

Eazyprep

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

COMPILATION

OCTOBER 2020

www.eazyprep.com

1st October

1) National Affairs

Second serosurvey findings released

Second serosurvey findings were released by the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR).

The report stated that 1 in 15 individuals aged 10 years and above were estimated to be exposed to SARS-CoV2 by August.

Sero-survey tests the blood serum of a group of individuals to determine the presence of antibodies against that infection in them.

The report shows that a considerable part of the population is still susceptible to COVID-19.

The risk assessment in the report shows that the risk in urban slums was twice than that in non-slum urban areas and four times the risk in rural areas.

2) Miscellaneous

"Make Small Strong" campaign launched by Google India

"Make Small Strong" campaign launched by Google India across the country.

The campaign aims to help support small businesses and drive demand through customer support.

The campaign is meant to rally support from the citizens for small businesses.

This new initiative is based on feedback from Small and Medium-sized Businesses (SMBs).

Quick Fact: The CEO of Google is Sundar Pichai.

3) India and the World

NITI Aayog and Embassy of the Netherlands sign a Statement of Intent (Sol)

NITI Aayog and Embassy of the Netherlands signed a Statement of Intent (Sol) in order to support the decarbonization and energy transition agenda and to accommodate cleaner and more energy.

The signatories of the Sol were NITI Aayog CEO, Amitabh Kant and Ambassador of the Netherlands to India, Marten van den Berg.

The primary aim of the partnership is to co-creating innovative technological solutions by leveraging the expertise of the two entities.

Quick Fact: The Prime Minister of the Netherlands is Mark Rutte.

4) National Affairs

National Institute of Nutrition increases Ideal weight for Men and Women

The National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) has increased the average body weight for Indians by 5kg.

The average weight for an Indian man has increased from 60kg in 2010 to 65kg now.

An Indian woman's average weight has increased from 50kg in 2010 to 55kg now.

Along with the change in the average weight, the NIN has also revised the average height, For males, it is 5.8 feet (177 cm) and for females, it is 5.3 feet (162 cm).

Quick Fact: Dr R. Hemlatha is the director of the National Institute of Nutrition.

5) Defence and Security

Brahmos Missile with an Indigenous Booster test-fired

India has successfully test-fired the surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile BrahMos with an indigenous booster.

It was developed by the Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) and the Federal State Unitary Enterprise NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPOM) of Russia.

It has a flight range of 300 km.

The test-fire was performed at Balasore, Odisha.

Quick Fact: The BrahMos missile has been named after the rivers Brahmaputra and Moskva.

6) National Affairs

MECL Starts exploring the Kolar Gold Fields

Union Minister for Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi has directed the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) to start exploring the Kolar goldfields.

The Kolar Gold mine was closed on February 28, 2001, after the gold prices fell down.

The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has declared the pyroclastic and pillow lava at Kolar Gold Fields as a National Geological Monument so as to protect, maintain and encourage geo-tourism.

Quick Fact: As per the World Gold Council, India has 10th largest gold reserve worldwide with a capacity of 600 tonnes.

7) Miscellaneous

International Translation Day

International Translation Day is observed on 30th October

The day aims to celebrate and appreciate the work of language translation professionals.

This year the theme is "Finding the words for a world in crisis".

The United Nations (UN) passed a resolution in 2017 to celebrate September 30 as the International Translation Day.

Quick Fact: September 30 marks the feast of St Jerome who translated the Bible from Greek to Latin manuscripts for the first time on this day.

8) Defence and Security

Defence India Startup Challenge-4 launched

Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC 4) was launched by Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh.

The launch happened during the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) event.

Under DISC 4, eleven challenges from Armed forces, OFB&DPSUs have been made open to startups, innovators, MSMEs in order to provide innovative ideas on technologies.

Launch of iDEX4Fauji initiative and Product Management Approach (PMA) also took place during this event.

Quick Fact: iDEX4Fauji has been launched to support the innovations identified by members of the Indian Armed Forces.

2nd October

1) National Affairs

‘Tribes India e-Marketplace’ launched

Arjun Munda, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs virtually launched Tribes India E-Marketplace (market.tribesindia.com).

This is India’s largest handicraft and organic products marketplace.

This e-marketplace is in line with the Prime Minister’s vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat.

It will showcase the produce and handicrafts of tribal enterprises from across the country.

Quick Fact: The Tribes India e-Marketplace is an initiative of The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

2) National Affairs

‘Swachhata ke 6 saal, Bemisaal’ :Six Years of Swachh Bharat Mission

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs celebrated six years of Swachh Bharat Mission on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The Swachh Bharat mission was launched from Rajghat on October 2, 2014.

A GIS portal was launched to showcase innovative practices to implement Sewage Waste Management

A Document was also released about the response of Indian cities towards COVID-19, it focuses on sanitation.

Quick Fact: This year, the day marks the 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

3) National Affairs

CSIR Technologies for Rural Development launched

The Science and Technology Ministry launched CSIR Technologies for Rural Development.

It was launched by the Union Minister of Science and Technology Dr Harsh Vardhan.

It is a joint initiative of IIT-Delhi, CSIR, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan and Vijnana Bharti (VIBHA).

The initiative was launched to commemorate the occasion of 40th foundation day of CSIR-National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (NISTAD).

Quick Fact: CSIR stands for Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, and its current Director-General is Dr Shekhar Mande.

4) Science and Technology

China to launch the World's First Asteroid Mining Robot

World's first asteroid mining robot to be sent into space in November 2020.

It has been made by the space start-up, Origin Space, which is a private company based in Beijing, China.

A Chinese Long March series rocket will launch the robot into space.

The mission is being considered a milestone for the space resources industry.

5) National Affairs

E-launch of ASIIM

ASIIM stands for Ambedkar Social Innovation & Incubation Mission.

Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Thaawarchand Gehlot e-launched the mission.

The mission aims to promote innovation and enterprise among SC students who are studying in higher educational institutions.

The mission was launched under the Venture Capital Fund for SCs.

Quick Fact: Venture Capital Fund for SCs (VCF-SC) was launched in 2014-15 to develop entrepreneurship amongst the SC/Divyang youth and to enable them to become job-givers

6) National Affairs

NCRB Report 2020

The National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) has released a report titled "Crime in India", 2019.

According to the report, crimes against members of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the Scheduled Tribes (STs) reported an increase of over 7% and 26% in 2019 respectively.

Rajasthan has topped the list of rape cases, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

Uttar Pradesh reported the highest number of criminal cases against women in 2019.

Quick Fact: NCRB was set up in 1986, with its headquarters in New Delhi, the current Director is Ramphal Pawar (IPS).

7) Miscellaneous

International Day of Older Persons

International Day of Older Persons is observed worldwide on 1st October.

The day is observed by the United Nations and several other organizations.

This year the day aims to promote a "Decade of Healthy Ageing" (2020-30).

The day aims to highlight the role of health care professionals with respect to the health of older persons.

Quick Fact: 2020 edition of the day marks the 30th anniversary of the International Day of Older Persons.

3rd October

1) Defence and Security

Indian Coast Guard Vessel commissioned in Kolkata

The Indian Coast guard Vessel named Karnaklata Barua was commissioned at Kolkata.

The commissioning was done via videoconferencing.

The vessel is one among the five Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs).

The vessels can achieve speeds exceeding 34 knots with an endurance of 1,500 nautical miles or more.

Quick Fact: The vessel was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.

2) Science and Technology

The French Space Agency to participate in ISRO's Venus Mission

The French Space Agency CNES announced its participation in ISRO's Venus Mission.

ISRO's Venus Mission has been named SHUKRAYAAN.

The mission is to be launched in 2025.

ISRO intends on sending an orbiter mission to Venus in order to study the atmosphere of the planet.

Quick Fact: Venus is the second planet in our solar system and its atmosphere is primarily made up of carbon dioxide.

3) Person in News

Shekhar Kapur appointed as FTII governing council chairman

Renowned filmmaker Shekhar Kapoor has been appointed as FTII governing council chairman

The announcement was made by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

He will also preside over the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) Society.

Shekhar Kapoor will replace television producer BP Singh.

Quick Fact: FTII stands for Film and Television Institute of India and it is located in Pune.

4) Business and Finance

To empower small business companies, Yes Bank ties-up with BSE

Yes Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)

The MoU was signed in order to empower the SME segment through awareness and knowledge-sharing programmes.

Under the MoU, both BSE and Yes Bank are to conduct knowledge events for SMEs, export promotion of SME scale companies, and will also provide banking and financial solutions.

Quick Fact: The Chief Executing Officer (CEO) of Yes Bank is Prashant Kumar.

5) Business and Finance

IDBI Bank enabled document embedding feature on SFMS

Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) becomes the first bank to implement the new feature of document embedding facility on SFMS (Structured Financial Messaging System) with Letter of Credit (LC) / Bank Guarantee (BG) messages.

The process is to be conducted via a middleware application “i@Connect-SFMS (CSFMS)” which was developed by IDBI Intech.

The new feature of “document embedding” will provide the banks with the function of transmitting a “pdf” document up to 1MB size along with the LC / BG messages.

Structured Financial Messaging System (SFMS) is a platform of Indian Financial Technology and Allied Services (IFTAS).

Quick Fact: IFTAS is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and its chairman is Taverna Rabi Sankar.

6) National Affairs

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the ‘Atal Tunnel’

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Atal Tunnel at Rohtang.

It is the longest highway tunnel in the world.

The 9.02-kilometre long tunnel will now connect Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley.

The tunnel is built in the Pir Panjal range of Himalayas at an altitude of three thousand metres from the Mean Sea Level.

Quick Fact: The tunnel reduces the road distance by 46 kilometres between Manali and Leh.

7) Defence and Security

Laser-guided anti-tank missile test-fired

The indigenously developed Laser Guided Anti Tank Guided Missile, ATGM was successfully test fired by the DRDO.

The test was conducted from MBT Arjun at KK ranges, Armoured Corps Centre and School, Ahmednagar.

ATGM has been developed with multiple-platform launch capability and is currently undergoing technical evaluation trials from 120 mm rifled gun of MBT Arjun.

It employs a tandem HEAT warhead to defeat Explosive Reactive Armour protected armoured vehicles in ranges from 1.5 to 5 kilometres.

Quick Fact: The Laser Guided Missile has been developed by Armament Research and Development Establishment, Pune.

5th October

1) Miscellaneous

World Day For Farmed Animals celebrated on 2nd October

World Day for Farmed Animals is celebrated on October 2.

It is celebrated by the International animals' welfare organization, World Animal Protection along with the Asia for Animals coalition.

The day aims to bring the focus on the need to treat farm animals as sentient beings.

The day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi who was an avid animal lover.

Quick Fact: The day has been observed by the Farm Animal Rights Movement (FARM) since 1983.

2) Business and Finance

Launch of special refinance facility for WASH programme

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has announced a special refinance facility for WASH programme.

WASH stands for Water, Sanitisation and Hygiene (WASH) programme of the Government of India.

The amount of Rs 800 crore has been allotted for Fiscal Year 2021.

Quick Fact: Chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is G R Chintala.

3) Defence and Security

Test-fire of new version of Shaurya Missile successful

New version of the Shaurya Missile was successfully test-fired on 3rd October.

The newer version of the missile would be lighter and easier to operate.

Shaurya is a canister launched hypersonic surface-to-surface tactical missile.

Shaurya missiles can remain hidden underground from enemy surveillance or satellites till they are fired from storage-cum-launch canisters.

Quick Fact: This version of the missile can strike targets at around 800 km.

4) Miscellaneous

Swachh Bharat Awards- 2020

Swachh Bharat Awards- 2020 were presented on 2nd October.

The awards were presented by the Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Skekhawat.

The three categories of the awards were: Swachh Sundar Samudayik Shouchalaya, Gandagi Mukth Bharat and Samudayik Shouchalaya Abhiyan.

Quick Fact: Swachh Bharat Mission was launched in 2014.

5) Science and Technology

SS Kalpana Chawla Cygnus launched by Northrop Grumman

Northrop Grumman launched the Cygnus vehicle named S.S. Kalpana Chawla and an Antares rocket for the NG-14 mission to the International Space Station (ISS).

Northrop Grumman is an American global aerospace and defence technical company.

The launch was done from Pad 0A at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport in Virginia.

The capsule will deliver thousands kilograms/pounds of equipment and crew supplies to the ISS.

Quick Fact: Kalpana Chawla was born on 17 March 1962 in Karnal district of Haryana.

6) Defence and Security

Bongosagar and CORPAT Naval Exercises begin

Indian Navy (IN) – Bangladesh Navy (BN) Bilateral Exercise Bongosagar commenced in Northern Bay of Bengal on 3rd October.

IN – BN Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) began in the northern Bay of Bengal on 4th October.

This edition of Bongosagar has great significance as it is being conducted during Mujib Barsho, the 100th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Ships from both the navies participated in surface warfare drills, seamanship evolutions and helicopter operations.

Quick Fact: This is the 2nd edition of Bongosagar and 3rd edition of CORPAT.

7) National Affairs

100-Day Campaign Launched

100-Day Campaign was launched by the Union Minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh.

The campaign aims to provide piped water supply to schools and Anganwadi centres.

The mission was launched on the occasion of the 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Under the campaign, the States and Union Territories are to ensure that Gram Sabha are convened at the earliest to pass the resolution to provide safe water in schools and Anganwadi centres.

8) India and the World

PM Modi inaugurated Global Summit on AI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a global virtual summit on Artificial Intelligence (AI) named RAISE 2020.

RAISE stands for Responsible AI for Social Empowerment.

The summit will be held from October 5 to 9, 2020.

The summit has been organised by the ministry of electronics and information technology (MeitY) and NITI Aayog.

6th October

1) Defence and Security

Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) successfully flight tested

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has conducted the successful flight-testing of the Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART).

The flight was successfully tested from the Wheeler Island from the coast of Odisha.

The launch is significant to establish the anti-submarine warfare capabilities of the India.

The Missile has a range of 650km and has been developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) laboratories including RCI Hyderabad, DRDL, NSTL Vishakhapatnam, ADRDE Agra.

Quick Fact: An anti-submarine warfare missile is a standoff anti-submarine weapon which is a variant of anti-ship missile.

2) Conferences and Summits

PV-EDGE 2020 organised by NITI Ayog, Renewable Ministry and Invest India

NITI Aayog, The New and Renewable Energy Ministry, and Invest India organise a global symposium 'India PV EDGE 2020'.

The symposium was organised virtually.

The summit was organised in order to catalyse cutting-edge solar cell manufacturing in India.

India is a founding member of the International Solar Alliance

Quick Fact: Raj Kumar Singh is Minister of State (Independent Charge) of The New and Renewable Energy Ministry.

3) Miscellaneous

World Habitat Day- October 5

World Habitat Day was celebrated this year on October 5th.

It is celebrated on 1st monday of October every year.

It was first declared in 1985 by United Nations General Assembly.

The day is celebrated with the aim to recognise the basic right of all humanity to have an adequate shelter and to encourage grassroots action in order to end poverty housing.

Quick Fact: Theme for 2020: Housing for All-A better Urban Future

4) Sports

Visnu Shivaraj Pandian won the International Online Shooting Championship

Visnu Shivaraj Pandian won the 10m air rifle event at the International Online Shooting Championship.

Visnu shot 251.4 to win the title by a margin of two points.

The second place was won by Etienne Germond of France.

Shooters from 15 countries participated in the two-day competition.

Quick Fact: This was the 5th edition of the International Online Shooting Championship.

5) Science and Technology

The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2020 announced

The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2020 was jointly awarded to Harvey J. Alter(America), Charles M. Rice (America) and Michael Houghton (Britain).

They were awarded for the discovery of the Hepatitis C virus.

The announcement was made by the head of the Nobel Committee, Thomas Perlmann at Stockholm.

Quick Fact: The prestigious Nobel Prize comes with a gold medal and prize money of 10 million Swedish kronor (over \$1,118,000), courtesy of a bequest left 124 years ago by the prize creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel.

6) Miscellaneous

World Teachers' Day- 5th October

World Teachers' Day is observed globally on 5th October.

The day aims to celebrate the teaching profession worldwide, and draw attention to the voices of teachers, who are at the heart of efforts to attain the global education target.

World Teachers' Day marks the anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers.

It was first celebrated in 1994.

Quick Fact: Theme for World Teachers Day 2020 is "Teachers: Leading in crisis, reimagining the future".

7) Awards and Honours

Right Livelihood Award 2020 announced

Right Livelihood Awards 2020 were announced by the Right Livelihood Award Foundation.

The award for 2020 was shared among Ales Bialiatski of Belarus, Nasrin Sotoudeh of Iran, Bryan Stevenson of the United States(US) and Lottie Cunningham Wren of Nicaragua.

These activists were awarded for their contribution towards equality, democracy, justice and freedom.

The Right Livelihood Award honours and supports those offering practical and exemplary answers to the most urgent challenges facing us today.

Quick Fact: The award was established in 1980 by German-Swedish philanthropist Jakob von Uexkull and is also known as the alternative Nobel Prize in Stockholm.

8) Science and Technology

World Space Week-04-10 October

World Space Week (WSW) is observed every year from October 4 to 10.

The week aims to celebrate science and technology, and their contribution towards the betterment of the human condition.

WSW was declared by the United Nations General Assembly on December 6, 1999.

The commencement date marks the launch of the first artificial satellite, Sputnik I, on 4 October 1957.

Quick Fact: The theme for WSW 2020 is "Satellites Improve Life."

7th October

1) Science and Technology

Nobel Prize in Physics announced for 2020

The Nobel Prize in Physics for 2020 was announced

The prize was divided, one half was awarded to Roger Penrose for the discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity.

The other half was jointly shared by Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez for the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy.

Quick Fact: The Nobel Prize in Physics is awarded by The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden.

2) Miscellaneous

Wildlife week: 2nd-8th October

Wildlife Week is annually celebrated across India between 2nd to 8th October.

The week aims to protect and preserve the flora and fauna of India.

The week is celebrated under the theme RoaR (Roar and Revive) – Exploring Human-Animal Relationships.

The Indian Board of Wildlife was constituted and the idea of Wildlife Week was conceptualised in 1952 to raise the awareness about the long term goals of protecting the wildlife of India.

Quick Fact: The first Wildlife Week was observed in 1957.

3) National Affair

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs united with Swiggy To Take Street Food Vendors online

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Swiggy, in order to take the street food vendors online.

The initiative has been taken under the PM Svanidhi Scheme.

The programme was launched in five cities: Chennai, Ahmedabad, Indore, Delhi and Varanasi.

On the first day, around 250 vendors were taken on-board from the five cities.

Quick Fact: The MoHUA-Swiggy scheme is valid till March 2022.

4) Conferences and Summits

12th BRICS Summit scheduled on 17 November virtually

The 12th BRICS Summit is scheduled on 17th November 2020 via video conferencing.

The Summit will be held under the Chairmanship of Russia.

This is the first time in the history of the BRICS that the meeting will be held virtually, owing to the global COVID pandemic.

The five-member BRICS are Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Quick Fact: The theme of the Meeting of BRICS countries is “BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth”.

5) Science and Technology

C-DAC to commission ‘PARAM Siddhi – AI’

The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) is to commission India's largest High Performance Computing and Artificial Intelligence (HPC-AI) supercomputer, ‘PARAM Siddhi – AI’.

The supercomputer is to have 210 AI Petaflops.

It is to be based on the NVIDIA DGX SuperPOD.

The computer is to use NVIDIA Next Generation technology, C-DAC software stack and Cloud platform.

Quick Fact: The first super computer was “Param Shivay” built under the National Supercomputing Mission by C-DAC.

6) Person in News

Lifetime achievement award presented to Ratan Tata by IACC

The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) has presented the lifetime achievement award to business icon Ratan Tata.

The award was presented to him for his pioneering role in the Business Relations of India-USA and for his lifetime achievement in Global Leadership.

The award was announced in the virtual event of IACC called “COVID Crusader Award-2020”.

This is the 1st time IACC has conferred the Lifetime Achievement award to any individual.

Quick Fact: The India National President of IACC is Purnachandra Rao Surapaneni.

7) Science and Technology

e-Learning Hub for Villagers to be launched by IIM, Kozhikode

The Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode will be launching an e-learning hub and library as a pilot project for villagers in Mavoor.

Mavoor village is one of the villages that has been adopted by the institute under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA).

Unnat Bharat Abhiyaan (UBA) is a flagship programme by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

The programme aims to link the Higher Education Institutions with a set of at least 5 villages, so that institutions can contribute to the economic and social development of the village communities using their knowledge base.

Quick Fact: IIM Kozhikode has adopted a total of five villages namely Mavoor, Kuttikkattoor, Narikkuni, Puthur and Puthupadi of Kozhikode under the UBA initiative.

8) Miscellaneous

Puducherry airport becomes first 100% solar-powered airport

The Puducherry airport has become the first airport under the Airports Authority of India (AAI) which is entirely solar-powered.

It has a 500KWp ground-mounted solar power plant.

The power plant was commissioned on 2nd October 2020.

The cost of the plant is about Rs 2.8 crore.

Quick Fact: Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry (UT) is Dr Kiran Bedi and Chief Minister is V. Narayanasamy.

8th October

1) Science and Technology

Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2020

The 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry is awarded to Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna.

The Nobel was awarded to them for the development of a method for genome editing.

Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna have discovered one of gene technology's sharpest tools: the CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors.

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry is awarded by The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden.

2) Miscellaneous

World Cotton Day: 07 October

World Cotton Day (WCD) is observed worldwide on 7th October.

The day aims to celebrate the advantages of cotton, from its qualities as a natural fibre to the benefits people obtain from its production, transformation, trade and consumption.

The day was inaugurated by the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2019.

WCD Day was initiated by the Group of Cotton-4 to reflect the importance of cotton as a global commodity.

Quick Fact: Cotton-4 countries are Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali.

3) India and the World

Indian-built Sittwe port in Myanmar to start operations in 2021

India and Myanmar are working together towards the operationalization of the Sittwe port in the first quarter of 2021.

Sittwe Port is a deepwater port constructed by India in 2016 at Sittwe, on the Bay of Bengal.

The port will connect India's landlocked northeastern region with the Bay of Bengal through Mizoram.

The port is part of the Kaladan multi-modal transit transport project which is being viewed as India's gateway to Southeast Asia.

Quick Fact: Sittwe is the capital of Rakhine State in Myanmar. on the Bay of Bengal.

4) Defence and Security

Launch of Vighraha- An Offshore Patrol Vessel of Indian Coast Guard

The Indian Coast Guard have launched a 98-metre offshore patrol vessel 'Vighraha'.

The vessel was launched at a private shipyard in Kattupalli, Chennai.

The vessel is 98-m long and has a displacement of 2100 tons.

The vessel would serve the East Region, from Visakhapatnam and would be operated under the leadership of IG S.Paramesh.

Quick Fact: The vessels have been built and designed by Larsen and Toubro Shipbuilding under the 'Make in India' initiative.

5) National Affairs

My Ganga My Dolphin Campaign launched

My Ganga My Dolphin campaign was launched on October 5. The launch took place on the occasion of Ganga River Dolphin Day.

The campaign was launched by the National Mission for Clean Ganga, the Wildlife Institute of India and the Forest Department.

The campaign aims to promote sustainable tourism.

Quick Fact: Ganga River Dolphin day is celebrated because, on October 5 Dolphins were declared as National Aquatic Animals.

6) National Affairs

IFFCO and Prasar Bharati sign MoU to promote Agricultural Innovations

Prasar Bharati and Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to broadcast and promote new agriculture technology and innovations.

As per the Memorandum, DD Kisan will now broadcast innovative techniques that is being adopted in the agricultural field in an easy language.

DD Kisan will also run a 30 minutes program series to benefit the farmers.

Quick Fact: Chairman of IFFCO is Balvinder Singh Nakai

7) Person in News

MA Ganapathy appointed as DG of BCAS

Senior IPS officer, M A Ganapathy was appointed as the Director-General of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS),

The post of BCAS chief had been vacant after Rakesh Asthana, who was appointed as the Director-General of Border Security Force.

MA Ganapathy will continue his tenure up to his superannuation on February 29, 2024.

Quick Fact: The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security was founded in 1978.

8) Person in News

Dinesh Kumar Khara appointed as the new Chairman of SBI

The government of India has appointed Dinesh Kumar Khara as the new Chairman of State Bank of India.

He has been appointed for a period of three years.

The Banks Board Bureau (BBB) had recommended Khara for the post of Chairman of SBI on August 28.

He will replace Rajnish Kumar as the SBI director.

Quick Fact: SBI was founded on 1st July 1955 and has its headquarters in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

9th October

1) Miscellaneous

Nobel Prize in Literature 2020

The Nobel Prize in Literature for 2020 is awarded to the American poet Louise Glück.

The prize was awarded for her 'unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal'.

Louise Glück is a professor of English at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.

She has received numerous prestigious awards including the Pulitzer Prize in 1993.

Quick Fact: The Nobel Prize in Literature is presented by The Swedish Academy, Stockholm, Sweden.

2) Foreign Affairs

Hypersonic Cruise Missile – TSIRKON test fired by Russia

Russia has successfully test-fired the Hypersonic Cruise missile called TSIRKON (Zircon).

The test-fire was conducted on the occasion of the birthday of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The test-fire was conducted from the Frigate Admiral Gorshkov Vessel in the White Sea.

The Missile has the capacity to hit a destined target at a distance of 450 km in just 4 and half minutes.

Quick Fact: The White Sea is a southern inlet of the Barents Sea and is located on the northwest coast of Russia.

3) Miscellaneous

Air Force Day: 8th October

Air Force Day is celebrated every year on 8th October.

This year the Indian Air Force (IAF) celebrated its 88th anniversary.

The anniversary was celebrated with a flypast, where the hallmark was air display by various aircraft.

The flypast also included vintage aircraft, modern transport aircraft and frontline fighter aircraft.

Quick Fact: The IAF was established on October 8, 1932 and the current Chief is Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria.

4) Person in News

J Venkatramu appointed as the MD and CEO of India Post Payments Bank

J Venkatramu was appointed the managing director and chief executive officer of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB).

He has succeeded Suresh Sethi, who has served the post till March 2020.

Venkatramu was presently working as the chief digital officer in Equitas Small Finance Bank.

He is appointed to the post of MD and CEO of IPPB for a period of three years.

Quick Fact: India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) was launched in 2018 by PM Narendra Modi.

5) National Affairs

India's first advanced manufacturing hub (AMHUB) will be set up in Tamil Nadu

The first of its kind, Advanced Manufacturing Hub (AMHUB) will be set up in Tamil Nadu.

It will be jointly set up by the World Economic Forum and Guidance.

Tamil Nadu's nodal investment promotion agency is called Guidance.

AMHUB is one among the nineteen platforms that has been designed by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

Quick Fact: The World Economic Forum has its headquarters in Cologny, Geneva and its current chairman is Børge Brende.

6) Person in News

Rajeshwar Rao appointed as the new Deputy Governor of RBI

M. Rajeshwar Rao was appointed as the new Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) by the Government of India.

He will succeed N R Vishwanathan, who had resigned due to ill health.

The deputy governor has the duty of managing the internal debts, financial market operations, international departments and secretarial departments at the apex bank.

Quick Fact: The name for the Deputy Governor is recommended by the Financial Sector Regulatory Appointment Search Committee.

7) National Affairs

INOX Oxygen Plant inaugurated by UP Chief Minister

A new cryogenic oxygen plant that has been commissioned by INOX Air Products (INOX AP) was inaugurated by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath.

This is the largest plant in the state and will help to supply oxygens in hospitals.

It is an ultra-high purity air separation plant and has a capacity of 150 tonnes per day (TPD).

The plant was inaugurated in Modinagar, Gaziabad.

Quick Fact: The foundation stone of this plant was laid in 2018 by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

8) National Affairs

First ever Brand & Logo for Indian Cotton launched by Smriti Irani

Smriti Irani, Minister of Textiles, has launched the first ever Brand and Logo for Indian Cotton.

The brand and logo was launched on the occasion of World Cotton Day (7th October).

India's premium cotton will now be known as 'Kasturi Cotton' in world cotton trade.

The brand will represent Whiteness, Softness, Brightness, lustre, Purity, Uniqueness and Indianness.

Quick Fact: India is the second largest cotton producer and the largest consumer of cotton in the world.

10th October

1) National Affairs

Gyan Circle Ventures inaugurated

Gyan Circle Ventures was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Education, Ramesh Pokhriyal.

It is a Ministry of Information Technology (MeitY) funded Technology Business Incubator (TBI) developed by the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Andhra Pradesh.

The incubator will hold the institutions' entrepreneurial spirit by utilizing its intellectual capital.

The Ventures will function as a Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE 2.0) incubation center.

Quick Fact: TIDE 2.0 scheme was launched to promote tech entrepreneurship by providing financial and technical support to incubators who are engaged in supporting startups.

2) Miscellaneous

Nobel Peace Prize 2020: The World Food Programme

United nation's World Food Programme (WFP) has been awarded with the Nobel Peace Prize 2020.

The programme was awarded for its efforts to fight hunger especially in the war zones and conflict affected areas.

The World Food Programme was started by the United Nations in 1963.

The World Food Programme is in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals of eradicating hunger.

Quick Fact: The Nobel Peace Prize Committee decides the awardee, it is composed of five members appointed by the Storting (Norwegian parliament) and the prize is awarded in Oslo, Norway.

3) Defence and Security

Anti-Radiation Missile 'Rudram' test-fired successfully

The test-fire of Rudram – an Anti-Radiation Missile, has been conducted successfully.

The missile has been developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

It was test-fired from its primary test platform Sukhoi-30 fighter aircraft off the east coast.

The missile has been designed for suppression of enemy air defences (SEAD).

Quick Fact: The missile is first-of-its-kind air-to-ground missile developed completely by DRDO for the IAF arsenal.

4) International Affairs

The World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2021 to take place in Lucerne-Burgenstock

The World Economic Forum (WEF) has announced that its Annual Meeting for 2021 will be held in Lucerne-Burgenstock, Switzerland.

The meeting is scheduled from May 18 to 21, 2021.

The Annual Meeting 2021 is to be preceded by high-level “Davos Dialogues”.

The Davos Dialogues will be digitally conducted by the World Economic Forum around 25 January.

Quick Fact: The Annual Meeting in Lucerne-Burgenstock is to be organised under the theme “The Great Reset”.

5) Person in News

Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan passed away

Union minister of consumer affairs, food and public distribution, Ram Vilas Paswan breathed his last on 8th October.

He was the president of the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), a leading political party in Bihar.

He was an eight-time Lok Sabha member and current Rajya Sabha member.

Ram Vilas Paswan had entered the Lok Sabha in 1977, as a Janata Party member.

Quick Fact: He had been the elected Lok Sabha MP till 2019 from Hajipur constituency in Bihar.

6) Miscellaneous

World Post Day celebrated on 9th October

World Post Day is observed every year on 9th October.

The aim of the day is to create awareness of the role of the postal sector in people's and businesses' everyday lives and its contribution to the social and economic development of countries.

World Post Day is observed to celebrate the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern.

The day was declared World Post Day by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) Congress held in Tokyo, Japan in 1969.

Quick Fact: The Universal Postal Union was established by the Treaty of Bern in 1874. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) which coordinates postal policies among member nations, in addition to the worldwide postal system.

7) Business and Finance

Axis Bank ties-up with Vistara to launch co-branded forex card

Axis Bank in partnership with Vistara has launched a Co-Branded Forex Card, 'Axis Bank Club Vistara Forex Card'.

The card caters to the needs of international travellers.

The multi-currency forex card enables its customers to travel to international destinations in a cashless and hassle-free manner.

This is the first time a bank has collaborated with an Indian airline for a co-branded forex card.

Quick Fact: Vistara has its headquarters in Gurgaon, Haryana and its CEO is Leslie Thng.

8) India and the World

BRICS Bank approves funds for Delhi-Meerut rapid rail and Mumbai metro

BRICS Bank has approved infrastructure projects worth 741 million USD in India.

Of the 741 million USD, 500 million USD has been approved for the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) Project.

241 million USD has been approved for Mumbai Metro Rail II (Line 6) Project.

The main aim of BRICS Bank is to mobilise the resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and other emerging economies and developing countries.

Quick Fact: BRICS Bank is also known as The New Development Bank and is headquartered in Shanghai, China.

12th October

1) Miscellaneous

World Mental Health Day: 10th October

World Mental Health Day is observed globally on 10th October.

The day is celebrated with the aim to raise awareness about mental health issues around the world and mobilize the efforts in support of mental health.

World Mental Health Day is organized by the World Federation for Mental Health.

The day was first celebrated in 1992.

Quick Fact: Theme for 2020: Mental Health for All.

2) Miscellaneous

World Migratory Bird Day: 10 October

World Migratory Bird Day is observed globally on 9 May and 10th October.

The day is celebrated biannually to celebrate the biannual migration.

The objective of the day is to raise awareness of migratory birds and the importance of international cooperation to conserve them.

The theme of World Migratory Bird Day 2020 is "Birds Connect Our World".

Quick Fact: This day is organized by two UN treaties: the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), and the Colorado-based non-profit organization, Environment for the Americas (EFTA).

3) Defence and Security

Sagar Kavach- Coastal Security Exercise concludes

The two-day Coastal Security Exercise is named 'Sagar Kavach', which was 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 the Joint Operations Centre, Kochi.

Sagar Kavach is a half-yearly exercise with the aim to check the Coastal Security mechanism and validate Standard Operating Procedures.

The exercise is conducted along the coastal areas of Kerala, Karnataka and Lakshadweep.

Quick Fact: The Chief of the Naval Staff is Admiral Karambir Singh.

4) Miscellaneous

National Postal Day: 10th October

National Postal Day is celebrated nationwide annually on 10 October.

The day is an extension of World Post Day, which is celebrated on 9 October.

The objective of the day is to commemorate the role played by the Indian postal department for the past 150 years, which was founded in 1854 by Lord Dalhousie.

PIN in Pincode stands for Postal Index Number, which was introduced by Shriram Bhikaji Velankar.

Quick Fact: Indian Post Headquarters is in New Delhi and the secretary is Pradipta Kumar Bisoi.

5) Business and Finance

Forbes India Rich List 2020: Mukesh Ambani tops the list

Mukesh Ambani has topped the Forbes India Rich List 2020.

He is the chairman of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL).

The tycoon has added \$37.3 billion to his net worth, to bring his total fortune to \$88.7 billion.

He has retained his position as the wealthiest Indian for the 13th consecutive year on Forbes India list.

Quick Fact: The 2nd and 3rd position in the list was taken by Gautam Adani and Shiv Nadar respectively.

6) National Affairs

UP government signs agreement with Zurich Airport for Noida International Airport

The Uttar Pradesh government has signed a concession agreement with representatives of Zurich Airport International for Noida International Airport at Jewar.

The concession agreement is for designing, building and operating the airport for a period of 40 years.

The airport is to be developed as a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and is scheduled to open in 2024.

Quick Fact: The 'concession agreement' is estimated to cost Rs 29,560 crores.

7) India and the World

Meghalaya Government partners with Israel to set up 'Centre of Excellence'

Meghalaya government has entered into a partnership with Israel to establish a one of a kind Centre of Excellence(CoE).

The Centre of Excellence(CoE) is on high-value vegetables in the state to improve and promote the livelihoods of farmers.

The CoE will prove important for tapping the diverse biodiversity and available resources in the state in terms of its soil and agro-climatic condition.

Quick Fact: Meghalaya Chief Minister is Conrad Sangma and the Governor is Satya Pal Malik.

8) National Affairs

Uttarakhand Government launches "Mukhya Mantri Saur Swarojgar Yojana"

Uttarakhand Chief Minister has launched the "Mukhya Mantri Saur Swarojgar Yojana" at the Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali Auditorium in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

The scheme aims at promoting self-employment of the youth and promoting the production of Green Energy.

The target beneficiaries of the scheme include youths and migrant workers, who returned home after leaving jobs in various parts of the country due to pandemic.

Under the scheme, 10, 000 youths and migrants will get self-employment in the Green Energy Sector.

Quick Fact: Chief Minister of Uttarakhand is Trivendra Singh Rawat.

13th October

1) Miscellaneous

International Girl Child Day: 11th October

The International Girl Child Day is celebrated every year on October 11 globally.

The day is celebrated with an aim to empower women.

The Beijing Declaration was the first conference that called out for girl's rights world-wide.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution 66/170 and declared October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child.

Quick Fact: Theme for 2020 was 'My voice, our equal future'.

2) Sports

French Open Tennis 2020

Rafael Nadal (Spain) won the men's single title of 2020 French Open.

Iga Swiatek (Poland) bagged the women's single title.

Men's Double title was bagged by Kevin Krawietz & Andreas Mies (Germany).

Tímea Babos (Hungary) & Kristina Mladenovic (France) won the Women's Double title.

Quick Fact: French Open is also known as Roland Garros. It is conducted during late May-early June and is played on clay.

3) Miscellaneous

World Arthritis Day: 12 October

World Arthritis Day is celebrated worldwide on 12th October.

The day is celebrated in order to raise awareness about arthritis, an inflammatory condition which causes pain and stiffness in joints which can worsen with age.

This day was started by Arthritis and Rheumatism International (ARI) in 1996.

The aim of the day is to spread awareness about arthritis and encourage policymakers to help reduce the burden of arthritis.

The theme of the World Arthritis Day 2020 is "Time2Work".

4) Miscellaneous

Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences 2020

The Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences has been awarded to Paul R. Milgrom and Robert B. Wilson.

The duo has been awarded for improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats.

The Nobel Prize in Economics is also known as Sveriges Riksbank (Sweden's central bank) Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2020.

The award was established in 1968.

Quick Fact: The first Prize in Economic Sciences was awarded to Ragnar Frisch and Jan Tinbergen in 1969.

5) National Affairs

Health Ministry plans to roll out FELUDA Paper strip tests for COVID 19 diagnosis

The Union Health Ministry has announced its plan roll out 'Feluda Paper Strip test' for Coronavirus diagnosis in few weeks.

FELUDA Test stands for FNCAS9 editor linked uniform detection test.

The test has been developed by the CSIR-IDIB.

It is based on the CRISPR gene editing technology and can produce the results within two hours.

Quick Fact: FELUDA Test was approved by the Drug Controller General of India (DGCI).

6) India and the World

Oxfam's 2020 Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index report released

The third edition of the Oxfam's 2020 Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index report was released.

According to the report, India has spent 4% of its budget on health during the ongoing pandemic.

India's spending stands at the fourth lowest on the global scale.

Of the 158 countries, India has been ranked 129.

Quick Fact: Of the 158 countries, only 26 were spending the recommended 15% of their budgets on health.

7) National Affairs

Release of Rs 100 Special Commemorative Coin in honour of Vijaya Raje Scindia

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a commemorative coin of 100 rupees in honour of Vijaya Raje Scindia.

The coin was released on the occasion of birth centenary of Vijaya Raje Scindia.

Vijaya Raje Scindia was one among the Founding members of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Vijaya Raje Scindia was also known as Rajmata of Gwalior.

Quick Fact: The special commemorative coin was minted by the Finance ministry.

8) Sports

Lewis Hamilton bags 2020 Eifel Grand Prix

Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) won the 2020 Eifel Grand Prix.

Eifel Grand Prix 2020 was held at the Nürburgring in Nürburg, Germany.

It was the first Formula One race held at the Nürburgring after 2013.

Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) and Daniel Ricciardo (Renault, Australia) bagged the second and third position respectively.

14th October

1) National Affairs

Goa has becomes first 'Har Ghar Jal' State across the nation

According to the data provided by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Goa becomes the first "Har Ghar Jal" State in the country.

The state has been successful in providing tap water connection to every rural household.

According to the data, the state provided tap water connection to 2 lakh 30 thousand rural households in all the 191 Gram Panchayats of the state.

Goa's achievement sets an example for other States to implement and ensure every rural home gets tap connection and especially in these times of Covid-19 pandemic.

Quick Fact: The Chief Minister of Goa is Pramod Sawant.

2) Sports

Los Angeles Lakers win NBA Championship

The Los Angeles Lakers won the National Basketball Association (NBA) Championship 2020.

The Lakers defeated Miami Heat to bag the championship.

This is the 17th NBA win for Los Angeles Lakers.

The NBA Finals Most Valuable Player (MVP) was LeBron James of the Lakers'

Quick Fact: The venue for the NBA Championship 2020 was ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex.

3) International Affairs

Earthshot Prize launched to boost climate innovation

The Earthshot Prize has been launched to boost climate innovation.

The prize was launched by Britain's Prince William and Naturalist David Attenborough.

The Earth shot Prize's objective is to "incentivize change and help to repair our planet over the next 10 years," and to "turn pessimism to optimism" by rewarding innovative solutions to environmental problems.

The first five Earthshots are to be awarded to projects that focus on protecting and restoring nature and clean air, reviving oceans, fixing the climate and reducing waste.

Quick Fact: The prize is supported by philanthropic bodies of billionaires like Bloomberg Philanthropies, Jack Ma Foundation(Alibaba), Paul G.Allen Family Foundation(Microsoft).

4) National Affairs

Kerala becomes the First Digital State in Public Education

Kerala becomes the first state in the country to have made public education completely digital.

The milestone has been achieved by the state within two years of the launch of the initiative.

The total expenditure on the project was Rs 42.36 crores.

The initiative was implemented by Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education.

Quick Fact: The Chief Minister of Kerala is Pinarayi Vijayan.

5) Miscellaneous

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction: 13th October

The United Nations observe the International Day for Disaster Reduction on October 13 every year.

The day is also known as the World Calamity Control Day.

The aim of the day is to spread awareness about how people and communities across the world are reducing their exposure to disasters.

This year the theme of the day is Disaster Risk Governance.

Quick Fact: The United Nations had started observing the day in 1989.

6) International Affairs

Bangladesh approves capital punishment for rape

Bangladesh Cabinet has approved a draft law to include death penalty as the highest punishment for rape.

The step has been taken by amending the Prevention of Women and Children Repression Act-2000.

As of now, the highest punishment for rape in Bangladesh is life imprisonment. Although capital punishment is allowed if the rape victim dies.

Capital punishment is also called as death penalty. It involves the execution of an offender sentenced to death after the court of law convicts a criminal offense.

Quick Fact: The Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs of Bangladesh is Anisul Haq.

7) National Affairs

Intel and Telangana Government plan to Launch Applied Artificial Intelligence Research Center

Intel India has announced the launch of an applied artificial intelligence (AI) research (INAI) center in Hyderabad.

The announcement was made during the inaugural session of “all.ai 2020 Virtual Summit”.

The research center would be launched in collaboration with the Telangana government, International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad (IIIT-H) and Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) who is the founding healthcare partner in the initiative.

INAI will mainly focus on identifying and solving the challenges in the healthcare and smart mobility segments.

Quick Fact: The all.ai 2020 Virtual Summit was being held from October 12 to 16, 2020.

8) National Affairs

ZSI and BSI release Animal and Plant Discoveries 2019

The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have released their Animal discoveries 2019 and Plant discoveries 2019.

As of 2019, 364 new species of animals and 180 species of plants were discovered.

Some notable animal and plant discoveries of last year include:

Rock-dwelling gecko, *Cnemaspis anandani* which is endemic to Western Ghats, A frog species named *Sphaerotheca magadha* of Jharkhand. Wild fern named *Pteris subiriana* found in Kerala.

The plant species in India accounts for 12% of all plant species of the world.

Quick Fact: The Botanical Survey of India (BSI) was founded on February 13, 1890.

15th October

1) India and the World

Rs 75 Commemorative coin to be released in India celebrating the 75th anniversary of FAO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release a commemorative coin of Rs 75 denomination marking the long-standing relation of India with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The coin is to be released on the 75th Anniversary of FAO on 16th October.

Recently developed 17 biofortified varieties of 8 crops will also be dedicated by the Prime Minister.

The event marks the highest priority given by the government to agriculture and nutrition.

Quick Fact: The Food and Agriculture Organization is a specialized organization of the United Nations which leads the global efforts to defeat hunger and improve nutrition and food security.

2) National Affairs

Suraksha Kavach- Anti Terror Exercise

Indian Army and Maharashtra Police collaborated to organise an anti-terror exercise called "Suraksha Kavach".

The exercise was organised at Lullanagar, Pune, Maharashtra.

The objective 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.

Quick Reaction Teams, Dog Squads and Bomb Disposal Teams of Army as well as Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) and Quick Reaction Team of Maharashtra Police participated in the exercise.

3) Business and Finance

Uber collaborated with Amazon pay to push digital payments

Amazon Pay and Uber announced a partnership to push digital payments in India.

The partnership is to integrate Amazon Pay as a payment option on the Uber app.

The objective of the partnership is to enable millions of customers to make contactless, safe, and secure payments for their Uber rides.

Quick Fact: The headquarters of Uber Technologies Inc Headquarters is located in California, and the CEO is Dara Khosrowshahi.

4) Miscellaneous

World Standards Day: 14 October

World Standards Day is observed globally on 14 October.

The day is also known as International Standards Day.

The objective of the day is to raise awareness about the importance of standardisation to the global economy among the consumers, regulators and industry.

The theme for World Standards Day 2020 is "Protecting the planet with standards".

Quick Fact: The day is organised by International Organization for Standardization.

5) India and the World

IMF predicts India's GDP to contract 10.3% in 2020

According to 'World Economic Outlook' report, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has predicted the Indian economy to contract by 10.3% in 2020-21.

Earlier the predicted contraction was 4.5%.

The contraction has increased due to a rise in the number of COVID cases.

IMF has estimated the GDP of India to grow at 8.8 per cent in 2021-22.

Quick Fact: IMF Headquarters is located in Washington, D.C. U.S. and it's MD and Chairman is Kristalina Georgieva.

6) National Affairs

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) collaborated with CGI to promote innovation among school students

The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, and CGI India have signed a Statement of Intent (SOI).

The objective of the SOI was to boost the innovation across the schools.

The partnership is a part of continuous support to AIM's Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) initiative.

According to the SOI, CGI is to adopt 100 schools and set up ATLs across Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad and Mumbai in order to promote and train students.

Quick Fact: AIM is the flagship programme launched by the Government of India to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship across India.

7) International Affairs

Re-election of Pakistan to UN Human Rights Council

Pakistan was re-elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

The country secured 169 votes out of 193 votes of the member of UN General Assembly.

Pakistan secured the highest number of votes among the candidates from the Asia-Pacific region.

Pakistan has served the UNHRC since January 2018 and will continue for the tenure of another 3 years.

Quick Fact: UNHRC is a United Nations body, and was established on 15th March 2006 by replacing the UN Commission on Human Rights.

8) National Affairs

Regional Raw Drug Repository for AYUSH launched at Chennai

Regional Raw Drug Repository (RRDR) for AYUSH Medicine was launched at Chennai.

The Repository was launched by The Union Minister for AYUSH, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik.

RRDRs plays an important role in the centrally sponsored scheme called AYUSH Mission.

As a step forward in medicinal plants cultivation, Ministry of AYUSH had initiated the establishment of National Raw Drug Repository and Regional Raw Drug Repositories, through the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB).

16th October

1) India and the World

India contributed 1 million USD to UNRWA for Palestine Refugees

India contributed one million USD to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees in the Near East region.

The contribution will support UNRWA's programmes and services including the education, health care, relief and social services.

Indo-Palestinian relations is mostly based on the independence struggle against British rule.

Narendra Modi is the first Prime Minister of India to visit Palestine in 2018.

Quick Fact: India recognised Palestine's statehood for the first time on 18 November 1988.

2) National Affairs

STARS Project approved by the cabinet

The Union Cabinet has approved the World Bank-supported Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) project.

The project has been approved under the New Education Policy (NEP).

The project is to be implemented as a centrally sponsored scheme under the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education.

The implementation of the STARS Project will lead to strengthening of the education system of school and to provision of education to all.

Quick Fact: The STARS project will be benefiting the six states including Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha.

3) Miscellaneous

World Students Day: October 15

The World Students Day is observed every year worldwide on 15th October.

The day marks the birth anniversary of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.

The United Nations had declared this day to be celebrated as World Students Day in 2010.

Dr Kalam served as the 11th President of India and was affectionately called as the "People's President". He was also known as the "Missile Man of India".

Quick Fact: Theme for World Students Day 2020 is 'Learning for people, prosperity and peace'.

4) India and the World

Re-election of India and France into ISA

India was been re-elected as President of International Solar Alliance (ISA).

Along with India, France was re-elected as Co-President of the alliance in the ISA's Third Assembly.

The tenure for both the countries will be 2 years.

The Third Assembly of ISA was attended by 34 ISA Member Ministers, 53 member countries besides the 5 signatory and prospective member countries.

Quick Fact: RK Singh and Barbara Pompili represented India and France respectively at the ISA.

5) National Affairs

Microsoft collaborates with AICTE to empower students and educators

Microsoft and All India Council For Technical Education (AICTE) have collaborated to empower students and educators in new-age technologies.

The new age technology includes artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), data science and cloud computing.

Under this collaboration, over 1,500-course modules from Microsoft will be made available to students and educators free of cost through AICTE's e-learning portal Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS).

Microsoft also integrated its learning resource centre Microsoft Learn with the ELIS platform to provide access to personalised learning paths and resources for students and educators.

Quick Fact: The CEO of Microsoft is Satya Nadella.

6) Miscellaneous

International Day of Rural Women: 15 October

The International Day of Rural Women is observed worldwide on 15 October every year.

The day aims to recognize the crucial role of women and girls in ensuring the sustainability of rural households and communities, improving rural livelihoods and overall well-being.

In India, the day is observed as the Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas since 2016 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

The United Nations General Assembly established the day on 18 December 2007.

Quick Fact: The theme for International Day of Rural Women for the year 2020 is “Building rural women’s resilience in the wake of COVID-19,”

7) International Affairs

Central Banks Awards

The Central Banks Award 2020 was held virtually.

The Bank of Ghana won the Central bank of the year award 2020.

Mark Carney, Governor of the Bank of England has won the Governor of the year 2020.

Central Banking Awards is held every year to recognize excellence in the central banking community.

Quick Fact: This was the 7th edition of Central Bank Awards.

8) National Affairs

AI & ML Tools introduced to strengthen Champions Portal

The Ministry of MSME launched the artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) tools so as to provide effective assistance and solutions to the issues of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

The tools have been launched on the Single Window System called the 'Champions' portal.

Champions Portal is a multi-modal system which has a portal at the virtual level and technology-equipped physical control rooms.

The tools and the portal were launched during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to turn the disaster into an opportunity with futuristic interventions.

17th October

1) Miscellaneous

World Anaesthesia Day: 16th October

World Anaesthesia Day is celebrated annually by the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA) and the medical community on 16th October.

The day marks the first successful demonstration of diethyl ether anaesthesia in 1846.

World Anaesthesia Day 2020 highlights the importance of occupational wellbeing to anaesthesiologists worldwide.

The first successful public demonstration of ether anaesthesia was done by American dental surgeon William T.G. Morton on October 16, 1846, at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, USA.

2) Person in News

First Indian to win Oscar Bhanu Athaiya breathed her last

The first Indian to win the Oscar award, Bhanu Athaiya breathed her last on 15th October 2020.

She had won the Oscar for Best Costume Design for her work in the 1982 film, Gandhi.

Athaiya returned her Oscar to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in 2012 for safekeeping.

Bhanu Athaiya had also designed costumes for over 100 Bollywood movies, and won two National Awards, for "Lekin" (1990) and "Lagaan" (2001).

Quick Fact: Gandhi was directed by Richard Attenborough and starred Ben Kingsley.

3) National Affairs

Gov Tech-Thon 2020 to commence on 30th October

National Informatics Centre (NIC), IEEE Computer Society and Oracle will be organising the Gov Tech- Thon 2020.

The virtual Hackaton will commence on 30th October and continue till 1st November.

Gov Tech-Thon 2020 is a pan India 36 hours virtual Hackathon, open to students, working professionals, faculty, start-ups, freelance technologists, and other IT service firms of India.

During the event, participants will be receiving mentorship and advice from technical experts from NIC, IEEE and Oracle.

Quick Fact: National Informatics Centre (NIC) was established in 1976.

4) India and the World

INS Sindhuvir to be transferred to Myanmar Navy

India has decided to transfer one of its kilo-class submarines, named INS Sindhuvir, to the Myanmar Navy.

With this transfer, Myanmar Navy would be getting its first ever submarine.

The decision was taken with the objective to take forward India's commitment to building capacities and self-reliance in the neighbouring countries.

kilo-class submarine is a class of diesel-electric attack submarines that was designed and built in the Soviet Union for the Soviet Navy.

Quick Fact: India has 10 Kilo-class submarines which is known as the Sindhughosh class.

5) National Affairs

DG Shipping has been notified as National Authority for Recycling of Ships

The government notified the Director General of Shipping (DG Shipping) as National Authority for Recycling of Ships.

DG Shipping works for the ship recycling industry of India.

The office of the National Authority for Recycling of Ships will be set up in Gandhinagar, Gujarat as the state is Asia's largest ship breaking and ship recycling industry.

DG Shipping will be representing India in International Maritime Organization (IMO).

6) National Affairs

SCALE India Android App has been launched by LSSC

The Leather Sector Skill Council (LSSC) has recently launched the Skill Certification Assessment for Leather Employees (SCALE) India android app.

The app will provide a single platform to integrate quality assurance across all of LSSC's services.

The platform will look after the need of all the stakeholders of the skilling and employment ecosystem at one place.

Quick Fact: Leather Sector Skill Council (LSSC) is a non-profit organisation that meets the demand for skilled workforce in the leather industry in India. It was set up in 2012 after approval by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).

7) Miscellaneous

World Food Day-16th October

The World Food Day is observed globally on October 16.

This year the day highlights the significance of food and agriculture in COVID-19 response.

The day marks the foundation of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations.

The day was established by FAO's Member Countries at the 20th General Conference of FAO in November 1979.

Quick Fact: For 2020, the day was observed under the theme "Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together".

8) National Affairs

Inter-ministerial Meet held with FSSAI

An inter-ministerial meet was held with Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and senior officials of other ministries.

The meeting was headed by the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan.

The objective of the meet was to build a 'Whole of Government' approach to achieve the 'Vision 2050' of the Eat Right India Movement.

Quick Fact: The Eat Right India Movement was launched by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to improve public health and combat the negative nutritional trends to fight lifestyle diseases on 10th July, 2018.

19th October

1) Miscellaneous

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty: 17th October

The United Nations observe International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on October 17 every year.

The day was inspired from The Call to Action by Father Joseph Wresinski, who was born to immigrant parents in a poor neighbour of France and grew up under the chronic poverty.

He founded the International Movement ATD Fourth World.

The day is being observed this year under the Theme "Acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all".

Quick Fact: The World Bank defines poverty as the earning of less than \$1.90 per day.

2) Conference and Summits

Ministers of Justice Summit of SCO

The Meeting of Ministers of Justice of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States was hosted on October 16, 2020.

This was the 7th edition of the meeting.

The summit was hosted by Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Law & Justice, Communication and Electronics & Information Technology.

As part of activities of the Justice Ministers' Forum, the Indian Minister urged SCO Member States to promote exchange of ideas, best practices and experiences in identified areas.

Quick Fact: The SCO currently comprises eight Member States namely, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

3) India and the World

Global Hunger Index

The Global hunger index was released on October 16.

The index is jointly prepared by Welhunger life and Concern Worldwide.

This year, India has been ranked 94th Out of 107 countries with a score of 27.2

Among the neighbouring countries, Nepal has been ranked 73rd, Bangladesh has been ranked 75th while Pakistan has been ranked 88th this year.

The report ranks the countries on the basis of four indicators – undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting and child mortality.

4) India and the World

Global Tuberculosis Report, 2020

The World Health Organisation (WHO) released the Global Tuberculosis Report, 2020.

The report brings to light the impact of COVID-19 on Tuberculosis (TB) related deaths.

According to the report, India registered a decline in Tuberculosis cases by 85% in April 2020 after the lockdown was imposed.

India, China, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, Nigeria, Bangladesh and Russia contribute to two-thirds of global TB cases.

Quick Fact: India accounts to 26% of total global TB cases which stands at the highest burden in the world.

5) Person in News

Vishal V Sharma: India's next permanent representative to UNESCO

Vishal V. Sharma has been appointed as the next Permanent Representative of India to the Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO.

UNESCO stands for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Vishal Sharma will replace Jawed Ashraf.

UNESCO was founded on 16 November 1945.

Quick Fact: UNESCO headquarters is located in Paris, France and its current head is Audrey Azoulay.

6) International Affairs

BepiColombo Spacecraft crosses Venus

The BepiColombo Spacecraft crossed the Venus in its journey towards Mercury.

The spacecraft was launched by Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency in collaboration with European Space Agency in order to explore planet Mercury.

The BepiColombo was launched on the Ariane 5 rocket and is expected to reach Mercury in 2025.

This Mission is a part of the Horizon 2000+ Programme by the European Space Agency.

Quick Fact: The BepiColombo spacecraft has been named after the scientist Giuseppe BepiColombo.

7) National Affairs

Raising Day of National Security Guard (NSG)

The Raising Day of the National Security Guard (NSG) is observed on 16 October.

This year was the 36th raising day of the NSG.

The NSG plays a crucial role in India's security apparatus and has always been associated with the utmost courage and professionalism.

The NSG is a Federal Contingency force to deal with anti-terrorist activities.

Quick Fact: The DG of National Security Guard: Anup Kumar Singh.

8) Miscellaneous

‘The Battle of Belonging’ authored by Shashi Tharoor to released in November

‘The Battle of Belonging’ which is authored by renowned politician and author, Shashi Tharoor, is all set to be released in November.

The book will be published under Aleph Book Company.

The book appears to be an extension of his previous book “Why I Am a Hindu” and provides the historical context to the ideas of nationalism, patriotism, humanism, democracy and their origins.

The book establishes the actual Indianism and what it means to be a patriotic and nationalistic Indian in the 21st century.

Quick Fact: Shashi Tharoor is serving as the Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha from Thiruvananthapuram.

20th October

1) National Affairs

CRPF collaborated with IIT Delhi, DRDO, JATC in order to augment R&D capabilities

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) collaborated with IIT Delhi, Defence Research and Development Organisation, and Joint Advanced Technology Centre (JATC) in order to augment its Research and Development capabilities.

CRPF is the country’s largest para-military force.

The CRPF officers/subordinate officers who are trained by the IIT Delhi will be associated with joint research projects undertaken by DRDO and IIT Delhi in the field of defence/security tech solutions.

The initiative aims at the capacity building to make optimal use of police technologies and will also help in integrating with DRDO labs for realistic indigenisation of technologies on the internal security grid.

Quick Fact: The Director-General of the Central Reserve Police Force is AP Maheshwari.

2) Sports

Denmark Open 2020

Nozomi Okuhara has won the Women's Single Denmark Open title in Badminton by beating three-time world champion Carolina Marin

Anders Antonsen from Denmark defeated Rasmus Gemke to win the Men's Single title.

Mark Lamsfuss and Isabel Herttrich defeated Chris and Gabby Adcock to clinch the Mixed Doubles title.

The women's doubles title was bagged by Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota who defeated Mayu Matsumoto and Wakana Nagahara.

Marcus Ellis and Chris Langridge defeated Valdimir Ivanov and Ivan Sozonov to get hold of the Men's Doubles title.

Quick Fact: The Denmark Open was earlier known as Danish Open and is organized by Danmarks Badminton Forbund.

3) Person in News

Rajkiran Rai elected as the new chairman of IBA

Rajkiran Rai G was elected as the Chairman of Indian Banks' Association (IBA) for 2020-21.

He is the Managing Director and CEO of Union Bank of India.

He will succeed Rajnish Kumar as the IBA Chairman.

Dinesh Kumar Khara, the Chairman of State Bank of India was elected as the deputy chairman of the association.

Quick Fact: IBA was founded on 26 September 1946 and has its headquarters in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

4) India and the World

Indian and Sri Lankan navies begin exercise SLINEX

The annual joint exercise between Indian and Sri Lankan navies – SLINEX-20 began on 19th October.

This is the 8th edition of SLINEX.

The exercise will take place off the Trincomalee coast.

It's a three day exercise and concludes on 21st October.

5) Defence and Security

Naval version of BrahMos missile test-fired

The Naval version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile successfully test-fired on October 18, 2020.

The missile was test-fired from INS Chennai.

INS Chennai is an indigenously built stealth destroyer of the Indian Navy.

The missile successfully hit the target with pin-point accuracy after performing “extremely complex” manoeuvres.

Quick Fact: BrahMos was developed as a joint venture of the Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) and NPO Mashinostroyenia (NPOM) of Russia.

6) Person in News

Aishwarya Sridhar bags Wildlife Photographer of the Year Award

Mumbai based Aishwarya Sridhar has won the 2020 Wildlife Photographer of the Year award.

She has become the first Indian woman to receive this honour.

Her image is titled ‘Lights of passion’, and won amongst 50,000 entries from over 80 countries across the world.

This is the 56th year of the prestigious awards.

Quick Fact: The award winners were announced at the Natural History Museum in London.

7) Defence and Security

Successful trial of nuclear-capable Prithvi-2 missile conducted

India successfully conducted the night trial of its nuclear-capable Prithvi-2 missile.

The trial was conducted from Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur near Balasore, off Odisha coast.

The 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.

Quick Fact: The 9-metre tall liquid-propelled Prithvi-2 has a range of 350 km and can carry a 1-tonne warhead.

8) International Affairs

Jacinda Ardern re-elected for 2nd term as New Zealand's PM

Jacinda Ardern was re-elected for 2nd term as New Zealand's Prime Minister.

She won a landslide victory in the country's election, to be elected as the PM for the second consecutive three-year term.

She will be serving as the 40th Prime Minister of the country.

Ardern was alone among her western peers in pursuing an explicit elimination strategy and imposed one of the strictest nationwide lockdowns in the world, in the battle against COVID.

Quick Fact: New Zealand's capital is Wellington.

21st October

1) Miscellaneous

World Statistics Day: 20th October

World Statistics Day is observed globally on 20 October.

World Statistics Day 2020 is a global collaborative endeavour, organized under the guidance of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

The day every five years on 20 October.

This was the 3rd edition of World Statistics Day.

Quick Fact: Theme for World Statistics Day 2020 is "Connecting the world with data we can trust."

2) Miscellaneous

ISA Solar Awards conferred

Since the inception of the framework agreement of ISA, the Solar Awards were presented for the first time this year.

The awards were presented during the third Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

Three categories of awards were conferred which included: Visvesvaraya, Kalpana Chawla, Diwakar.

The winners were: Visvesvaraya award-Japan (Asia Pacific region) and the Netherlands for Europe and Others region. Kalpana Chawla awards: Dr Bhim Singh (India) and Dr Aesha Alnuaimi (United Arab Emirates). Diwakar award: Arpan Institute (Haryana) and Arushi Society.

Quick Fact: ISA headquarters is in Gurugram, Haryana and it's led by Upendra Tripathy.

3) India and the World

Asia Power Index 2020

Asia Power Index 2020 has been released by the Sydney-based Lowy Institute.

The Asia Power Index 2020 has ranked 26 countries and territories to assess the relative power of states in Asia.

According to the Index, India has been ranked at 4th position, with a score of 39.7 out of 100.

The annual Asia Power Index is an analytical tool that ranks countries in terms of what they have, and what they do with what they have (resources and influence) to have dominant power in Asia.

4) Business and Finance

IDBI Bank launched its banking services on WhatsApp

IDBI Bank has announced the launch of banking services on WhatsApp.

The WhatsApp Banking service will be offered through a dedicated WhatsApp verified number ensuring end-to-end encryption, the Bank stated.

The facility will enable IDBI Bank customers to avail various essential services via whatsapp.

Quick Fact: The headquarters of IDBI Bank is in Mumbai and its CEO is Rakesh Sharma.

5) Conferences and Summits

G20 Youth 20 Global Summit held virtually

The first-ever virtual G20 (Group of Twenty) Youth 20 (Y20) Global Summit was hosted virtually.

The conclave was virtually hosted from Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia.

The conclave was held for exchanging ideas and dialogues for the empowerment of youth Post COVID.

India was represented by Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Kiren Rijju.

Quick Fact: The theme of the Summit was “Government – Youth dialogue on post-COVID-19 opportunities”.

6) Defence and Security

Australian Navy will be participating in the Malabar 2020 Exercise

The Australian Navy will participate in the upcoming trilateral India-U.S.-Japan Malabar exercises.

The Malabar exercise is to be organised in the Indian Ocean.

This will be the first exercise to include all four Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, or “Quad,” nations since 2017.

The Royal Australian Navy last participated in Malabar in September 2007.

Quick Fact: Malabar Exercise is an annual trilateral naval exercise between India, Japan, and USA and is held alternately in the Indian and the Pacific Oceans.

7) Defence and Security

SANT Missile successfully test-fired

Stand-Off Anti-Tank Missile abbreviated as SANT has been successfully test-fired.

The Missile will be inducted in the Indian Air Force.

The SANT missile has the capability of lock-on before launch and lock-on after launch.

The missile is a variant of NAG missile and an upgraded version of the HELINA.

Quick Fact: The missile is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and was test fired from the Chandipur test range.

8) National Affairs

India's first ever multi-modal logistics park will be set up in Assam.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari laid down the foundation stone for India's first multi-modal logistics park in Assam on October 20, 2020.

This multi-modal logistics park will have an estimated budget of ₹694 crore.

This multi-modal logistic park will be developed under the Bharatmala Pariyojna.

The project will be providing direct connectivity through air, road, rail and waterways to the people.

Quick Fact: The Bharatmala Pariyojana was announced by the union minister of Road Transport and Highways of India, Mr. Nitin Gadkari in 2017.

22nd October

1) Science and Technology

NASA selects Nokia to build 4G LTE Mobile Network on the Moon

Nokia was selected by NASA to build the first cellular network on the moon.

Under its Artemis programme, NASA aims to return humans to the moon by 2024 and dig in for a long-term presence.

NASA will partner with a Texas-based private spacecraft design company, Intuitive Machines, to deliver the equipment to the moon on their lunar lander.

The first wireless broadband communications system in space is to be built on the lunar surface in late 2022.

Quick Fact: The administrator of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is Jim Bridenstine.

2) Miscellaneous

Police Commemoration Day: 21st October

The Police Commemoration Day is celebrated on October 21 every year around the country.

The day is observed every year to honour the martyrs who sacrifice their lives in this service to the nation.

This year, the day was observed in honour of the police officers from across the country who have been working day and night to ensure COVID-19 norms are followed properly.

The Police Commemoration Day Parade was held at the National level at the Police Memorial, Chanakyapuri.

3) National Affairs

Anemia Mukh Bharat Index

Anemia Mukh Bharat is an initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and UNICEF.

Haryana topped the index with a score of 46.7.

The state had also achieved 93% immunization in the year 2019-2020.

The Anaemia Mukh Bharat scheme was launched in order to reduce the prevalence of anemia across India.

Quick Fact: Haryana is among the 11 states in the country that have achieved National Health Policy targets well before 2020.

4) International Affairs

Singapore to use facial recognition for taxpayers

Singapore becomes world's first country to attach facial verification in the National Identification Database.

This function is called “SingPass Face Verification”.

The technology is being rolled out to the city-state’s SingPass digital identity scheme, offering access to more than 400 online services, including tax declarations and public housing applications.

The technology will help ensure that the right person is genuinely present in front of their screen, rather than a photograph, a video, a replayed recording or a deepfake.

Quick Fact: Prime Minister of Singapore is Lee Hsien Loong.

5) India and the World

India ranks 2nd in OECD International Migration Outlook report

India has ranked second 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 a total of 4.3 lakhs migrants.

The data was released by the OECD in its 2020 edition of the annual International Migration Outlook report.

The report analyses the recent developments in migration movements and policies in its countries.

Quick Fact: This is the 44th edition of the International Migration Outlook report.

6) National Affairs

AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR scheme launched

Union Agriculture Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar has launched “AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR” scheme.

The scheme is a unique way to assist cooperatives in playing an important role in the creation of healthcare infrastructure in the country.

As per the scheme, the NCDC would extend term loans to prospective cooperatives to the tune of 10 thousand crores in the coming years.

The scheme aims at bringing transformation in the health services primarily in the rural areas.

Quick Fact: The scheme has been formulated by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

7) Science and Technology

OSIRIS-REx spacecraft successfully touches Asteroid Bennu

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) had launched the OSIRIS-Rex spacecraft to the Asteroid Bennu in 2016.

The spacecraft has finally touched the asteroid after two years of circling.

The mission aims to study the Asteroid Bennu and return with at least 60 grams of the sample.

The asteroid Bennu is a hazardous object that has a 1/2700 chance of hitting the Earth in the year 2175 and 2199.

Quick Fact: The Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer (OSIRIS-Rex) spacecraft was launched by NASA on the Atlas V rocket.

8) International Affairs

Microsoft collaborates with SpaceX to connect Azure platform to satellites

Microsoft has partnered with SpaceX Starlink to provide high-speed and low latency satellite broadband for Microsoft's Azure Modular Datacenter.

The partnership aims to target the space customers.

Microsoft has brought together a team of space industry veterans in order to work alongside its product engineers and scientists to build the cloud capabilities that will suit the needs of space exploration.

With this partnership, Microsoft aims to make Azure a platform and ecosystem of choice for the space community.

Quick Fact: SpaceX was founded and is headed by Elon Musk.

23rd October

1) Person in News

First woman officer of the Indian Air Force Vijayalakshmi Ramanan passes away

The first woman officer of the Indian Air Force, Wing Commander (retd) Dr Vijayalakshmi Ramanan passed away.

Dr Vijayalakshmi Ramanan had done her MBBS and later was commissioned in the Army Medical Corps.

Ramanan was promoted to the rank of Wing Commander in August 1972.

She was also honoured with the Vishist Seva Medal.

Quick Fact: Apart from being a doctor, Ramanan was also trained in Carnatic music and had been an artist with the All India Radio at a very young age.

2) National Affairs

First-ever khadi Fabric Footwear launched by India

Union Minister for MSME, Nitin Gadkari has launched the first-ever high quality Khadi Fabric Footwear of India.

The launch took place on 21st October.

The footwear was designed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

Footwears are to bear the paintings from across India, including the Madhubani painting.

Quick Fact: The footwears are made of Khadi fabric such as Silk, Cotton and Wool.

3) Person in News

Lewis Hamilton becomes the ambassador of LG Signature

LG Electronics named Lewis Hamilton a global ambassador LG Signature.

LG Signature is home solutions brand of LG Electronics.

As the Global ambassador, Hamilton will be seen communicating the brand's philosophy.

As per the new campaign, he will share with audiences his thoughts on how to lead a stylish, sophisticated life, and what motivates him to be the best in his field.

Quick Fact: Headquarters of LG Electronics is located in South Korea and the chairman is Kwang-Mo Koo.

4) Defence and Security

INS Kavaratti has been commissioned into the Indian Navy

The Indian Naval Ship Kavaratti was commissioned into the Indian Navy on October 22.

The ship was commissioned in Visakhapatnam.

INS Kavaratti is one among the four indigenously built anti-submarine Warfare stealth corvettes under the Kamorta class Corvettes or project 28.

The ship comprises of a sensor suite which is capable of “detecting and prosecuting” submarines.

Quick Fact: INS Kavaratti was designed by the Directorate of Naval Design(DND) and has been built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata.

5) Person in News

Priyanka Chopra Jonas roped in as Brand Ambassador on Parle Agro

Parle Agro roped in Priyanka Chopra Jonas as the national brand ambassador.

The step has been taken to maximise reach and awareness of its fruits plus fizz portfolio ‘B-Fizz’.

The campaign is to be aggressively promoted across IPL on Hotstar and YouTube.

Quick Fact: Parle Agro's headquarter is in Mumbai, Maharashtra and the CEO is Schauna Chauhan.

6) National Affairs

‘e-Dharti Geo portal’ launched

‘e-Dharti Geo portal’ was launched by Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

The portal aims to integrate the legacy drawings including the maps and lease plans in the management information system.

The portal makes the maps and lease plans geographic information system (GIS)-enabled.

The land and development office provides a property certificate incorporating details and the outline map of the property which can now be accessed online on the portal.

7) Person in News

Economist Dr Jayanta Madhab passes away

Renowned Assamese economist, Dr Jayanta Madhab passed away.

He had worked as financial adviser to Calcutta Metropolitan Development Corp.

He had served as a director at the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

He had also served as the financial advisor of Assam's Chief Minister from 2003-2009.

Quick Fact: Dr. Jayanta Madhav was the founder chairman of North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd.

8) International Affairs

The Future of Jobs Report, 2020

The World Economic Forum (WEF) has released The Future of Jobs Report 2020.

This is the 3rd edition of the report.

According to the report, the COVID-19 will disrupt more than 85 million jobs by 2025.

The report was prepared by the WEF on the basis of the projections of Senior Business leaders of more than 300 Global firms.

24th October

1) National Affairs

'Facial Recognition System' introduced by CBSE to access digital documents.

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) introduced the 'Facial Recognition System' to access the digital documents.

The system has been launched amid the COVID pandemic for classes 10th and 12th.

The system will match the facial features of the students with the image stored in the database.

In order to get their documents, students are required to fill the application on “Parinaam Manjusha” and DigiLocker at the website “digilocker.gov.in”.

2) National Affairs

New series of CPI for industrial workers released by Labour Minister

Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar has released the new series of Consumer Price Index for industrial workers (CPI-IW).

The index was launched with 2016 as Base Year.

The new CPI-IW has been launched to reflect the change in consumption pattern.

The new indicators give more weightage to health, education, recreation and other miscellaneous expenditures.

Quick Fact: CPI for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) measures the change in the price of a fixed basket of goods and services being utilised by the Industrial Workers.

3) Business and Finance

Indian Bank collaborates with IIT-Madras for start-up funding

Indian Bank introduced an initiative for funding start-ups in collaboration with the IIT-Madras Incubation Cell (IITMIC).

The initiative has been named as the 'IND Spring Board'.

With this initiative, the bank seeks to bridge the gap in funding for start-ups.

Under this initiative, IITMIC will refer start-ups with proven technology and established cash flows to the bank and also extend advisory to the bank on the business model.

Quick Fact: The headquarters of Indian Bank is located in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

4) Person in News

Dr Jajini Varghese named Outstanding Young Person 2020

UK-based Indian-origin plastic surgeon, Dr Jajini Varghese was named an 'Outstanding Young Person of the World 2020'.

She was awarded for her "incredible" scientific contributions to diagnosing and treating breast cancer.

She will be presented with the award at a ceremony at the 2020 Junior Chamber International (JCI) World Congress in Yokohama, Japan.

Varghese was recognised in the "Medical Innovation" category for making it her personal mission to attempt to restore the lives of millions of women affected by breast cancer.

5) National Affairs

Launch of 'Life in Miniature' project

Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (Independent charge) Prahlad Singh Patel launched the "Life in Miniature" project.

The project will use various technologies such as machine learning, augmented reality and digitization with high-definition robotic cameras.

This will help in showcasing special works of art in a magical new way.

Due to this project, people from across the world would be able to view hundreds of miniature paintings online from the National Museum on Google Arts and Culture.

Quick Fact: The 'Life in Miniature' project is a collaboration between the National Museum, New Delhi; Ministry of Culture and Google Arts & Culture.

6) Miscellaneous

World Snow Leopard Day: 23 October

World Snow Leopard Day is observed worldwide on 23rd October.

The aim of this day is to show the importance of snow leopard conservation and raise awareness about this incredible animal.

The first Snow Leopard Day was celebrated on the 23rd of October in 2014.

The day also aims to emphasize the importance of taking measures to stop poaching, as well as consolidating efforts in terms of an environmental organization in the countries of the snow leopard range.

Quick Fact: The snow leopard's range includes Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Russia, Pakistan, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, India, China, Bhutan, and Afghanistan.

7) Person in News

Neena Malhotra named as Ambassador to Republic of San Marino

Dr Neena Malhotra has been appointed as next Ambassador to the Republic of San Marino.

She is an Indian diplomat and belongs to the 1992-batch of Indian Foreign Service.

Her residence as an ambassador will be located in Rome.

She is currently serving as the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Italy.

Quick Fact: The capital of the Republic of San Marino is San Marino and the official currency is Euro.

8) Defence and Security

First Batch of Women Pilots deployed by Indian Navy

The Indian Navy has deployed its first batch of women pilots on 22nd October.

The deployment was on Dornier Aircraft at Kochi.

The deployment was done by the Southern Naval Command of Indian Navy.

The first batch includes three women pilots – Lieutenant Divya Sharma, Lieutenant Shivangi and Lieutenant Shubhangi Swaroop.

Quick Fact: Induction of women into the Defence services was done for the first time in 1992.

26th October

1) Miscellaneous

World Development Information Day: 24 October

World Development Information Day is observed by the United Nations every year on October 24.

The objective of the day is 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 day was established by the UN General Assembly in 1972.

The day was established to draw the attention of the world to development problems and the need to strengthen international cooperation to solve them.

2) International Affairs

Pakistan remains in “Grey List” of FATF

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has decided via vote to keep Pakistan under its Grey List.

The decision was taken as Pakistan has failed to comply with the 27 parameters set by the FATF and has completed only 21.

The decision has been taken based on a report called “Follow up report on mutual evaluation of Pakistan”, which was submitted by the Asia-Pacific Group of FATF.

The decision will result in Pakistan facing problems in getting the financial aid from International organisations.

3) Business and Finance

Mastercard collaborates with Atlantis to expand Digital First Program in India

Mastercard has partnered with Atlantis to expand the Digital First Program in India.

The collaboration aims to provide the users of Mastercard, a technology solution that enables them to enjoy a best-in-class digital banking experience.

Post the launch in India, the partnership will be expanding to Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

The partnership will allow the users of the Mastercard to have immediate account access and convenient payments.

Quick Fact: The president of Mastercard is Michael Miebach.

4) Miscellaneous

World Polio Day: 24 October

The World Polio Day is observed worldwide annually on October 24.

The day is observed to raise awareness for polio vaccination and eradication of polio.

The day also aims to provide an opportunity to highlight global efforts toward a polio-free world and honour the tireless contributions of those on the frontlines in the fight to eradicate polio from every corner of the globe.

Rotary International established the day to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk.

Quick Fact: Theme for World Polio Day 2020 is “A win against polio is a win for global health.”

5) International Affairs

Andorra has joined IMF as its 190th member

Andorra joined the International Monetary Fund (IMF), to become its 190th member.

Andorra is a microstate located between France and Spain.

It is the largest microstate in Europe.

IMF's membership will allow the Andorran government to benefit from IMF policy advice, especially as the country tackles the crisis caused by COVID-19.

Quick Fact: The Capital of Andorra is Andorra la Vella.

6) National Affairs

NITI Aayog constitutes a panel for reforms in urban planning education

NITI Aayog constituted a 14-member advisory committee to look into introducing reforms in the urban planning education system.

The panel is to be headed by NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar.

The committee is to examine the current system in terms of multidisciplinary, curriculum and other related issues at the level of graduates and postgraduates against the challenges of rapid urbanization.

It will also examine the urban planning education system in India and examine the availability, demand and supply of the qualified urban planners in India.

7) India and the World

India gets Chairmanship of ILO Governing body

India assumed the Chairmanship of the Governing Body of International Labour Organization (ILO).

The Labour and Employment Secretary, Apurva Chandra, was elected as the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the ILO.

His tenure as a chairperson will be for the period October 2020- June 2021.

India has assumed the Chairmanship after a gap of 35 years.

Quick Fact: The Governing Body of the ILO is the apex executive body, which decides policies, programmes, agenda, budget and elects the Director-General.

8) Business and Finance

Tie up between Bank of Baroda and Toyota Kirloskar Motor

Bank of Baroda (BoB) has tied-up with Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM).

According to the tie-up bank will be one of the preferred financiers for the entire range of vehicles sold by the latter.

Bank of Baroda is India's third-largest public sector bank.

The bank released a statement stating 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 and TKM dealers will benefit from 'digitised supply chain finance' with competitive interest rates.

Quick Fact: The MD and CEO of Bank Of Baroda is Sanjiv Chadha.

27th October

1) Science and Technology

New Industry 4.0 solution developed by IIT Kharagpur in collaboration with TCS

IIT Kharagpur and TCS collaborated to develop a novel Industry 4.0 technology.

The new innovation will help in stimulating innovations in advanced manufacturing in order to boost capital goods sector.

The technology will control the factory operations remotely and will also provide real-time quality correction during industrial production in order to deliver quality output at low costs.

The solution will first acquire real-time information about the welding process by multiple sensors and will later enable online control of weld quality through cloud-based communication.

Quick Fact: The Industry 4.0 technology was undertaken at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur's centre of excellence with support from the Department of Heavy Industry, Government of India.

2) Miscellaneous

ITBP Raising Day: 24 October

Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) observed its Raising Day on 24th October.

This was the 59th Raising Day of the ITBP.

The ITBP was raised in the aftermath of the 1962 Chinese aggression and has a strength of about 90,000 personnel with 60 battalions on the ground.

ITBP is one of the five bodies of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF).

Quick Fact: The Director-General of ITBP is Surjeet Singh Deswal.

3) Business and Finance

Srilankan operations shut down by ICICI

ICICI Bank shut down its operations in Sri Lanka.

This was done after getting approval from the Sri Lankan monetary authority.

The Monetary Board of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka considered the request made by ICICI Bank, and granted approval to close down the business operation of the bank in Sri Lanka and also cancel the licence issued to it.

The licence issued to the bank to carry on banking business in Sri Lanka was cancelled with effect from October 23, 2020.

Quick Fact: The MD and CEO of ICICI Bank is Sandeep Bakshi

4) Person in News

Lee Kun-Hee, Samsung chairman, passed away

The chairman of the Samsung Group, Lee Kun-hee has passed away.

Lee was the person behind Samsung's transformation from a small trading business to become the world's largest producer of smartphones and memory chips.

Samsung Group's overall turnover is equivalent to a fifth of South Korea's GDP.

Lee was the richest person in South Korea, according to Forbes, with a net worth of nearly \$21bn.

Quick Fact: The Samsung Group is South Korea's largest conglomerate

5) Sports

Portuguese Grand Prix 2020 won by Louis Hamilton

Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) won the 2020 Portuguese Grand Prix.

The 2020 Portuguese Grand Prix was held at Algarve International Circuit, Portugal.

This was the 12th round of the 2020 Formula One World Championship.

Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes- Finland) was second followed by Max Verstappen (Red Bull-Netherlands) at the third spot.

Quick Fact: This victory is Hamilton's 8th win of the season and 92nd career race victory.

6) Business and Finance

Rank 1 among Indian PSUs in Forbes' World's Best Employer 2020: NTPC

National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) featured on the top on the list of Indian PSUs under the 'World's Best Employer 2020'.

The ranking was published by Forbes.

In a statement released by the NTPC, it was stated that the recognition is testimony to NTPC's commitment towards inculcating best in class practices that are thoughtfully designed and robustly executed.

Quick Fact: NTPC was founded in 1975, with its headquarters in New Delhi.

7) International Affairs

UN Treaty of Banning Nuclear Weapons

The United Nations announced that 50 countries have signed an international Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) to ban nuclear weapons.

The treaty will come into force in January 2021.

Countries like Russia, The United States, Britain, France and China (the major nuclear powers) had opposed the treaty.

Netherlands was the only NATO country to vote in favour of the treaty.

Quick Fact: Honduras was the 50th country to sign the treaty.

8) India and the World

UK engineers' body award won by the India-assisted hydroelectric project in Bhutan

India-assisted Mangdechhu Hydroelectric project in Bhutan was awarded the Brunel Medal-2020.

The 720-MW Mangdechhu power project is built on the Mangdechhu River in Trongsa Dzongkhag district of central Bhutan.

The cost of the project was Rs 4,500-crore.

The project was jointly inaugurated by the prime ministers of the two countries in August 2019.

Quick Fact: The Brunel Medal is conferred by UK's top engineering body, Institute of Civil Engineers.

28th October

1) Miscellaneous

SBI Ecowrap Report

The State Bank of India has published its Ecowrap report.

The report highlighted that the pandemic has led to 60% increase in opening up of new Jan Dhan accounts.

It also highlighted the increase in usage of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts.

According to the report, empirical research has shown that PMJDY accounts work as a primary source for labour remittances.

Quick Fact: Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) scheme was launched in August 2014 under the National Mission for Financial Inclusion.

2) India and the World

AIM launches India–Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE)

India–Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE) launched by the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)

It's a two-day hackathon on circular economy to be organised on 7th and 8th December 2020.

The Hackathon will be organised in association with CSIRO

I-ACE is to focus on identification and development of innovative technological solutions by bright-minded students, start-ups and MSMEs of India and Australia.

3) Person in News

Alpha Condé wins the 3rd Term as President of Guinea

Alpha Condé, won the 3rd term as the President of Guinea by winning the 2020 presidential elections.

He is the leader of Rally of the Guinean People (Rassemblement du Peuple Guinéen – RPG) party.

He won the election against Cellou Dalein Diallo with 59.49 % votes.

After winning the 2020 elections, Alpha Condé is set to govern the country for the next 6 years.

Quick Fact: The capital of Guinea is Conakry and the Prime Minister is Ibrahima Kassory Fofana.

4) Person in News

Bimal Julka appointed as the Chairman of Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports

Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports (FIFS) has appointed Bimal Julka as its Chairman.

Julka will take over from John Loffhagen, who served as the Chairman of FIFS for over three years.

He will work closely with all the stakeholders in order to further strengthen the operating standards of the Indian fantasy sports industry.

Bimal Julka is an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) Officer of the 1979 batch belonging to the Madhya Pradesh Cadre.

5) National Affairs

IIT Jodhpur, NHAI sign MoU for betterment of Highway Infrastructure

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jodhpur and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to share expertise for the betterment of highway infrastructure.

They will work in domains which include transportation engineering, structural engineering, geotechnical engineering.

The two institutions will also cooperate in hydraulics engineering, infrastructure systems, earthquake engineering, urban and rural planning and disaster management and planning domains.

This MoU enables Undergraduate and Postgraduate students of IIT Jodhpur to undertake internships from the above-mentioned domains.

Quick Fact: The chairman of National Highways Authority of India is Sukhbir Singh Sandhu.

6) Science and Technology

Water discovered on sunlit surface of moon by NASA's SOFIA

NASA's Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) has discovered the presence of water on the sunlit surface of the Moon.

SOFIA found water molecules (H₂O) in Clavius Crater.

The discovery indicates that water is not only limited to cold shadowed places but could be distributed across the lunar surface.

SOFIA is a modified Boeing 747SP aircraft and it allows astronomers to study the solar system and beyond.

Quick Fact: Clavius Crater is one among the largest craters that is visible from Earth and is located in the southern hemisphere of the moon.

7) National Affairs

Two Centers of Excellence for Tribal Welfare launched

Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Shri Arjun Munda to launch two Centers of Excellence for Tribal Welfare.

The centres will be launched in collaboration between the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Art of Living (AoL).

This initiative will be launched in 5 districts and will cover 30 Gram Panchayats and 150 villages of Jharkhand.

The objective of the initiative is to raise awareness about various Tribal Acts and Rules and different welfare schemes available for these tribals.

8) Science and Technology

Indus Suture Zone- Found to be tectonically active

The Himalayan suture zone, also known as the Indus Suture Zone (ISZ) in the Ladakh region has been found to be tectonically active.

The zone where the Indian and Asian Plates join each other is known as the suture zone.

The new study will have major implications on the earthquake study, prediction, understanding the seismic structure of the mountain chains and its evolution.

The study was conducted by a group of scientists from Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG) in Dehradun.

Quick Fact: The study was published in the journal 'Technophysics'.

29th October

1) National Affairs

'Direct Port Entry Facility' inaugurated

Direct Port Entry Facility was inaugurated by The Union Minister of State for Shipping (I/C), Mansukh Mandaviya.

The facility is in V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust in Tamil Nadu.

The facility will help in increasing the Ease of Doing Business for the exporters, as it will bring efficiency and reduce dwell time, lower the tariff cost and improve the competitiveness of the shipper in international trade.

The Direct Port Entry (DPE) facility would enable direct movement of containers from factories, without intermediate handling.

Quick Fact: The facility has been developed in an area of 18,357 sqm inside the Truck Parking Terminal.

2) Miscellaneous

International Animation Day: 28 October

International Animation Day is observed worldwide on 28 October.

The day celebrates the art of animation and also recognises the artists, scientists and technicians behind animation.

The day was created in 2002 by the International Animated Film Association (ASIFA), the International Animated Film Association, a member of UNESCO.

The day honours the birth of animation at the first public performance of projected moving images: Emile Reynaud's Theatre Optique in Paris, on the 28th October 1892.

3) India and the World

India Post and United States Postal Services sign agreement regarding Electronic Exchange of Data

The agreement is regarding electronic exchange of data related to postal shipments

The electronic exchange of data would ensure custom clearance of packages before their arrival.

This would ease the process of exports through postal channels.

Quick Fact: Indian post is the most widely distributed postal system in the world

4) Science and Technology

Low Cost Technology anti-ageing Compound developed by IIT Guwahati

Low-cost technology that will produce anti-ageing compounds has been developed by researchers at IIT Guwahati.

The technology has been developed from agricultural resources including pulses, tea, orange peels, onion, berries, sea buckthorn and parsley.

The product is made using the size-based pressure driven membrane separation process.

As per the process, the extracts of the plants or fruits are first passed through fabricated membranes that are capable of separating selected flavonoids.

Quick Fact: The product does not use any organic solvents that are included in other products by the commercial industry, due to this, it is low cost.

5) National Affairs

DST-IIEST Solar PV Hub inaugurated

DST-IEST Solar PV Hub inaugurated by Union Education Minister, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank.

The hub was inaugurated at Shibpur in Howrah District of West Bengal .

It was in 2018 that the concept of establishing the Solar PV hub was first put forward.

The objective of the hub is to establish itself as world-class research facility and act as a central node to disseminate the knowledge in the field of solar energy, fabrication, solar photovoltaics, research and development.

Quick Fact: The solar power stations in the North Eastern region is operated by the North Eastern electric power corporation limited (NEEPCO).

6) Science and Technology

NISAR Satellite To Be Launched in 2022

The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite is to be launched by 2022.

This decision was taken after India and the US decided to share Space Situational Awareness Information with each other.

The countries have also expressed the intent to continue the India-US Space Dialogue.

The joint statement regarding the scheduled launch was issued after the 2+2 strategic dialogue between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and their US counterparts.

7) National Affairs

Two New Regulations approved IFSCA authority Board

The International Financial Services Centre Authorities (IFSCA) approved two new regulations during the board meeting.

The two regulations are: The International Financial Services Centre authorities Bullion exchange regulations, 2020 and the International financial services Centre authorities Global inhouse centres regulation, 2020.

These two regulations pave the way to set up an entire ecosystem for bullion trading including the bullion exchange, depository, clearing house, and vaults in the Gift City of Gujarat.

Gift city is India's sole international financial services centre (IFSC).

8) National Affairs

'Eminence' tag of institutes to be assessed on parameters of international rankings

A decision was taken by the centre to assess the institute with eminence tag on the basis of parameters used in top international ranking such as QS and Times rankings.

The prestigious 'institute of eminence' (IoE) tag has been provided to 20 higher education institutes to assess the progress.

This decision was taken on the basis of recommendation by a panel comprising of IIT directors.

The panel was asked to recommend ways to improve perception and international rankings of the institutes with the tags.

30th October

1) National Affairs

India Energy Forum inaugurated

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the India Energy Forum.

This is the 4th edition of India Energy Forum.

The theme of India Energy Forum is "India's Energy Future in a World of Change".

As per the Prime Minister's statement, India's Energy Plan aims to ensure energy justice while fully following India's global commitments for sustainable growth.

2) National Affairs

Kerala: First state to fix floor price for vegetables

Kerala has become the first state in the country to fix the floor price for vegetables.

The floor price has been fixed at 20 per cent above the production cost of the vegetable.

If the market price goes below the floor price, the product will still be procured at the floor price from the farmers.

A total of sixteen varieties of vegetables would be covered in the first phase and there is a provision to revise the floor price on a regular basis.

3) Person in News

Dr Satish Mishra awarded the Dr Tulsi Das Chugh Award-2020

Dr Satish Mishra has bagged the Dr Tulsi Das Chugh Award-2020

He is the Principal Scientist in the Division of Molecular Parasitology and Immunology at CSIR-CDRI, Lucknow.

He was selected by the National Academy of Medical Sciences (India).

His most outstanding work is focused on "Secreted Protein with Altered Thrombospondin Repeat (SPATR) which is Essential for Asexual Blood Stages but not Required for Hepatocyte Invasion by the Malaria Parasite Plasmodium Berghei".

4) Defence and Security

F-18 Fighter Jets offered by US for Indian Navy's aircraft carriers

The United States of America has offered its F-18 naval fighter jets for Indian Navy aircraft carriers so as to strengthen its ties with India.

The announcement came after the 2+2 ministerial-level talks that was held on October 27, 2020.

The combat jets would be operated from its aircraft carriers called INS Vikramaditya.

US has also offered its unmanned aircraft called Sea Guardian to the Indian Navy.

Quick Fact: The F-18 fighter jet is a twin-engine, supersonic, all-weather, carrier-capable, multirole combat jet.

5) International Affairs

UN award for efforts to fight climate change won by Global Himalayan Expedition

The Global Himalayan Expedition (GHE) won the prestigious UN award for its efforts in combating climate change amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.

The organisation is one of the winners of the 2020 UN Global Climate Action Award.

GHE is an Indian organisation that opens up the tourism and technology in order to help remote communities' access to solar energy.

The organization conducts Impact Expeditions that help the remote Himalayan villages.

Quick Fact: Global Himalayan Expedition is world's first organisations that is using tourism and technology to bring solar energy to remote communities as recognised by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) and the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).

6) Business and Finance

\$1 billion loan agreement signed between SBI and JBIC

State Bank of India (SBI) signed a loan agreement of up to \$1 billion with The Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

The loan will help in facilitating the operations of Japanese car companies in India.

Of the \$1 billion loan, \$600 million will be financed by JBIC, the rest will come from other participating lenders which include the Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, MUFG Bank, , Mizuho Bank, Shizuoka Bank and Bank of Yokohama.

The financing will help with the Indian government's Make in India Initiative.

Quick Fact: The President & CEO of Japan Bank for International Cooperation is Tadashi Maeda.

7) National Affairs

Parampara Series 2020 launched by Vice President

Vice President, M Venkaiah Naidu launched the virtual festival of Parampara Series 2020-National Festival of Music and Dance.

The Parampara Series 2020-National Festival of Music and Dance" was organised by Natya Tarangini in partnership with the United Nations.

The festival has been organised since the last 23 years.

Quick Fact: The festival coincides with the World Day for Audio-visual Heritage.

8) India and the World

USD 1 bn credit line offered by India to central Asian countries for priority projects

India has announced USD 1 billion line of credit for priority developmental projects in central Asian countries.

India also decided to further expand cooperation with the resource-rich region including confrontation of the common challenges of terrorism and extremism.

The announcement was made during the second meeting of the India-Central Asia Dialogue.

The virtual meeting was chaired by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and the External Affairs Ministers from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

31st October

1) Defence and Security

Secure Messaging Application- 'SAI' developed by Indian Army

The Indian Army has launched a secured messaging application platform called 'Secure Application for the Internet' (SAI).

The application was launched in accordance with PM Modi's 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Mission'.

This mobile application for Android is similar to WhatsApp and Telegram and supports end-to-end encryption.

SAI has been developed by CERT- an empanelled auditor and Army Cyber Group.

Quick Fact: CERT stands for Computer Emergency Response Team.

2) National Affairs

SERB-POWER initiative launched

Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan has launched a Scheme called SERB-POWER.

SERB POWER stands for Science and Engineering Research Board - Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research.

The initiative has been launched by the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB).

It has been launched with the aim to mitigate gender disparity in science and engineering research with in the S&T programs.

3) India and the World

Doing Business in India Report 2020

The “Doing Business in India Report-2020” was released by the UK India Business Council (UKIBC).

According to the report, the business environment in India is improving and thus there is a greater opportunity for UK India collaboration in the business field.

The report suggests that the businesses in UK have found the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Mission as an opportunity to do more business in India.

This is the sixth edition of report.

Quick Fact: India’s score of doing business has improved to 22.9 in 2020 from 2.74 in 2019.

4) Person in News

Chief Information Commissioner: Yashvardhan K. Sinha

Government of India has approved the name of Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha as the new Chief Information Commissioner.

The post of Chief Information Commission chairman had been vacant for several months after Bimal Zulka retired.

Other appointments include that of Marathi journalist, Uday Mahurkar has been selected for the post of Information Commissioner.

Quick Fact: Central Information Commission was founded on 12 October 2005.

5) National Affairs

MoU signed by IIT Kanpur, ASI and Italian institutes for restoration of monuments

The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K) and the Archaeological Survey of India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with two institutions from Italy, seeking restoration and protection of historical monuments.

The MoU was signed among IIT-K, Ca'Foscari University of Venice, Soprintendenza Archeologia, Belle Arti E Paesaggio, Venice.

All institutions have agreed to develop collaborative scientific study activities and sharing skills to restore and protect monuments on a reciprocal and equal basis.

Quick Fact: The Director-General of Archaeological Survey of India is V. Vidyavathi.

6) Business and Finance

Microsoft & NSDC collaborated to empower 1 lakh women with digital skills

Microsoft has tied up 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 collaboration with NSDC to provide digital skills to over 1 lakh youth in the country.

The programme will bring together a series of live training sessions and digital skilling drives to help create opportunities for young girls and women.

This scheme will be specifically useful for first time job seekers.

Quick Fact: The CEO of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) is Manish Kumar.

7) International Affairs

Zero carbon emission by 2050 to be achieved by Japan

Japanese Prime Minister, Yoshihide Suga has announced that the country will achieve zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Japan intends to make a sustainable economy a pillar of its growth strategy and put maximum effort into achieving a green society.

As of the country's current energy plan, 56 percent of its energy requirements come from fossil fuels.

Quick Fact: Japan's capital is Tokyo and its currency is Japanese yen.

8) National Affairs

Operation Meri Saheli

Indian Railways launched an initiative called “Meri Saheli”.

The initiative will focus on action of the security of women across all zones.

The main aim of the initiative is to provide safety and security to lady passengers travelling by trains for their entire journey from source station to destination station.

This initiative has been undertaken by the Railway Police Force (RPF).

Quick Fact: Meri Saheli initiative started in September 2020 as a pilot project in South Eastern Railway.