state in terms of its soil and agro-climatic condition.
- The **Uttar Pradesh government** has signed a concession agreement with representatives of **Zurich Airport International** for designing, building and operating **Noida International Airport at Jewar** for a period of 40 years. The airport will be developed as a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and is scheduled to open in 2024.
- The 'concession agreement' for the Greenfield airport, estimated to cost **Rs 29,560 crores**, was inked between the Uttar Pradesh government's agency and the **Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL)**, a special purpose vehicle floated by the Zurich Airport for the project.
- Uttarakhand Chief Minister, **Trivendra Singh Rawat** has launched the "**Mukhya Mantri Saur Swarojgar Yojana**" at the Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali Auditorium in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. The scheme is aimed at promoting self-employment of the youth and promoting the **production of Green Energy**.
- According to the data provided by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti, Goa** has become the first “**Har Ghar Jal**” State in the country by providing tap water connection to every rural household. The state provided tap water connection to **2 lakh 30 thousand rural households** in all the **191 Gram Panchayats** of the state.

States Current Affairs

- Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers **Shri. D.V. Sadananda Gowda** has launched **POS 3.1 software, SMS Gateway** and **Home Delivery facility** of Fertilizers (**RBK**) for farmers in **Andhra Pradesh**.
- **Gujarat Government** has signed a 5-year **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with Denmark in the water sector. The state government arm **Gujarat Water Supply and Sewerage Board** has signed the MoU with ‘**Danish Water Forum**’ through an online interactive platform. This MoU will help in technology exchange, training, capacity building, knowledge exchange, cooperation in water supply, wastewater treatment- reuse and water management between the two organizations.
- Chief Minister of **Assam** has launched a portal “**Kritagyata**”, an online **pension submission and tracking system**. It has been launched to lend convenience to the pensioners to dispose off their pension related claims.
- **West Bengal** government has launched the “**Pathashree Abhijan**” scheme. It is a **road repair scheme**, where more than 7,000 stretches of roads comprising 12,000 kilometers across the state will be repaired in a mission mode and in a time-bound manner.

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- **Andhra Pradesh** Chief Minister, **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** has launched a new scheme named the '**Jagananna Vidya Kanuka**' scheme to distribute school kits among the poor children of the state. The state shall spend around **Rs 650 crore** towards the scheme. **42,34,322 kits** will be distributed across the state under the scheme.
- Chief Minister, **Pinarayi Vijayan** has declared the state public education sector **completely digital** as **Kerala** has become the first state in the country to have **high-tech classrooms in all its public schools**.
- **Haryana government** has launched a **mobile water testing laboratory van**, fully equipped with a multi-parameter system containing analysers, sensor, probes and instruments meant for assessing water quality.
- The **Goa Government** has tied up with **India Post** to get **11,000 farmers** enrolled in the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sanman Nidhi scheme**. This is the first such exercise in India to enrol farmers in the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, whereby the postman will be utilised to benefit farmers.
- Chief Minister of Odisha, **Naveen Patnaik** has inaugurated "**Sujal**", '**Drink from Tap Mission**' scheme, to provide round the clock supply of quality tap drinking water in all urban areas of the state.
- **Gujarat government** has signed a pact with **Vedanta Group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL)** to set up a **greenfield zinc smelter in the state**. This facility will entail an investment of **Rs 5000- 10,000 crore** in phases, creating more than 5,000 direct and indirect jobs and will be operational by **2022**. The proposed **300 (kilo tonnes per annum)** production capacity project would provide big employment opportunities to the local youths in this tribal area.
- The **IIT-Madras** incubated dairy-tech startup, "**Stellapps**" has launched a first-of-its-kind, fully-automated direct payment platform, '**mooPay**', for dairy farmers in **Rajasthan**. The Digital technology solutions provider Stellapps is a first of its kind end-to-end dairy technology solutions company of India. It is also one of the technology pioneers of the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**.
- **Kati Bihu** is one of the sets of three **Bihu festivals (agricultural festivals)** was celebrated in the state of **Assam**. The Kati Bihu is also known as Kangali Bihu, the festival of the poor (**the word "Kongal" means "poor"**) is celebrated in mid-October when the crops are at growing stage and the granaries of the farmers are depleting.
- **Uttar Pradesh (UP) Governor, Anandiben Patel** has launched "**Safe City Project**" – a women's safety campaign in Lucknow, UP. The UP Governor flagged off **100 pink scooters and 10 four-wheeler police vehicles** as part of the campaign. The vehicles are equipped with first-aid kits, flashlights and other facilities.
- **Odisha Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik** has launched the electricity consumer service portal "**Mo Bidyut**" and a mobile app through video conference. The bilingual online electricity integrated consumer service portal **www.mobidyut.com** developed by the Energy Department and dedicated to the public under 5T (Teamwork, Transparency, Technology, Time leading to Transformation) initiative of the state government.
- **Asan Conservation Reserve** has become **Uttarakhand's first Ramsar site**, making it a '**Wetland of International Importance**', announced the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**. The Reserve is located on the banks of **Yamuna river** near Dehradun district in Garhwal region of the Himalayan state.
- The Chief Minister of **Andhra Pradesh, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** has launched '**YSR Bima**', a scheme to provide financial assistance through insurance cover to the beneficiary in case of death or accident of their families members.
- The state government of **Tamil Nadu** has launched the **Smart Black Board scheme** in 80,000 government schools of the state. The initiative aims to ensure a better teaching environment as well as lead towards **Digital India and Atmanirbhar Bharat**.
- **Uttarakhand Chief Minister, Trivendra Singh Rawat** has inaugurated **Integrated Model Agricultural Village scheme (Ekikrit Adarsh Krishi Gram Yojana)** in the state in partnership with **NABARD**.
- **Union Ministry of Rural Development** has declared the list of top-performing 30 districts in the country for implementing the PMGSY programme. **Himachal Pradesh's, Mandi district** has bagged top position among **30 districts** of the country in the successful implementation of **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)**. Himachal Pradesh has also secured the **second position** at the **national level for construction of roads under PMGSY**.

- India's first **sand dune parks and interpretation centres** are set to be developed in **Goa**. World Bank has sanctioned around **Rs.3 crore** under the programme. The Goa state biodiversity board has proposed the project, which will be implemented with financial assistance from the World Bank.
- **Uttar Pradesh** Government has decided to establish **anti-human trafficking Police Stations** in each and every district in a major step towards the security of women and children. These Police Stations will be given enough powers to register the case and investigate the matter independently.
- The **Young Advocates Welfare Fund** has been launched in **Tamil Nadu**. The Young Advocates Welfare Scheme is aimed at helping such fresh candidates to withstand the initial challenges. It provides monthly financial assistance of **three thousand rupees** each for two years to the lawyers who just come out of law colleges.
- **Kerala** becomes the first state in the country to fix the **floor price for vegetables**. The floor price will be **20 per cent** above the production cost of the vegetable. Even if the market price goes below the floor price, the product will be procured at the floor price from the farmers. This is the first time in the country that the floor price is being fixed for vegetables produced in the state.
- Odisha Chief Minister, **Naveen Patnaik** has launched two web portals named '**Odisha State Scholarship Portal**' and '**Sumangal Portal**'. The former portal is to help eligible students of the state to avail scholarship benefits in a seamless and transparent manner, while the latter one is to help people avail inter-caste marriage incentives.
- **Telangana** Chief Minister, **K Chandrasekhar Rao** has launched the web portal '**Dharani**' for land and property registrations. The state government will now undertake all the property transactions, including registrations and mutations, through a web portal.
- **Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda** has launched the **Tribal Entrepreneurship Development Programme**. The three-year initiative has been jointly launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), an apex industry body. The initiative will develop the potential of the tribal communities and building their capacities to enhance their contribution in socio-economic growth.
- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** has launched an online discovery platform for startups called "**Startup India Showcase**". The main aim of this website is to make a repository of India's most promising startups that have proved their capabilities, from across sectors such as **fintech, enterprise tech, social impact, health tech, and edutech, among others**.
- Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister, **Hardeep Singh Puri** has launched the '**e-Dharti Geo Portal**' to integrate legacy drawings such as **maps and lease plans** in the **management information system** and make its **geographic information system (GIS)**-enabled.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has launched the programme of physical distribution of **Property Cards** under the **SVAMITVA** scheme through video conferencing. The **Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA)** is a Central Sector Scheme, which was launched in April 2020 to provide the 'record of rights to document the residential properties' to village household owners in rural areas and issue Property Cards.
- Union Education Minister, **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has virtually launched the campaign '**KAPILA**', which stands for **Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness campaign** on 15th October 2020. The day was launched in honour of 89th birth anniversary celebration of former President **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam**.

Schemes/Committees

- Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment **Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot** e-launched the "**Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM)**". The mission has been launched under the **Venture Capital Fund** for Scheduled Castes (**SCs**) in order to promote innovation and enterprise among SC students studying in higher educational institutions.

Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- **Tata Steel** and Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (**CSIR**) have signed an **MoU** to collaborate in the area of **Carbon Capture, Utilisation & Storage (CCUS)**. The MoU has been signed considering the importance of Carbon Capture, Utilisation & Storage

(CCUS) in India's fight against Climate Change and Global Warming, meeting the growing energy demands and building a strong ecosystem to meet commitments under Paris Agreement.

- **Yes Bank** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** to empower the SME segment through awareness and knowledge-sharing programmes.
- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** has entered into an MoU with "**Swiggy**", one of the leading food delivery platforms, to onboard street food vendors on its e-commerce platform. The MoU aims at giving the street food vendors online access to thousands of consumers and help them grow their businesses. The arrangement has been facilitated under the **Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNidhi Scheme (PM SVANidhi)**.
- According to **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the **Indian Sign Language Research and Training Center (ISLRTC)** and the **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** to make educational materials accessible for hearing impaired children.
- **Axis Bank** in partnership with India's full-service carrier, **Vistara** launched a Co-Branded Forex Card, '**Axis Bank Club Vistara Forex Card**' to cater to the needs of international travellers.
- **Amazon India** has partnered with '**Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation**' (IRCTC), to provide its customers with the facility to book reserved train tickets on Amazon. With this launch, the e-commerce company's digital payments arm Amazon Pay adds another travel category, thereby offering its customers a one-stop-shop for booking flights, bus and train tickets.



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- **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has inked three **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **State Bank of India (SBI)** to extend credit support for various NABARD projects. The MoUs were signed for **financing joint liability groups, Self-Help Groups-support credit inflows to Farmer Producers' Organizations** and **economic support for watershed development projects**. These will help in providing credit support to the different sections of the society including the priority sector.
- An online payment processing service, **Amazon Pay** and a technology company that offers vehicles for hire, **Uber**, announced a partnership to push digital payments in India. This Partnership will integrate Amazon Pay as a payment option on the Uber app.
- **Microsoft** and **All India Council For Technical Education (AICTE)** have partnered to empower students and educators in new-age technologies. This technology including **artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), data science and cloud computing**.
- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has entered into a tie-up with **Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM)**, whereby the bank will be one of the preferred financiers for the entire range of vehicles sold by the latter. India's third-largest public sector bank, in a statement, stated that under the tie-up, customers can avail customised solutions such as high on-road funding of 90 per cent, long repayment period of 84 months, no prepayment or foreclosure charges. On the other hand, TKM dealers will benefit from '**digitised supply chain finance**' with competitive interest rates.
- **Mastercard** has entered into a partnership with **Atlantis** to expand the **Digital First Program** in India. The partnership aims to provide the users of Mastercard, a technology solution that enables them to enjoy a best-in-class digital banking experience.
- **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** has signed an agreement with **Inventivepreneur Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ICCI)** to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups, and promote their listing on the exchange.
- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jodhpur** and **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to share expertise for the betterment of highway infrastructure.

- **Indian Posts & US Postal Service** entered into an agreement for the **electronic exchange of customs data** related to postal shipments. It will enable to transmit & receive electronic data of international postal items prior to their physical arrival.
- The **SBI Card** in association with the **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation** launched a contactless multi-purpose card that can function as a **credit card** and as a **metro smart card**. The credit card Delhi Metro SBI Card is designed for regular commuters on Delhi Metro.
- **Microsoft** has collaborated with the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** to impart digital skills to more than **one lakh underserved women** in India over the next ten months. This initiative is an extension of Microsoft's partnership with NSDC to provide digital skills to over 1 lakh youth in the country.
- The **Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K)** and the **Archaeological Survey of India** have signed an agreement with **two institutions from Italy**, seeking restoration and protection of historical monuments.
- **Nilesh Shah** has been re-elected as the Chairman of **Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)**. He was earlier elected as the Chairman for **2019 – 2020**.
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has extended the term of **Rajesh Kumar(R.K.) Chhibber** as **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of **Jammu & Kashmir Bank** for another 6 months, effective from October 10, 2020, or till the appointment of Managing Director(MD) and Chief Executive Officer(CEO), whichever is earlier.
- **BharatPe** has announced the launch of its high impact TV campaign starring **'Team BharatPe'** with 11 Cricket stars as brand ambassadors. Team BharatPe includes **Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, KL Rahul, Mohammed Shami, Ravindra Jadeja, Suresh Raina, Shreyas Iyer, Prithvi Shaw, Sanju Samson, Yuzvendra Chahal, and Shubhman Gill**.
- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has extended the tenure of state-run **National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd**, chairman and managing director, **Gurdeep Singh** till 31 July 2025. He had first assumed the charge of utility's chairman and managing director in February 2016.
- **Vishal V. Sharma** has been appointed as the next Permanent Representative of India to the **Permanent Delegation of India** to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**), with the rank of Ambassador. He will replace **Jawed Ashraf**.

Appointments/Resignations (National & International)

- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has appointed **Charanjit Singh Attra** as its new Chief **Financial Officer (CFO)** with effect from 01 October 2020. The post was lying vacant after the former Deputy MD & CFO **Prashant Kumar**, was appointed as the CEO of Yes Bank in March 2020.
- The government of India has appointed **Dinesh Kumar Khara** as the new **Chairman of State Bank of India** for a period of three years. His appointment is effective from October 7.
- Senior IPS officer, **M A Ganapathy** has been appointed as the **Director-General of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)**. He is a 1986 batch IPS officer of Uttarakhand cadre. The post of BCAS chief fell vacant after **Rakesh Asthana** was appointed as the Director-General of Border Security Force in August.
- **J Venkatramu** has been appointed the **managing director and chief executive officer** of **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)**. He will succeed **Suresh Sethi**, who served the post till March 2020.
- **Dr Michael Irani** of Great Britain (GBR) has been appointed as the **Interim President** of the **International Weightlifting Federation(IWF)**, at the meeting of the IWF Executive Board, in accordance with the constitution of IWF. Michael Irani was appointed following the resignation of IWF President **Tamás Aján**.
- Advocate **Rohan Jaitley**, the son of late Union Minister **Arun Jaitley**, has been elected unopposed as the **President of the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA)**.
- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** has approved the extension of the tenure of Home Secretary, **Ajay Kumar Bhalla** till August 22, **2021**. Bhalla, a 1984 batch IAS officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre, was appointed as Home Secretary in August 2019. He was to superannuate on **November 30, 2020**.

- Indian diplomat **Dr Neena Malhotra**, 1992-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, appointed as next Ambassador to the **Republic of San Marino**. She will have a residence in Rome. Presently, she is serving as the Ambassador of India to the **Republic of Italy**.
- **Sushil Kumar Singhal**, a 2000-batch IFS officer, has been concurrently accredited as the next High Commissioner of India to the **Solomon Islands**. He is presently serving as the High Commissioner of India to the Independent State of **Papua New Guinea**.
- **Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports (FIFS)** has announced the appointment of **Bimal Julka** as its **Chairman**. In his new role, Julka will work closely with all the stakeholders to further strengthen the operating standards of the Indian fantasy sports industry. Julka is taking over from **John Loffhagen**, who served as the Chairman of FIFS for over three years.
- The Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of **HDFC Bank**, **Aditya Puri** has stepped down, after **25 years** of a highly successful career at India's largest private sector lender. **Sashidhar Jagdishan** has been appointed as the new chief executive and managing director of the HDFC Bank w.e.f. **27 October 2020**.

Ranks and Reports

- The **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** Chairman **Mukesh Ambani**, has topped the **Forbes India Rich list for 2020**. The tycoon added **\$37.3 billion** to his net worth, to bring his total fortune to **\$88.7 billion**, a rise of **73%** over the previous year. The second spot has been retained by Adani Group Chairman **Gautam Adani**, with a net worth of **\$25.2 billion**. Tech tycoon **Shiv Nadar** acquired the third spot with a net worth of **\$20.4 billion**.
- **India** has been ranked **129** among **158 countries** in the 2020 **Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index**. The third edition of the index focuses on Fighting Inequality in the time of **COVID-19**. The 2020 CRI index has been topped by **Norway**. **South Sudan** is the lowest ranking country in the index at 158th position.
- **India** has been ranked at **4th position**, with a score of **39.7** out of **100**, in the Asia Power Index 2020, released by the **Sydney-based Lowy Institute**. The Asia Power Index 2020 ranks **26** countries and territories to assess the relative power of states in Asia. The **United States** has retained its position as

the most powerful country influencing the Asia-Pacific with a score of 81.6. It is followed by **China** (76.1) and **Japan** (41) at second and third spot respectively.

- **India** has acquired the **second rank** in terms of the number of migrants going to the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** countries and acquiring the citizenship of those countries. **China** retained its top spot with 4.3 lakh migrants, which was 1 per cent lower than the **2019 report**.
- **Uttar Pradesh** has emerged as the top destination for attracting the highest number of domestic tourists visiting the state in **2019 as per the Indian Tourism Statistics (ITS) 2020**, released by the **Ministry of Tourism**. In terms of Foreign tourists, **Tamil Nadu** has topped the list with nearly 68 lakh foreigners visiting the state in 2019.
- **National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC)** has featured on the top on the list of Indian PSUs under the '**World's Best Employer 2020**', published by **Forbes**.
- **South Korea** based electronics conglomerate, **Samsung Electronics** has topped the list of '**World's Best Employer 2020**' published by **Forbes**. **Amazon, IBM, Microsoft and LG** are among the top 5 in the list respectively. The global list features 750 multinational and large corporations headquartered in 45 countries. From India, **HCL Technologies** is the top industry in the list. It is placed at the **30th** position globally. In the Banking sector, **HDFC Bank** is top from India. It is at **176th** position.

Sports Current Affairs

- Australian woman cricketer and wicketkeeper, **Alyssa Healy** broke the record of "**Most Dismissal by Wicket Keeper**" by **MS Dhoni's** who made **91** dismissals in 98 T20 Internationals (T20Is) for India.
- India's **Visnu Shivaraj Pandian** has won the 10m air rifle event at the fifth edition of the **International Online Shooting Championship**. The 16-year-old Visnu shot 251.4 to win the title by a clear margin of two points. The world No. 27 **Etienne Germond** of France came second followed by **Martin Strempl** of Austria at third place.
- **Lewis Hamilton** (Mercedes-Great Britain) has won the **2020 Eifel Grand Prix**, held at the **Nürburgring** in **Nürburg, Germany**. **Max Verstappen** (Red Bull – Netherlands) came second followed by **Daniel Ricciardo** (Renault, Australia) at third position.

- The **Los Angeles Lakers** defeated the **Miami Heat** to win the **National Basketball Association (NBA) Championship 2020**. This is the **17th** NBA title win for LA Lakers and also their first since 2010, after late Kobe Bryant's fifth and final title a decade ago. **LeBron James** of the Lakers' was named the NBA Finals **Most Valuable Player (MVP)** for the fourth time in his career.
- Romania's 2008 Olympic champion, **Constantina Dita** has been named an ambassador for the **World Athletics Half Marathon Championships Gdynia 2020**. The 2020 World Athletics Half Marathon Championships, originally scheduled for 29 March 2020 in **Gdynia, Poland**, was postponed until 17 October 2020, due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- Commonwealth Games medallist in Badminton, **Chetan Anand** has been roped in as the brand ambassador for India's first-ever homegrown professional badminton brand "**Transform**".
- Pakistani pace bowler, **Umar Gul** has announced that he will retire from **all forms of cricket**. The 36-year-old Gul, who played his last match for Pakistan an ODI in 2016, featured for **Balochistan team** in the National T20 Cup.
- In Badminton, former World Champion **Nozomi Okuhara** of Japan clinched the **Denmark Open 2020** title beating three-time world champion **Carolina Marin** in women's singles. In the men's singles final, world number seven **Anders Antonsen** of Denmark defeated his compatriot **Rasmus Gemke**.
- In Shooting, the world number one **Elavenil Valarivan** of India won the gold medal in women's event of the **2020 Sheikh Russel International Air Rifle Championship**. The event was organised by **Bangladesh Shooting Sport Federation (BSSF)**.
- **Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain)** has won the **2020 Portuguese Grand Prix**, held at Algarve International Circuit, Portugal. This was the 12th round of the 2020 Formula One World Championship. This is Hamilton's **8th win** of the season and 92nd career race victory.
- **Tanmay Manoj Srivastava**, who was part of India's Under-19 World Cup-winning team in 2008 announced his retirement from all forms of domestic cricket. He played 90 first-class games, scoring **4918 runs**.

Summits And Conferences

- The **12th BRICS Summit** is scheduled to be held on **17th November 2020** via video conference. This is the first time in the history of the forum that the meeting will be held virtually, due to the global COVID pandemic. The Summit is being held under the Chairmanship of **Russia**. The theme of the Meeting of the Leaders of BRICS countries is "**BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth**".
- Quad Countries' Foreign Minister meet held in **Tokyo, Japan**. All four Quad countries the **United States, Japan, India and Australia** to hold bilateral discussions over "**Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)**" initiative amid coronavirus pandemic. This is the second Quad FM meeting. The first was held in 2019.
- The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** will hold its **Annual Meeting 2021** in **Lucerne-Burgenstock, Switzerland**, from May 18 to 21, as against the traditional venue of the **ski resort town, Davos** in January-end. The change in schedule and venue was necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Annual Meeting 2021 in Lucerne-Burgenstock will be held around the theme of "**The Great Reset**". The meeting will focus on the solutions required to address the world's most pressing challenges.
- The first-ever virtual **G20 (Group of Twenty) Youth 20 (Y20) Global Summit** was virtually hosted from **Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia** for exchanging ideas and dialogues for the empowerment of youth Post COVID, where Indian side was represented by Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, **Kiren Rijju**.

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- The **18th** meeting of **Prosecutors General of SCO** was held on 20 October 2020, via video conference. **India** was represented by the **Solicitor General Tushar Mehta**. During the meeting, all the prosecutors agreed to strengthen cooperation in preventing and combating corruption, mutual legal assistance and exchange of regulatory legal acts.
- The **6th BRICS Parliamentary Forum** has been organised virtually under the chairmanship of **Vyacheslav Volodin**, the Chairman of **Russian Parliament**. The Indian Parliamentary Delegation is being led by Lok Sabha Speaker, **Om Birla** and also consists of Member of Lok Sabha **Kanimozhi Karunanidhi**.
- **India** hosted the **19th Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** Ministers of Foreign Economy and Foreign Trade. The virtual meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Commerce and Industry of India **Shri Piyush Goyal**. It was attended by the Secretary-General of SCO **Vladimir Norov** and Ministers from **Kyrgyz Republic, China, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan** and **Uzbekistan**.
- The second meeting of the **India-Central Asia Dialogue** was held virtually, under the chairmanship of the External Affairs Minister of India **Dr S Jaishankar**. The foreign minister of all the five Central Asian countries- **Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan**- participated in the meeting. During the meeting, India extends \$1 bn credit line to Central Asian countries.
- Noted Odia poet, **Nityanand Nayak** will be conferred the prestigious **Sarala Puraskar** for his poetry work '**Setebelaku Nathiba**', published in **2017**.
- Britain's **Prince William** and Naturalist **David Attenborough** have launched an "Earthshot Prize", with an aim to encourage change and support to repair the planet. The Earth shot Prize aims to "incentivize change and help to repair our planet over the next 10 years," and "turn pessimism into optimism" by rewarding innovative solutions to environmental problems.
- "**Bank of Ghana**" has won the **Central bank of the year award 2020**. Apart from this, **Mark Carney** (Governor of the Bank of England) has won the **Governor of the year** at the Central bank of the year award 2020.
- A 23-year-old, Mumbai based girl, **Aishwarya Sridhar** became the **first Indian woman** to win the **2020 Wildlife Photographer of the Year award**. It is the **56th** year of the prestigious award. Her image titled '**Lights of passion**', won among 50,000 entries from over 80 countries across the world.
- UK-based Indian-origin plastic surgeon, **Dr Jajini Varghese** has been named an '**Outstanding Young Person of the World 2020**' by a non-profit NGO for her "incredible" scientific contributions to diagnosing and treating breast cancer.
- India-assisted **Mangdechhu Hydroelectric project** in **Bhutan** has been awarded the **Brunel Medal-2020**, an award conferred by the **UK's top engineering body**, Institute of Civil Engineers.
- The **National Academy of Medical Sciences (India)** has selected the Principal Scientist, Division of Molecular Parasitology and Immunology, (CSIR-CDRI)-Lucknow, **Dr Satish Mishra** for "**Dr.Tulsi Das Chugh Award 2020**". He is awarded for his research work on Malaria parasite's life cycle which is a complex process involving two hosts and three invasive stages.
- A six-year-old Bangladeshi boy, **Anzar Mustaeen Ali** won a special prize of USD 1000 for his artwork in the global art competition organised by the **Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR)**.
- Late Indian actor, **Om Puri** was honoured with a **Lifetime Achievement Award** at the third edition of the **India International Film Festival of Boston (IIFFB 2020)**. The award was received by his wife **Nandita Puri**. The three-day film festival, based in Boston USA. Another highlight of the festival was a conversation with chef **Vikas Khanna**, recipient of the "**Pride of India Award**".

Awards & Recognition

- The **Right Livelihood Award Foundation** has announced the four winners of the **2020 Right Livelihood Award 2020** which is also known as the alternative Nobel Prize in Stockholm. The four activists **Ales Bialiatski** of Belarus, **Nasrin Sotoudeh** of Iran, **Bryan Stevenson** of the United States(US) and **Lottie Cunningham Wren** of Nicaragua shared the 2020 award for their contribution towards **equality, democracy, justice and freedom**.
- The **Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC)** has presented the **lifetime achievement award** to business icon **Ratan Tata** for his pioneering role in the Business Relations of India-USA and for his lifetime achievement in Global Leadership. This award was announced in the virtual event of IACC "**COVID Crusader Award-2020**".

Important Days

- **International Day of Older Persons** is observed globally on **1st October** every year. The year 2020 marks the **75th Anniversary** of the United Nations and the **30th Anniversary** of the International Day of Older Persons. The theme of International Day of Older Persons 2020: **Pandemics: Do They Change How We Address Age and Ageing?**
- The **International Day of Non-Violence** is observed on **2nd October**, the birthday of **Mahatma Gandhi**, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence. The International Day is an occasion to “disseminate the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness”. This day is referred to as **Gandhi Jayanti** in India.
- **World Teachers’ Day** is observed globally on **5th October** since **1994**. In 2020, World Teachers’ Day will celebrate teachers with the theme “**Teachers: Leading in crisis, reimagining the future**”.
- The United Nations designated the **first Monday of October** as **World Habitat Day**. In 2020, the World Habitat Day is being celebrated on **5th October**. The theme for 2020 World Habitat Day is “**Housing For All — A Better Urban Future**” as a proper place to live has become important more than ever.
- **Wildlife Week** is annually celebrated across India between **2nd to 8th October** with an aim to protect and preserve the flora and fauna of India. Wildlife Week 2020 marks the **66th Wildlife Week** which is celebrated under the theme **RoarR (Roar and Revive) – Exploring Human-Animal Relationships**.
- **World Cotton Day (WCD)** is observed globally on **7th October** since 2019. The international day aims to celebrate the advantages of cotton, ranging from its qualities as a natural fibre to the benefits people obtain from its production, transformation, trade and consumption.
- **World Post Day** is observed on **9th October** every year. World Post Day is celebrated each year on 9 October, the anniversary of the establishment of the **Universal Postal Union** in **1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern**.
- **World Mental Health Day** is observed globally on **10th October** every year. This year’s theme set by the **World Federation for Mental Health** is ‘**mental health for all**’.
- In India, the **National Postal Day** is celebrated annually on **10 October**, as an extension of **World Post Day**, which is celebrated on **9 October**.
- The **Department of Posts** is celebrating **National Postal Week** from **9-15 October 2020**, to mark the occasion of the **World Postal Day**.
- **World Migratory Bird Day** is observed globally on **9 May** or **10th October**. This time the theme of World Migratory Bird Day 2020 is “**Birds Connect Our World**”.
- **World Standards Day or International Standards Day** is observed globally on **14 October** every year. The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of standardisation to the global economy among the consumers, regulators and industry. World Standards Day 2020 theme is “**Protecting the planet with standards**”.
- The **International Day of Rural Women** is observed globally on **15 October** each year. The day recognizes the crucial role of women and girls in ensuring the sustainability of rural households and communities, improving rural livelihoods and overall well-being. The theme for this International Day of Rural Women is “**Building rural women’s resilience in the wake of COVID-19,**” to create awareness of these women’s struggles, their needs, and their critical and key role in our society.
- **World Food Day (WFD)** is observed globally on **16 October** every year. The day is celebrated to eradicate worldwide hunger from our lifetime. Theme 2020: “**Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together**”.
- **World Arthritis Day** is observed globally on **12th October** every year. The day is celebrated to raise awareness about arthritis, an inflammatory condition which causes pain and stiffness in joints which can worsen with age.
- **International Day of the Girl Child** is observed globally on **11 October** every year since 2012. The International Day of the Girl Child focuses attention on the need to address the challenges girls face and to promote girls’ empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights. The theme for 2020 International Day of the Girl Child is “**My voice, our equal future**”.
- The United Nations **International Day for Disaster Reduction** is observed globally on **13th October**.
- The **36th Raising Day of National Security Guard (NSG)** is observed on **16 October**. NSG plays a crucial role in India’s security apparatus. It has been associated with the utmost courage and professionalism.

- **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty** is observed globally on **17 October** every year. The day aims to raise awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution around the world, particularly in developing countries. 2020 Theme: **“Acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all”**.
- The **third World Statistics Day** is observed globally on **20 October 2020**. The celebration of World Statistics Day 2020 is a global collaborative endeavour, organized under the guidance of the **United Nations Statistical Commission**. The World Statistics Day 2020 theme **“Connecting the world with data we can trust.”**
- The **World Osteoporosis Day (WOD)** is observed globally on **20 October**. The day is celebrated to raise global awareness of the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis and metabolic bone disease. In 2020 the Global WOD Campaign theme is **“THAT’S OSTEOPOROSIS”**.
- **International Chefs Day** is observed globally on **20 October** every year. The day aims to celebrate and honour the noble profession and educate people around the world about eating healthy. The theme of International Chefs Day 2020 campaign is **Healthy Food for the Future**.
- **International Stuttering Awareness Day** is observed globally on **22nd October** every year. The day is intended to raise public awareness of the millions of people who have a speech disorder of stuttering or stammering. This year’s theme is **“Journey of Words - Resilience and Bouncing Back”**.
- **World Snow Leopard Day** is observed globally on **23rd October**. The main purpose of this day is to show the importance of snow leopard conservation and raise awareness about this incredible animal.
- **24th October** has been celebrated as **United Nations Day** since **1948**. The United Nations was founded in 1945 to support collective action to realize peace, development and human rights for all.
- The United Nations’ **World Development Information Day** is held on **October 24** every year. The day aims to draw the attention of world public opinion to development problems and the need to strengthen international cooperation to solve them for overall growth and development.
- The **World Polio Day** is celebrated annually on **October 24**, to raise awareness for polio vaccination and eradication of polio. 2020 theme for World Polio Day is **“A win against polio is a win for global health.”**
- **Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** has observed his **59th raising Day** on **24th October**. The ITBP was raised in the aftermath of the **1962** Chinese aggression and it has a strength of about 90,000 personnel with 60 battalions on the ground.
- The **World Day for Audiovisual Heritage** is observed globally on **27 October** every year. The day was chosen by **UNESCO** to raise awareness of the significance and preservation risks of recorded sound and audiovisual documents. The theme of the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage 2020: **“Your Window to the World”**.
- **International Animation Day** is observed globally on **28 October** every year. The day has celebrated the art of animation and also recognise the artists, scientists and technicians behind animation. This year marks the **19th** International Animation Day. The day was created in 2002 by **International Animated Film Association (ASIFA)**, an International Animated Film Association, a member of **UNESCO**.
- **International Internet Day** is observed on **29th October** every year. It aims to honour a momentous day in the history of telecommunications and technology.
- **World Psoriasis Day** is commemorated by **International Federation of Psoriasis Associations (IFPA)** annually on **29th October**. World Psoriasis Day Theme 2020: **INFORMED**.
- The United Nations General Assembly has designated the **31st of October** as **World Cities Day**. 2020 Theme: **Valuing Our Communities and Cities**.

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- In India, the **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day** is observed every year on **October 31** since 2014, to commemorate the birth anniversary of the Iron Man of India, **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**. This year marks the 145th anniversary of the great leader who played an instrumental role in India's struggle for independence, and later during the integration of the country.

Defence Current Affairs

- The **second edition** of **Indian Navy (IN) – Bangladesh Navy (BN) Bilateral Exercise Bongosagar** commences in Northern **Bay of Bengal**. Exercise Bongosagar, is aimed at developing interoperability and joint operational skills through conduct of a wide spectrum of maritime exercises and operations.
- The **Indian Coast Guard Vessel Karnaklata Barua** was **commissioned** at **Kolkata**. It is the fifth and last in a series of Fast Patrol Vessel (**FPV**) built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (**GRSE**) Ltd. The FPVs are upgraded versions of the inshore patrol vessels with a modified form of the hull and can achieve a speed of 34 knots. Such vessels have also been delivered to Indian Navy by GRSE.
- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully test-fired a new version of the **surface-to-surface** nuclear-capable ballistic missile "**Shaurya**" at **Balasore**, off the **coast of Odisha**.
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully flight tested the "**Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo**" (**SMART**) from Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha.
- The seventh offshore patrol vessel of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), "**Vigraha**" was formally unveiled at the **Kattupalli port**, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The vessel, built by **Larsen and Toubro**, is the last in the series of seven OPVs contracted to the company by the Ministry of Defence in 2015.
- The **DRDO** has successfully flight-tested a new generation **Anti-Radiation Missile (RUDRAM-1)** at the Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha. The missile was launched from **SU-30 Mk1 fighter aircraft**.
- A two-day Coastal Security Exercise namely '**Sagar Kavach**' conducted by the **Indian Navy** along with **Indian Coast Guard** and all stakeholders involved in **Coastal Security** from the **coast of Kerala**. The exercise was monitored from Joint Operations Centre, **Kochi**.

- **Indian Army** and **Maharashtra Police** organised an anti-terror exercise "**Suraksha Kavach**" at Lullanagar, Pune, Maharashtra. The aim of the exercise was to harmonize the drills and procedures of both Army and Police for activating **anti-terrorist Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs)** to counter any terrorist actions in Pune.
- **India** successfully flight-tested its indigenously developed **Stand-off Anti-tank (SANT)** missile from **Integrated Test Range (ITR)** off Odisha coast. The missile was test-fired from a roof-top launcher of the ground-based platform. It is an upgraded version of the anti-tank missile, **Helicopter Launched Nag (HeliNa)**.
- **Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)** successfully carried out the final trial of the third generation, **anti-tank guided missile 'NAG'**, from the **Pokhran** field firing ranges in **Rajasthan**.
- The Chief of Army Staff, General **MM Naravane** has commissioned the '**INS Kavaratti**', the last of four indigenously-built **anti-submarine warfare (ASW) stealth corvettes**, into the **Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam**.
- **India** successfully test-fired the **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile**, from the Indian Navy's indigenously-built stealth destroyer **INS Chennai** with the weapon hitting a pre-designated target in the **Arabian Sea**.
- **India** has invited **Australia** to participate in its trilateral naval exercise "**Malabar-2020**" which is scheduled to be held in November 2020, in the **Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea**. In 2020, the exercise will be held in a '**non-contact – at sea**' format. It aims to increase cooperation and enhance safety and security in the maritime security domain.

Science and Technology

- **World Space Week (WSW)** is observed from **October 4 to 10** every year to celebrate science and technology, and their contribution towards the betterment of the human condition. The 2020 theme is "**Satellites Improve Life.**"
- **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** has launched the Northrop Grumman Cygnus resupply spacecraft named "**SS Kalpana Chawla**" after its astronaut Kalpana Chawla.

- The **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)** will be commissioning India's largest HPC-AI supercomputer '**PARAM Siddhi - AI**'. This initiative will place India among the top countries in global AI supercomputing research and innovation. The initiative was headed by **Abhishek Das**, Scientist and Program Director (HPC-AI Infrastructure Development) at C-DAC, who conceived the idea and designed the architecture for the largest **HPC-AI infrastructure in India**.
- **Nokia** has been selected by **NASA** to build the first cellular network on the moon. NASA aims to return humans to the moon by **2024** and dig in for a long-term presence there under its Artemis programme. The first wireless broadband communications system in space would be built on the lunar surface in late **2022**.
- The researchers at **IIT Kharagpur** have developed '**COVIRAP**,' the Covid-19 diagnostic test technology, which is fairly easy to conduct and affordable as well and can produce results within one hour. This COVIRAP technology has been successfully validated for its efficacy in COVID-19 detection by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and been granted certification, after rigorous testing with patient samples by an authorized ICMR laboratory.
- Two new studies published in **Nature Astronomy** suggest there could be much more water than previously thought, including ice stored in permanently shadowed "**cold traps**" at lunar polar regions. Using data from the **Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA)** Airborne Telescope, researchers scanned the lunar surface at a more precise wavelength than had been used before — **six microns instead of three**. This allowed them to distinguish the spectral fingerprint of molecular water.

Books & Authors

- The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Dr **Jitendra Singh** has released a Coffee Table Book on "**Discovering the Heritage of Assam**", written by **Padampani Bora** and having foreword by Amitabh Bachchan.
- On the occasion of the **151st Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**, the Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia has launched the coffee-table book titled "**Babu - The Unforgettable**" over the virtual

event. This virtual event was organised by the Delhi Archives & Department of Art, Culture and Language, Government of Delhi. The department also organised a webinar on "**Footprints of Gandhi Ji in Delhi**".

- The author of Baahubali series, **Anand Neelakantan** has authored his first kid's book titled "**The Very, Extremely, Most Naughty Asura Tales for Kids**", published by Puffins Publishers Private Limited under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- Renowned Author and Politician, **Shashi Tharoor** is set to release his new book titled "**The Battle of Belonging**" is set to be released in November 2020. The book is published by **Aleph Book Company**. Shashi Tharoor described this book as his "**magnum opus**" on the Theory, evolution and practice of Nationalism across the globe and especially in India.
- Veteran Economist and bureaucrat **N K (Nand Kishore) Singh** has released his autobiography titled "**Portraits of Power: Half a Century of Being at Ringside**".
- A book titled "Night of the Restless Spirits: Stories from 1984" authored by Sarbpreet Singh. The author Sarbpreet Singh's recounts the Sikh massacre of **1984** in this book. The book is a fictionalised version of real happenings comprising just eight chapters. It shows the events of 1984 through the prism of many lives & impact on Sikhs. The book is published by **Penguin Publication**.
- World's 1st scientoon book entitled "**Bye Bye Corona**", was released by **Anandiben Patel**, Governor, Uttar Pradesh. The book was written by 'scientoonist' **Dr Pradeep Srivastava**, former Senior Principal Scientist at CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow. It is further planned to make a **3D version** of the book. The book has been published by **Vigyan Prasar**.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs

- The **South Eastern Railways (SER)** has launched the project, "**Operation my Saheli**" to enhance the security of women passengers in the train throughout the entire journey from the originating point to their destinations. The pilot version of the project "Operation my Saheli" has been introduced in 3 trains: **Howrah-Yesvantpur Durgam Special, Howrah- Ahmedabad Special and Howrah-Mumbai Special**. "Operation my Saheli" is executed under the Framework of "Nirbhaya Fund" and no additional expenditure is provided by the Head of Railways.

- The Minister of Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare, **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** has launched **CSIR Technologies for rural development** under a joint initiative of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (**CSIR**), Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (**UBA**), Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (**IITD**) and Vijnana Bharti (**VIBHA**).
- Kolkata based Real Estate Developer, **Bengal Peerless Housing Development Company Limited** appointed Former National Cricket Team Captain and Current President of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), **Sourav Ganguly** as it's Brand Ambassador.
- The **Amnesty International India** has stopped its operations in the country, after the government of India **froze the bank accounts** of the organisation on September 10, for allegedly breaking rules on **foreign funding laws**. The organization has laid off more than 100 staff members and ceased its human rights campaigns and research work in India.
- The red cherry pepper chilli of **Sikkim** which is locally known as the "**Dalle Khursani**" has earned the **geographical indication (GI) tag** from the Union department of Industry promotion and internal trade.
- The **Puducherry airport** has become the first airport of the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** which is entirely solar-powered. The **500KWp** ground-mounted solar power plant was commissioned on 2nd October 2020.
- Delhi CM **Arvind Kejriwal** has announced the launch of the anti-pollution campaign '**Yudh Pradushan Ke Virudh**' to reduce the pollution level in Delhi. An anti-dust campaign is being initiated by the Delhi government to settle the dust.
- Chief Minister of Delhi, **Arvind Kejriwal** has passed a first-of-its-kind in India '**Tree Transplantation Policy**' to preserve trees for **clean and green Delhi**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has released a commemorative coin of **Rs 100** to mark the birth centenary of **Rajmata Vijaya Raje Scindia**, one of the founder member of the ruling BJP, through a virtual ceremony.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has released the autobiography of former Union Minister **Dr Balasaheb Vikhe Patil** through video conferencing. The autobiography of Dr Patil has been titled '**Deh Vechwa Karani**,' means '**dedicating one's life for a noble cause.**'
- The Central government has notified the **Directorate General of Shipping** as the **National Authority for Recycling of Ships**. The DG Shipping has been designated as the apex authority for the ship recycling industry of India under **Section 3** of the **Recycling of Ships Act, 2019**. The office of the National Authority of Ship Recycling will be set up in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
- **Jammu and Kashmir** Lieutenant Governor, **Manoj Sinha** has announced that the government is coming up with a movement called "**My Town My Pride**" from October 19 to provide governance at the doorsteps in urban areas on the pattern of the "**Back to Village**" programme.
- **Railway Protection Force (RPF), Visakhapatnam** has started implementing '**Meri Saheli**' initiative in **AP Express (Visakhapatnam to New Delhi)**, in order to provide proactive security to women passengers.
- The **Eleventh Battalion Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** has launched a **cycling expedition** from its **Pegong base in Sikkim** to border villages of the state. Total **218 Kilometers** will be covered by the ITBP team in the course of 20 days in difficult terrains.
- **Parle Agro** has roped in **Priyanka Chopra Jonas** as the **national brand ambassador** to maximise reach and awareness of its fruits plus fizz portfolio '**B-Fizz**'.
- **LG Electronics** has named **Lewis Hamilton** a **global ambassador** for its home solutions brand, **LG Signature**.
- Ace Indian cricketer and Captain of Mumbai Indians, **Rohit Sharma** has been signed up by India's leading beauty accessories brand, **Vega**, for its men's personal grooming electronics range under the '**Vega Men**' brand.

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- A unique **Plastic Premier League (PPL) tournament** is being played in **Indore, Madhya Pradesh** to free the city from **single-use plastic**. Indore is known for its innovative efforts regarding cleanliness. Indore has been awarded as the **cleanest city** in the country four times so far.
- Vice President, **M Venkaiah Naidu** has launched the virtual festival of **"Parampara Series 2020-National Festival of Music and Dance"** organised by **Natya Tarangini** in partnership with the **United Nations**. Natya Tarangini has been organising this for the past 23 years.

Obituaries

- Veteran social activist, **Prof Pushpa Bhave**, also known as the **Iron Lady of Mumbai**, has passed away.
- The incumbent Emir (King or Ruler) of the Kuwait **Sabah al-Ahmed al-Sabah**, has passed away. He had ruled the oil-rich Gulf Arab state since 2006.
- Bollywood actress **Mishti Mukherjee**, who has featured in many Hindi, Bengali and Telugu films, and music videos has passed away.
- Three-time member of Legislative Council and veteran Samajwadi Party leader from **Auraiya**, **Mulayam Singh Yadav** passed away. He had been the block chief of **Auraiya's block, Bhagya Nagar** for more than a decade.
- Afghanistan right-handed batsman, **Najeeb Tarakai** passed away in a road accident.
- Veteran Bollywood actor, **Vishal Anand** has passed away. He came to fame with 1976 super-hit song and film 'Chalte Chalte'.
- Former Governor of Manipur and Nagaland, and **ex-CBI Director, Ashwani Kumar** passed away. He was born at Nahan in Sirmour district and joined the **Indian Police Force** in 1973.
- Union minister of consumer affairs, food and public distribution, **Ram Vilas Paswan** passed away. He was born on 5 July 1946. He was also the president of the **Lok Janshakti Party**, eight-time Lok Sabha member and current Rajya Sabha MP.
- **Mario José Molina**, the only Mexican scientist to receive the Nobel Prize, passed away. He was born on 19th March 1943 in Mexico City, Mexico. He shared the **1995 Nobel Prize in Chemistry** with **Frank Sherwood Rowland** of the United States(US) and **Paul Crutzen** of the Netherlands for their 1970 research on the **damage to the Ozone layer**.
- Former Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court, **Justice KK Usha**, passed away. She served as a judge from **1991 to 2000**. And when she was appointed Chief Justice of the **Kerala** High Court from 2000 to 2001, Justice Usha became the first woman to join the High Court Judiciary from the Bar and became a Chief Justice.
- Nagaland's environment minister, **C M Chang** passed away due to COVID-19. He was a retired IAS officer and former Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha (2009-13).
- Former Indian football captain, **Carlton Chapman** passed away. He was the captain of the Indian team when **India** won the **South Asian Football Federation Gold Cup** in 1997.
- Minister for Backward and Extremely Backward Classes in Bihar, **Vinod Kumar Singh** passed away due to **COVID-19**.
- The 400-meter hurdles champion at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics, **Charlie Moore** passed away.
- Renowned Kuchipudi dancer, **Shobha Naidu** passed away. Some of the famous awards won by her includes, **Padma Shri in 2001, Sangeet Natak Akademi in 1991**.
- Former New Zealand cricket allrounder, **John Richard Reid** passed away. He was also New Zealand's oldest surviving Test player.
- The first Indian to win the Oscar award, **Bhanu Athaiya** passed away. She won the Best Costume Design Oscar for her work in the 1982 film **Gandhi**, directed by Richard Attenborough. In 2012, Athaiya returned her Oscar to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for safekeeping.
- Veteran sports journalist and Cricket commentator, **Kishore Bhimani** passed away.
- Legendary Malayalam poet and Jnanpith laureate, **Mahakavi Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri** passed away. He has penned more than 46 literary works including poems, plays, essays and short stories. He was awarded **Padma Shri** in 2017.
- The "Nightingale of Gujarat", **Kaumudi Munshi** passed away due to COVID-19. During the early stage of her career, Munshi sang mostly in Gujarati, gaining fame with songs like '**Sachi re maari satre bhavani maa**'.

Static Takeaways

- The senior Janata Dal (United) leader **Kapil Deo Kamat**, who was serving as the Panchayati Raj Minister of Bihar, passed away due to COVID-19. He was a JDU MLA from **Babubarhi** assembly constituency in **Madhubani district, Bihar**.
- Noted Bengali elocutionist, **Pradip Ghosh** passed away. Ghosh was a prominent recitor and renowned vocal artist, who was well-known for his inimitable style of recitation.
- Renowned TV actress, **Zarina Roshan Khan** passed away. She was fondly remembered for her role in the television show 'Kumkum Bhagya' as Indu Dadi.
- Indian Air Force 1st woman officer, Wing Commander (ret'd) Dr **Vijaylakshmi Ramanan** passed away. She was born in February 1924, she did her MBBS and later was commissioned in the Army Medical Corps on **August 22, 1955**. Besides having served as a gynaecologist at various Air Force Hospitals, including here, she had also attended to the troops wounded during wars and performed administrative duties.
- The renowned economist from Assam, **Dr Jayanta Madhab** passed away. He worked as financial adviser to **Calcutta Metropolitan Development Corp** and has served as a director at the **ADB**.
- Playback singer, music director and actor **K J Mohammed Babu**, popularly known as '**Zero**' Babu passed away.
- The chairman of South Korea's largest conglomerate, Samsung Group, **Lee Kun-hee** has passed away.
- Famous Gujarati film musician, singer and former Parliamentarian **Mahesh Kanodia** passed away. He was born at Kanoda village of Mehsana district on January 27, 1937.
- Veteran Gujarati film star-turned-politician, **Naresh Kanodia** passed away. He was the younger brother of Gujarati singer **Mahesh Kanodia** who died on 25 October 2020 in Gandhinagar after a prolonged illness.
- **Daniel Menaker**, an award-winning author of fiction and nonfiction and a longtime editor at The New Yorker and Random House who worked with **Alice Munro, Salman Rushdie, Colum McCann** and many others, passed away.
- Former Chief Minister of Gujarat, **Keshubhai Savdasbhai Patel** passed away. He had served as the Chief Minister of the state for a few months in **1995** and then from **March 1998 to October of 2001**.

- Capital of Myanmar: Naypyitaw.
- The currency of Myanmar: Burmese kyat.
- President of Myanmar: Win Myint.
- Cotton Corporation of India Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Cotton Corporation of India Founded: 31 July 1970.
- China Capital: Beijing.
- China Currency: Renminbi.
- China President: Xi Jinping.
- The emir named Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, currently the deputy head of the National Guard, as the crown prince of Kuwait.
- Kuwait Capital: Kuwait City.
- Kuwait Currency: Kuwaiti dinar.
- Russia President: Vladimir Putin.
- Russia Capital: Moscow.
- Russia Currency: Russian Ruble.
- Capital of Jordan: Amman.
- The currency of Jordan: Jordanian dinar.
- Meghalaya Capital: Shillong.
- Israel Capital: Jerusalem
- Israel Currency: Israeli Shekel
- Israel Prime minister: Benjamin Netanyahu
- Swiggy Founded: 2014.
- Swiggy Headquarters: Bangalore, India.
- Vistara Headquarters: Gurgaon, Haryana.
- Axis Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Amazon Founded: 5 July 1994.
- Amazon Headquarters: Seattle, Washington, United States.
- SBI Founded: 1 July 1955
- SBI Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Bureau of Civil Aviation Security Founded: 1978.
- Bureau of Civil Aviation Security Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched IPPB in 2018.
- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) was incorporated as Payments Banking Company under Section 22 (1) of Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) Headquarters: New Delhi.
- DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Indian Coast Guard Founded: 18 August 1978.
- Indian Coast Guard Headquarters: Ministry of Defence, New Delhi.

- Indo-American Chamber of Commerce Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The five-member BRICS states are Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry (UT): Dr Kiran Bedi.
- Chief Minister of Puducherry: V. Narayanasamy.
- Lieutenant Governor of Delhi: Anil Baijal.
- Headquarters of NASA: Washington D.C., United States.
- C-DAC Established: 1988.
- C-DAC Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra.
- World Federation for Mental Health Founded: 1948.
- Indian Post Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Rivers of Uttarakhand: Ganga River, Yamuna River, Saryu River, Bhagirathi River, Gaula River, Kali River.
- Universal Postal Union Headquarters: Bern, Switzerland.
- Universal Postal Union Founded: 9 October 1874.
- Chief of the Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh.
- Sports Authority of India was established in 1984.
- Danish Water Forum Headquarters: Hørsholm, Denmark
- Yes Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- South Eastern Railway Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Amnesty International Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.
- Export-Import Bank of India Founded: 1 January 1982.
- Export-Import Bank of India Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- International Solar Alliance Headquarters Location: Gurgram, Haryana.
- United Nations Relief and Works Agency Headquarters: Amman, Jordan.
- The Prime Minister of Finland is Sanna Marin, Capital city is Helsinki and Currency is Euro respectively.
- The headquarters of FATF is in Paris, France.
- FATF was founded in July 1989.
- Prime Minister of Pakistan: Imran Khan.
- President of Pakistan: Arif Alvi.
- Capital of Pakistan: Islamabad.
- Russia President: Vladimir Putin.
- Russia Capital: Moscow.
- Russia Currency: Russian Ruble.
- Kyrgyzstan Capital: Bishkek
- Kyrgyzstan Currency: Kyrgyzstani som
- Goa Capital: Panaji.
- Uber Technologies Inc Headquarters: California, United States.
- Microsoft Founded: April 4, 1975; Headquarters of Microsoft: Washington, United States.
- Axis Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikanta Das; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.
- The tagline of HDFC Bank: We Understand Your World.
- HDFC Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- IMF Headquarters: Washington, D.C. U.S.
- Asian Development Bank Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines.
- Asian Development Bank Founded: 19 December 1966.
- National Thermal Power Corporation Founded: 1975.
- National Thermal Power Corporation Headquarters: New Delhi, India.
- Bank of Ghana Headquarters: Accra, Ghana.
- Bank of Ghana Founded: 1957.
- World Economic Forum Headquarters: Cologny, Switzerland.
- World Economic Forum Founded: January 1971.
- National Basketball Association (NBA) Championship Founded: 6 June 1946, New York, United States.

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- International Organization for Standardization Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- International Organization for Standardization Founded: 23 February 1947, London, United Kingdom.
- Food and Agriculture Organization Headquarters: Rome, Italy.
- Food and Agriculture Organization Established: 16 October 1945.
- Chief Minister of Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal; Governor of Delhi: Anil Baijal.
- National Security Guard Headquarters: New Delhi.
- The motto of National Security Guard: Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha.
- UNESCO headquarters: Paris, France.
- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945.
- International Weightlifting Federation Headquarters: Budapest, Hungary.
- International Weightlifting Federation Founded: 1905.
- Central Reserve Police Force Headquarters: New Delhi, India.
- Election Commission of India Headquarters: New Delhi.
- New Zealand Capital: Wellington.
- New Zealand New Zealand dollar.
- Prime Minister of Singapore: Lee Hsien Loong.
- Singapore Capital: Singapore City.
- Singapore Currency: Singapore Dollar.
- Stellapps headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Folk Dance of Assam: Bihu dance, Bagurumba, Bhortal Dance, Jhumur dance.
- Folk Dances of Uttar Pradesh: Kathak, Ramlila, Braj Raslila, Charkula, and Rasiya.
- Folk Dance of Maharashtra: Lavani, Koli Dance, Lezim, Pavri Nach.
- Asian Development Bank Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines.
- Odisha Capital: Bhubaneswar.
- Airports in Orissa: Biju Patnaik International Airport, Jharsuguda Airport, Rourkela Airport, Jeypore Airport and Savitri Jindal Airport.
- Rivers: Ganga River, Yamuna River, Saryu River, Bhagirathi River, Gaula River, Kali River.
- Folk Dance of Uttarakhand: Jhora, Chholiya.
- Tamil Nadu Capital: Chennai.
- Tamil Nadu State Dance: Bharathanatyam.
- Asian Development Bank Founded: 19 December 1966.
- SEBI Founded: 12 April 1992.
- SEBI Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- IDBI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Indian Bank Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Indian Bank Tagline: Your Own Bank, Banking That's Twice As Good.
- Republic of San Marino Capital: San Marino.
- Republic of San Marino Currency: Euro.
- Solomon Islands Capital: Honiara.
- Solomon Islands Currency: Solomon Islands dollar.
- Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh.
- Indian Navy Founded: 26 January 1950.
- International Solar Alliance Headquarters Location: Gurgram, Haryana.
- Prime Minister of Bangladesh: Sheikh Hasina; Capital: Dhaka; Currency: Taka.
- International Osteoporosis Foundation Headquarters location: Nyon, Switzerland.
- International Osteoporosis Foundation Founded: 1998.
- Parle Agro HQs: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Headquarters of LG Electronics: South Korea.
- IIT Kharagpur Headquarters: Kharagpur, West Bengal.
- Nokia Headquarters: Espoo, Finland.
- United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA.
- Capital of Lebanon: Beirut.
- The currency of Lebanon: Lebanese pound.
- Capital of Andorra: Andorra la Vella.
- The currency of Andorra: Euro.
- Bank Of Baroda Headquarters: Vadodara, Gujarat, India.
- Mastercard Headquarters: New York, United States.
- Indian Post Headquarters: New Delhi.
- United Nations Headquarters: New York, United States.

- United Nations Founded: 24 October 1945.
- Central Vigilance Commissioner Formed: February 1964.
- Central Vigilance Commissioner Headquarters: New Delhi.
- The constituency of Hardeep Singh Puri: Amritsar.
- The Art of Living Foundation is a volunteer-based, humanitarian and educational non-governmental organization in Bengaluru founded in 1981 by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar.
- Airports in Orissa: Biju Patnaik International Airport, Jharsuguda Airport, Rourkela Airport, Jeypore Airport and Savitri Jindal Airport.
- The headquarters of FATF is in Paris, France.
- FATF was founded in July 1989.
- Prime Minister of Pakistan: Imran Khan.
- President of Pakistan: Arif Alvi.
- Capital of Pakistan: Islamabad.
- Prime Minister of Bangladesh: Sheikh Hasina; Capital: Dhaka; Currency: Taka.
- Seychelles Capital: Victoria.
- Seychelles Currency: Seychellois rupee.
- Seychelles Continent: Africa.
- NATO Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium.
- Member countries of NATO: 30; Founded: 4 April 1949.
- Guinea Prime Minister: Ibrahima Kassory Fofana.
- Guinea Capital: Conakry.
- Guinea Currency: Guinean Franc.
- Bolivia Capitals: La Paz, Sucre.
- Bolivia Currency: Boliviano.
- Bolivia Continent: South America.
- Japan Capital: Tokyo.
- Japan Currency: Japanese yen.
- Japan Prime minister: Yoshihide Suga.
- National Highways Authority of India Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur: Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
- Indian Post Headquarters: New Delhi.
- SBI Card Founded: October 1998.
- SBI Card Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana.
- Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States.
- NSDC Headquarters: New Delhi.
- SBI Founded: 1 July 1955
- SBI Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Japan Bank for International Cooperation Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan.
- Japan Bank for International Cooperation Founded: 1 October 1999.
- ICICI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ICICI Bank Tagline: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka.
- Chief Executive Officer of BharatPe: Ashneer Grover.
- BharatPe Founded: 2018.
- The tagline of HDFC Bank: We Understand Your World.
- HDFC Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Archaeological Survey of India Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Capital of Bhutan: Thimphu.
- Prime minister of Bhutan: Lotay Tshering.
- The currency of Bhutan: Bhutanese ngultrum.
- NTPC Founded: 1975.
- NTPC Headquarters: New Delhi, India.
- UNESCO headquarters: Paris, France.
- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945.
- International Animated Film Association Founded: 1960, Annecy, France.
- International Federation of Psoriasis Associations Founded: 1971.
- International Federation of Psoriasis Associations Headquarters: Sweden.

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• **States and their Chief Ministers & Governors:**

Sr. No.	State	Chief Minister	Governor
1	Andhra Pradesh	YS Jagan Mohan Reddy	Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Pema Khandu	B. D. Mishra
3	Assam	Sarbananda Sonowal	Jagdish Mukhi
4	Bihar	Nitish Kumar	Phagu Chauhan
5	Chhattisgarh	Bhupesh Baghel	Anusuiya Uikey
6	Goa	Pramod Sawant	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
7	Gujarat	Vijaybhai R. Rupani	Acharya Dev Vrat
8	Haryana	Manohar Lal	Satyadeo Narain Arya
9	Himachal Pradesh	Jairam Thakur	Bandaru Dattatraya
10	Jharkhand	Hemant Soren	Droupadi Murmu
11	Karnataka	B. S. Yediyurappa	Vajubhai Vala
12	Kerala	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan
13	Madhya Pradesh	Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Anandiben Patel
14	Maharashtra	Uddhav Thackeray	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
15	Manipur	N. Biren Singh	Najma Heptulla
16	Meghalaya	Conrad Kongkal Sangma	Satya Pal Malik
17	Mizoram	Pu Zoramthanga	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
18	Nagaland	Neiphiu Rio	R. N. Ravi
19	Odisha	Naveen Patnaik	Ganeshi Lal
20	Punjab	Capt. Amarinder Singh	V.P. Singh Badnore
21	Rajasthan	Ashok Gehlot	Kalraj Mishra
22	Sikkim	PS Golay	Ganga Prasad
23	Tamil Nadu	Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami	Banwarilal Purohit
24	Telangana	K Chandrasekhar Rao	Tamilisai Soundararajan
25	Tripura	Biplab Kumar Deb	Ramesh Bais
26	Uttar Pradesh	Yogi Aditya Nath	Anandiben Patel
27	Uttarakhand	Trivendra Singh Rawat	Baby Rani Maurya
28	West Bengal	Mamata Banerjee	Jagdeep Dhankhar

• **Union Ministers in News in month of October 2020**

Sr. No.	Ministry	Union Minister
1	Minister of Commerce and Industry	Piyush Goyal
2	Minister of State (IC) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs	Hardeep Singh Puri
3	Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment	Thaawar Chand Gehlot
4	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Shipping	Mansukh L. Mandaviya

Sr. No.	Ministry	Union Minister
5	Union Minister of Rural Development	Narendra Singh Tomar
6	Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (I/C)	Prahlad Singh Patel
7	External Affairs Minister of India	Dr S Jaishankar.
8	Defence Minister	Rajnath Singh
9	Union Minister of Tribal Affairs	Arjun Munda
10	Finance Minister	Nirmala Sitharaman
11	Minister of Law & Justice, Communication and Electronics & Information Technology	Ravi Shankar Prasad
12	Union Agriculture Minister	Narendra Singh Tomar
13	Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports	Kiren Rijiju
14	Union Minister of Textiles,	Smriti Irani
15	Union Education Minister,	Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'
16	Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways,	Nitin Gadkari
17	Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers	D.V. Sadananda Gowda
18	Minister of Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare	Dr. Harsh Vardhan

• Heads of various organizations in News in month of October 2020

Sr. No.	Head of Organization	Name of Person
1	Chairman-Cum-Managing Director of Cotton Corporation of India	Pradeep Kumar Agarwal
2	Swiggy CEO	Vishal Bhatia
3	Vistara CEO	Leslie Thng
4	Axis Bank MD and CEO	Amitabh Chaudhry
5	Amazon Founder	Jeff Bezos
6	CEO of Association of Mutual Funds in Indian	S. Venkatesh
7	DRDO Chairman	Dr G. Satheesh Reddy
8	Indian Coast Guard Director General	Krishnaswamy Natarajan
9	Indo-American Chamber of Commerce India National President	Purnachandra Rao Surapaneni
10	Administrator of National Aeronautics and Space Administration	Jim Bridenstine
11	C-DAC Director General	Hemant Darbari
12	President of World Federation for Mental Health	Ingrid Daniels
13	Indian Post Secretary	Pradipta Kumar Bisoi
14	Universal Postal Union Head	Bishar Abdirahman Hussein
15	Universal Postal Union Founder	Heinrich von Stephan
16	Director-General of SAI	Sandip Pradhan
17	Chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development	G R Chintala
18	Danish Water Forum Chairman	Hans-Martin Friis Moller
19	CEO & MD of Tata Steel	T. V. Narendran

Sr. No.	Head of Organization	Name of Person
20	Yes Bank CEO	Prashant Kumar
21	South Eastern Railway General Manager	Sanjay Kumar Mohanty
22	Amnesty International Secretary-General	Kumi Naidoo
23	Export-Import Bank of India CEO	David Rasquinha
25	International Solar Alliance Leader	Upendra Tripathy
26	United Nations Relief and Works Agency Commissioner-General	Philippe Lazzarini
27	Uber Technologies Inc CEO	Dara Khosrowshahi
28	Chief Executive Officer of Microsoft	Satya Nadella
29	IMF Managing Director and Chairman	Kristalina Georgieva
30	IMF Chief Economist	Gita Gopinath
31	President of Asian Development Bank	Masatsugu Asakawa
32	World Economic Forum Founder and Executive Chairman	Klaus Schwab
33	Governor of Bank of Ghana Addison	Ernest Kwamina Yedu
34	International Organization for Standardization President	Eddy Njoroge
35	Food and Agriculture Organization Head	Qu Dongyu
36	DG of National Security Guard	Anup Kumar Singh
37	UNESCO Head	Audrey Azoulay
38	Central Reserve Police Force Director-General	AP Maheshwari
39	Chief Election Commissioner of India	Sunil Arora
40	Stellapps CEO	Ranjith Mukundan
41	President of Asian Development Bank	Masatsugu Asakawa
42	SEBI Chairperson	Ajay Tyagi
43	IDBI Bank CEO	Rakesh Sharma
44	Indian Bank CEO	Padmaja Chunduru
45	International Solar Alliance Leader	Upendra Tripathy
46	International Osteoporosis Foundation President	Cyrus Cooper
47	Parle Agro CEO	Schauna Chauhan
48	LG Electronics Chairman	Kwang-Mo Koo
49	Vice-Chairman and CEO of LG Electronics	Jo Seong-Jin
50	Director, IIT Kharagpur	Prof. Virendra Kumar Tewari
51	Chairman of Nokia Corporation	Sari Baldauf
52	Secretary-General of the United Nations	Antonio Guterres
53	Bank Of Baroda Chairman	Hasmukh Adhia
54	Bank Of Baroda MD & CEO	Sanjiv Chadha
55	Mastercard President	Michael Miebach
56	Mastercard Chief Executive Officer(CEO)	Ajay Banga

Sr. No.	Head of Organization	Name of Person
57	Director-General of Indian Post	Arundhaty Ghosh
58	United Nations Secretary-general	António Guterres
59	Central Vigilance Commissioner	Sanjay Kothari
60	NATO Chairman of the NATO Military Committee	Air Chief Marshal Stuart Peach
61	National Highways Authority of India Chairman	Sukhbir Singh Sandhu
62	Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur Chairman	R. Chidambaram
63	CEO of SBI Card	Ashwini Kumar Tewari
64	Microsoft CEO	Satya Nadella
65	NSDC CEO	Manish Kumar
66	Chairman of State Bank of India Khara	Dinesh Kumar
67	President & CEO of Japan Bank for International Cooperation	Tadashi Maeda
68	ICICI Bank MD & CEO	Sandeep Bakhshi
69	Archaeological Survey of India Director-General	V. Vidyavathi
70	Director-General of ITBP	Surjeet Singh Deswal
71	UNESCO Head	Audrey Azoulay
72	President of International Animated Film Association	Sayoko Kinoshita
73	International Animated Film Association Founder	John Halas
74	President of International Federation of Psoriasis Associations	Hoseah Waweru