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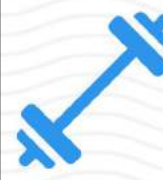
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# BAZOOKA

**MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE**

**OCTOBER-2020 COVERAGE**



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## NATIONAL

1. Science and Technology Minister **Harsh Vardhan** has launched **CSIR technologies for rural development**. This is a joint initiative of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi and Vijnana Bharti (**VIBHA**).

2. The French Space Agency CNES announced that it will participate in ISRO's **Venus Mission** which has been named **SHUKRAYAAN**. The mission is going to be launched in **2025**.
3. The **South Eastern Railways (SER)** has launched the project, '**Operation my Saheli**' to enhance the security of women passengers in the train. **Operation My Saheli** is executed under the Framework of "Nirbhaya Fund" and no additional expenditure is provided by the Head of Railways.
4. The indigenously developed Laser-Guided Anti-Tank Guided Missile (**ATGM**) was successfully test-fired. This Laser Guided Missile has been developed by **Armament Research and Development Establishment, Pune** in association with High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, Pune and IRDE, Dehradun.
5. The Union Minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh has launched the 100-days campaign. The campaign seeks to **provide piped water supply to schools and Anganwadi centres**. This mission was launched on 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
6. **Reliance Life Sciences** has developed a **real-time** reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (**RT-PCR**) kit. It claims to diagnose COVID-19 infection in about 2 hours.
7. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated '**Atal Tunnel**' in **Manali**. It is "**world's longest highway**" tunnel (9.02 kilometers long) and is named **Atal Tunnel, Rohtang**. It connects **Manali** in to **Lahaul-Spiti** Himachal Pradesh throughout the year.
8. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit 2020** to celebrate Science and Innovation from India and the World. It is a **month long** global virtual summit of **overseas and resident Indian Researchers and Academicians**. The summit concluded on 31st October 2020 (Birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel).
9. **DRDO** has successfully flight-tested **Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART)** from **Wheeler** Island off the coast of Odisha.
10. NITI Aayog, **New and Renewable Energy Ministry**, and **Invest India** has organized a global symposium '**India PV EDGE 2020**' virtually on October 6. The summit is being organized in order to catalyze cutting-edge solar cell manufacturing in India.
11. Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) **Jitendra Singh** released book on '**Discovering the Heritage of Assam**'. It is written by **Padampani Bora (IRS 2009 batch)** with foreword by **Amitabh Bachchan**. It has been published by **Penguin**.
12. **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** has released first Pan India **TIME USE SURVEY (TUS)**. TUS measures the **amount of time people spend doing various activities**, such as paid work, childcare, volunteering, and socializing.
  - Participation rate of men in paid employment is high compared to women
  - Women's participation in unpaid services is much more than men.
  - Men tend to participate more in socializing, communication, and religious practice than women.
13. PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated virtual summit '**RAISE 2020 (Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020)**'. It has been organized by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) and **NITI Aayog**. 61,000 stakeholders from **140 countries** have registered to participate in RAISE 2020.

14. The central government has extended the deadline of **the TREM Stage-IV** emission norms. These norms for tractors were scheduled to be applicable from October 2020. Now, the government of India has extended the deadline to **October 1, 2021**.
15. The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (**C-DAC**) will commission the India's largest High-Performance Computing and Artificial Intelligence (**HPC-AI**) supercomputer, '**PARAM Siddhi – AI**'. This would put India into top countries in the field of global AI supercomputing research and innovation.
16. The **Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode** will launch an e-learning hub and library as a pilot project for villagers in **Mavoor**. Mavoor village is one of the five villages that has been adopted by the institute under **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA)**.
17. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between **Indian Sign Language Research and Training Center (ISLRTC)** and **NCERT** to make education materials accessible for Deaf children.
18. **Puducherry airport** has become the first airport of **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** which is entirely **(100%) solar powered**.
19. **My Ganga My Dolphin campaign** was launched on Ganga River Dolphin Day. This campaign was launched by the **National Mission for Clean Ganga**, the Wildlife Institute of India, and the Forest Department of India.
20. The **Indian Coast Guard** have launched a 98-metre offshore patrol vessel '**Vigraha**' at a private shipyard in Kattupalli, **Chennai** on October 7, 2020. These vessels have been built and designed by **Larsen and Toubro Shipbuilding** under the 'Make in India' initiative.
21. India's premium cotton would be known as '**Kasturi Cotton**' in the world cotton trade. The Kasturi Cotton brand will represent Whiteness, Brightness, Softness, Purity, Luster, Uniqueness and Indianness.
22. Union minister Jitendra Singh announced that government have **abolished the interview** for recruitment in government jobs in **23 states and 8 union territories**.
23. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released a **commemorative coin of 100 rupees** in honor of **Vijaya Raje Scindia**. The coin is being released on birth centenary of Vijaya Raje Scindia. She was one among the Founding members of the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP).
24. **NITI Aayog** and **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** jointly launched the **India Energy Modelling Forum (IEMF)** under the US–India Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP).
25. India has successfully test-fired the **Rudram – an Anti-Radiation Missile**. It has been developed by Defense Research and Development Organization (**DRDO**). The missile was test fired from its primary test platform **Sukhoi-30 fighter aircraft** off the east coast.
26. Institute of Technology (**IIT**) **Guwahati** has signed an MoU with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (**C-DAC**), **Pune** to set up a Rs 17-crore supercomputing facility.

27. **Intel India** in association with **International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad (IIIT-H)**, has set up an artificial intelligence research center in **Hyderabad**.
28. Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, **Dr Harsh Vardhan**, presided over an **inter-ministerial meet** with Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (**FSSAI**) and senior officials of other ministries on October 15, 2020. The meet was held in order to build a '**Whole of Government**' approach to achieve the '**Vision 2050**' of the **Eat Right India Mission**.
29. According to **Intellectual Property India's Annual Report** for 2018-19, **Chandigarh University** of Punjab has emerged as the **Leading Stand-Alone University in India** for filing 336 Patents. The reports were released by the **Office of Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks**, Government of India
30. A webinar was conducted at the launch of **Affordable Rental Housing Complex (ARHC)** portal (<http://arhc.mohua.gov.in/>) from New Delhi which was addressed by Union Minister of State **Hardeep Singh Puri**, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). He also launched a National Report on **ANGIKAAR** – a campaign for change management for **PMAY-U** (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban) beneficiaries.
31. Government of India (GoI) notified **Directorate General of Shipping as National Authority** for Recycling of Ships under Section 3 of the Recycling of Ships Act, 2019. The National Authority of Ship Recycling will be set up in **Gandhinagar**, Gujarat.
32. The **Myanmar** Navy will receive its first submarine "**Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sindhuvir**", which will be handed over by India under its vision of **SAGAR** (Security and Growth for All in the Region) to provide guaranteed security for all maritime partners.
33. National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has launched a scheme "**Ayushman Sahakar**" to involve co-operatives in **creating healthcare infrastructure**. As a part of the scheme, a **loan worth Rs 10,000 crore** will be provided by NCDC to prospective cooperatives to set up healthcare facilities.
34. National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) **Aayog** launched **Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Center (CIC)** with **Amazon Web Services (AWS)**. CIC will help in addressing societal challenges through digital innovation with focus on agriculture, healthcare and skill development.
35. Union Minister for Science & Technology, **Harsh Vardhan** has launched '**CuRED**' or '**CSIR Ushered Repurposed Drugs**' a website for providing information on Repurposed Drugs for COVID-19.
36. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI) has developed **Sustainable Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Processing Facility**. The **CSIR-CMERI MSW Technology** intends to achieve a **Zero-Landfill and a Zero Waste City**.
37. 6th edition of **India International Science Festival (IISF) 2020** will be held from **22nd to 25th December 2020**. IISF 2020 will be organized at a virtual platform and will be spearheaded by **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)** with support of all other concerned ministries and departments.

38. Airports Authority of India (AAI) is planning to develop at least **100 Airports, Water-dromes, and Heliports** by 2024 under UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik)-Regional Air Connectivity Scheme.
39. 3rd Phase of the **National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)** will commence from **January 2021**. This phase will take the computing speed to 45 Petaflops (PF).
40. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has announced that cloud based “**Food Safety Compliance System (FoSCoS)**” will become operational across India from **1st November 2020**. The FoSCoS will replace the Food Licensing and Registration System (FLRS).
41. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has introduced a new form of Aadhaar Card: **Aadhar Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Card**.
42. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Launched “**e-Dharti Geo Portal**” which will integrate the legacy drawings like **maps and lease plans** in Management Information System (MIS) named as **e-Dharti** and integrate it with Geographic Information System(GIS).
43. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has approved the “**COVIRAP**”, low cost portable COVID-19 test kit developed by the Researchers of **Indian Institute of Technology-Kharagpur**.
44. Union Minister, Prahlad Singh Patel virtually launched “**Life in Miniature**” project, it is a collaboration between **National Museum, New Delhi, Ministry of Culture and Google Arts & Culture**. The project enables Hundreds of miniature paintings from the National Museum’s collections to be viewed through Google Arts & Culture app.
45. The first ever virtual “**CII Agro & Food Tech: India - International Food & Agri Week**” was organized from October 16-22, 2020. It was organized by **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** in association with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoAFW), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFAHD) and Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI). *MoFPI also started an awareness campaign named “Anna Devo Bhava” to mark this occasion.*
46. The Union Ministry of Rural Development has released the list of the top 30 districts in the country for implementing the **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)** programme. **Mandi** district of Himachal Pradesh tops the list.
47. India Meteorological Department (IMD) has dedicated first of its kind “**Flash Flood Guidance Services (FFGS)**” for South Asian countries of **India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka** to issue impact-based forecasting of floods.
48. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually inaugurated 2 Key Projects in Gujarat: **Kisan Suryodaya Yojana** and **Girnar Ropeway of Junagadh**.
49. **MCX** (Multi-Commodity Exchange of India) launched **India’s first real-time Base Metals Index- MCX METLDEX** in the commodity derivatives segment. Until now, Domestic Metal Prices were hinged to the London Metal Exchange (LME). METLDEX is based on Five base metals – **Zinc, Copper, Nickel, Lead, and Aluminium**.

50. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jodhpur and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) have signed a MoU to share expertise for the **betterment of highway infrastructure**.
51. NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog has launched '**India–Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE)**' which will be organized by **NITI Aayog's AIM** on December 7-8, 2020 in association with Australia's national science agency, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO).
52. Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT-K) and **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** have inked MoU with **Italy's Ca' Foscari University of Venice**, for creating a network of sharing skills for **restoration and protection of historical monuments**.
53. **Department of Posts** under Ministry of Communications has released a **commemorative postage stamp** on the **75th anniversary of the United Nations (UN) Organization**.
54. **India Post** under Department of Posts and United States Postal Service (USPS) have inked MoU for **Electronic Exchange of Customs data** related to postal shipments. The MoU was signed on the lines of **3<sup>rd</sup> India- USA 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue** held in New Delhi.
55. **NITI** (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog and **Quality Council of India (QCI)** have launched the '**National Program and Project Management Policy Framework (NPMPPF)**' to **transform the infrastructure sector in India**. It was launched by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Nitin **Jairam Gadkari** along with Union Minister Piyush Goyal, NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, and QCI Chairman Adil Zainulbhai.
56. **Indian Army** has launched '**Infrastructure Management System (IMS)**' for automation of functions related to infrastructure development and management for ascertaining availability of land, planning and monitoring of works, and environment conservation.
57. M. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India has launched the virtual festival of '**Parampara Series 2020-National Festival of Music and Dance**'. The Parampara Series 2020 is organised by Natya Tarangini in partnership with the United Nations.
58. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science & Technology has launched a scheme titled '**SERB-POWER (Science and Engineering Research Board-Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research)**', which is designed exclusively for women scientists. The scheme has been initiated by SERB, a Statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India.
59. President Ram Nath Kovind has promulgated the '**Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Ordinance, 2020**' for Air Quality Management in Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) and adjoining areas. *The commission will be headquartered at Delhi. The commission will supersede all other bodies and authorities on the aspect of air quality management and will have "exclusive jurisdiction" in the domain of air quality.*
60. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurated the **4th Edition of India Energy Forum by CERAWEEK** (Cambridge Energy Research Associates). CERAWEEK is a global platform to understand best practices, discuss

reforms, and inform strategies for accelerating investments into Indian Oil and Gas value chain. The Theme of 2020 edition is “**India’s Energy Future in a world of Change**”. It was organized by **NITI Aayog and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**.

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## STATES

61. **Gujarat** has signed an MoU with **Denmark** in the water sector. **Gujarat Water Supply and Sewerage Board** has signed the MoU with ‘**Danish Water Forum**’ through an online interactive platform.
62. **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** regional office in Karnataka has launched the **Sanitation Literacy Campaign** to promote literacy on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, (WASH) under Swachh Bharath Mission.
63. West Bengal Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee** has launched the ‘**Pathashree Abhijan**’. It is a road repair scheme.
64. Assam Chief Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** has rolled out web portal titled as ‘**Kritagyata**’ for online pension submission and tracking system
65. **Red Cherry Pepper Chili of Sikkim** which is locally known as ‘**Dalle Khursani**’ has got **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** from **Department of Industry Promotion And Internal Trade**. **Dalle Khursani** is considered as one of **hottest chili in the world**.
66. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind **Kejriwal** has launched a **mega anti-air pollution campaign** titled as ‘**Yudh Pradushan ke Virudh**’ amid COVID-19 pandemic.
67. The **Gujarat** has launched the “**Digital Seva Setu Programme**” for rural areas. It was launched under the **Bharat Net Project** of the Central government.
68. **Gujarat** has announced a ‘**Digital Seva Setu**’ programme to ensure optimum utilization of technology for public welfare in rural areas.
69. The **Delhi** Government has passed a new **tree transplantation policy**. Under the policy, 80% of the trees that are uprooted for any construction or development project will be transplanted elsewhere.
70. **Assam** has launched a mobile app “**Kisan Rath**” that connects more than 10,000 farmers, 50 farmer producer organizations and 1,000 verified agricultural traders on its platform.
71. **Uttarakhand** has launched “**Mukhya Mantri Saur Swarojgar Yojana**”.
72. **Haryana** has launched “**Lab on Wheels**” to test the water quality in the state under Jal Jeevan Mission.



73. **Kerala** has become the first Indian state that have made the **public education completely digital**. Kerala achieved this milestone within two years of the launch of the initiative. The project was implemented by Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education.
74. A toll-free government helpline for mental health named "**Mann Samvad**" was launched by **Rajasthan**. The helpline 1800-180-0018 launched by the state government to continuously strengthening mental health services during the coronavirus period.
75. **Uttar Pradesh** has launched the "**Hath Dhona, Roke Corona**" campaign on October 15, 2020. This campaign was launched while emphasizing upon the sanitation practices on the occasion of Global Handwashing Day.
76. **Heeng (Ferula Assa-foetida)** cultivation has started in India for the first time. The first plantation of Heeng was done in **Lahaul and Spiti in Himachal Pradesh**. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (**CSIR-IHBT**) introduced six accession of Heeng from Iran through National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (**NBPGR**).
77. **Nitin Gadkari**, Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and MSMEs virtually laid the foundation stone for **India's first Multi-modal Logistic Park (MMLP)** at **Jogighopa** in **Assam**.
78. **Surat** City of **Gujarat** has become the only city in the country to have **Longest Bus rapid transit (BRT) network** with 108 kms.
79. **Manoj Sinha**, Lieutenant Governor of **Jammu and Kashmir** announced the "**My Town My Pride**" programme to deliver governance services at doorsteps to the people in urban areas.
80. Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minister of **Odisha**, has launched the electricity consumer service portal "**Mo Bidyut**" and mobile application, over a virtual platform.
81. **Uttarakhand** has launched **Integrated Model Agricultural Village Scheme (Ekikrit Adarsh Krishi Gram Yojana)** in partnership with NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) in the state at Doiwala in Dehradun.
82. **Kerala** has become the **First State** in the Country to fix **Minimum Support Price (MSP)/Base Price for 16 Agricultural items** which include Vegetables, Fruits and Tubers to support farmers and boost agricultural sector.
83. **Ramsar Convention** has declared **Kabartal Wetland** also known as Kanwar Jheel in **Begusarai, Bihar** as a **site of international importance**. Kabartal Wetland has been included in the 'List of Wetlands of International Importance' established by Article 2.1 of the Ramsar convention. Kabartal Wetland is the 2436th site of Ramsar.
84. **Ramsar Convention** has declared **Asan Conservation Reserve (ACR) in Dehradun** as a **site of international importance**. ACR has been included in the 'List of Wetlands of International Importance' established by **Article 2.1** of the convention. This is the first wetland from Uttarakhand, to be recognized under Ramsar Covention.
85. **Maharashtra** has launched the digital platform "**Tarang Suposhit Maharashtracha**", The initiative aims to fulfil the **nutritional needs of the lactating mothers** and children of the state.

86. **Jammu and Kashmir** have become the **first Union Territory in the country** to operationalize **Public Financial Management System (PFMS)** at the district level.
87. **Arunachal Pradesh** has built a War Memorial at **Bum La**.
88. Tamil Nadu is implementing the **Smart Black Board** scheme in **80,000 government schools**.
89. **Telangana** Chief Minister, K Chandrasekhar Rao, has launched '**Dharani**' Portal for Land & Property Registrations. The portal is a one-of-its-kind integrated **Land Record Management System**.
90. **Punjab** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with The **Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship (GAME)** for a 2-year project on transforming the ease of doing business for MSMES (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) in Punjab.



## INTERNATIONAL

91. **Amnesty International India** has stopped its operations in India as government froze the **bank accounts of the organization** for allegedly breaking rules on foreign funding laws.
92. The second edition of **Indian Navy (IN) – Bangladesh Navy (BN) Bilateral Exercise Bongosagar** commence in **Northern Bay of Bengal**.
93. **Origin Space**, located in Beijing, China is ready to send the **world's first asteroid mining robot** into space in November 2020. The robot is named as '**asteroid mining robot**'.
94. **India** and **France** have collaborated to launch constellation of **maritime surveillance satellites** for the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)** to trace illegal spillage of oil by ships. This surveillance satellite will be the **world's first space-based system** capable of tracking ships.
95. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met the foreign ministers of the **Australia-India-Japan-United States Quadrilateral or Quad** in **Tokyo**, on October 6, 2020.
96. **NASA** has renamed **Northrop Grumman Cygnus** resupply spacecraft as **SS Kalpana Chawla** after its Indian origin astronaut Kalpana Chawla. The spacecraft was launched by Antares rocket from **Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS)**.
97. The **12th BRICS Summit** will be held on **17th November 2020** through video conferencing. The theme of 12<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit: **BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security, and Innovative Growth**. It is to be held under the **Chairmanship of Russia**.

98. **India and Myanmar** are working towards the operationalization of **Sittwe Port** in Rakhine state of Myanmar from the first quarter of 2021.
99. The World Economic Forum (WEF) has announced that it will hold its Annual Meeting in **Lucerne-Burgenstock**, Switzerland from May 18 to 21, 2021. The Annual Meeting of 2021 will be preceded by high-level “Davos Dialogues” The Davos Dialogues will be digitally convened by the World Economic Forum around 25 January 2021.
100. **Russia** has test-fired the Hypersonic Cruise missile called **TSIRKON (Zircon)** successfully.
101. **Pakistan** has been re-elected to the **United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)**. It was selected based on votes of member countries. It secured 169 votes out of 193 votes of the member of UN General Assembly.
102. The **Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO)** which is an Australia based science agency have studied that 14 million tons of harmful microplastics are present in the bottom of the world’s deep oceans.
103. The Union Cabinet approved signing of an **agreement with Japan** aimed at **enhancing cooperation in emerging technologies, protection of critical infrastructure, cyberspace** and to mitigate threats to communication networks.
104. **India** along with six other countries will back a **UK-led campaign against end-to-end encryption** of messages by social media giants such as Facebook.
105. **Bangladesh** has introduced the **death penalty for rape**.
106. **Argentina** become the first country in the world to approve **genetically modified wheat**.
107. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (**US-FDA**) has approved the **first Ebola Virus** treatment drug named **Inmazed**.
108. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has announced that **India** has been **re-elected** as **President of International Solar Alliance (ISA)**. Along with **India, France** has also been re-elected as the Co-President of the alliance during the ISA’s 3rd Assembly. The tenure for both the countries would be of two years.
109. Russia has approved the **second Covid-19 vaccine** called the ‘**EpiVacCorona**’ after early-stage trials. This new vaccine comes has been approved two months after the Russia’s first vaccine **Sputnik V**.
110. Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs **Nirmala Sitharaman** has participated in the **102nd Meeting of the World Bank (WB) Development Committee** through video conferencing from New Delhi.
111. **India and Netherlands** have discussed a joint effort in the **e-health sector**. This collaboration is part of National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) of India.

112. **Sri Lanka and Indian Navy** have started **8th Edition of annual Sri Lanka Navy (SLN)** bilateral maritime exercise **SLINEX-20** from October 19-21 October 2020 off **Trincomalee** in Sri Lanka.
113. **Singapore** became the **First Country** to attach **Facial verification in the National Identification Database**. The function is called "**SingPass Face Verification**".
114. **Nokia** has been selected by the **National Aeronautical Space Agency (NASA)** to build the first ever **4G cellular network on the Moon**.
115. International Coordinating Council of **UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB)** programme has included **Panna Biosphere Reserve** of Madhya Pradesh (India), Fuvahmulah Biosphere Reserve (Maldives) and Addu Atoll Biosphere Reserve (Maldives) to **UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves**.
116. Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, **Jitendra Singh** has addressed the **1<sup>st</sup> Ever Ministerial Meeting of G-20 Anti-Corruption Working Group** virtually.
117. 24th edition of **MALBAR exercise** will also see a participation of **Australia** making it **1<sup>st</sup> "quadrilateral" naval exercise**. This Quad exercise will take place in **India Ocean Region** viz. **Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea** in a non-contact format amid COVID-19. The naval exercise will be held in **November 2020** with an objective of free and open navigation in the Indo-Pacific.
118. India hosted the 3rd **India-United States (US) 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue** in New Delhi where India side was represented by Defense Minister **Rajnath Singh** and External Affairs Minister Dr. **Subrahmanyam Jaishankar** and the US side was represented by Secretary of State **Michael Richard Pompeo** and Secretary of Defense **Mark Thomas Esper**. India, U.S sign **five agreements** including 'Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement'.
119. Financial Action Task Force (**FATF**), Global Terror Financing Watchdog, has announced that **Pakistan** will remain on the **grey** list of FATF till February **2021**. The decision was made since Pakistan failed to fulfil 6 out of 27 mandates to check terror funding.
120. India has extended **USD 1 Billion** Line of Credit for **Development Projects in Central Asian Countries**. The announcement was made by India during the 2nd Meeting of the **India-Central Asia Dialogue** held virtually on 28th October 2020.
121. Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways has announced that the 1.8 kilometre **Feni Bridge**, over the river **Feni** which will connect **Sabrum** in Tripura (India) and **Ramgarh** in Chittagong (Bangladesh) will be completed by December 2020.
122. Researchers from the **Netherlands** Cancer Institute have discovered a **new pair of salivary glands** that is hidden between the nasal cavity and throat. The team proposed the name '**Tubarial Glands**' for the new discovery.



## REPORTS & SCHEMES

123. Union Minister **Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot** has launched the “**Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM)**”. The mission has been launched under the **Venture Capital Fund** for Scheduled Castes to promote innovation and enterprise among **SC students studying in higher educational institutions**.
124. The **National Crime Record Bureau** have recently released a report titled “**Crime in India**”, 2019. As per the report, crimes against members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes reported an increase of over 7% and 26% respectively in 2019, as compared with the 2018 data.
125. The **National Institute of Nutrition (NIN)** has revised the **ideal weight** for both men and women in the country by adding 5 kg weight.
- As per the new guidelines, the average weight of Indian men is **65kg** and for women **55 kg**.
  - The research body also increased the height for men to 5 feet 8 inches (earlier 5 feet 6 inches).
  - Similarly, the height of Indian women has now been increased to 5 feet 3 inches (earlier 5 feet in 2010).
- NIN Headquarters: Hyderabad**
126. Ministry of AYUSH recently endorsed the operational integration of **Ayush Grid with the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)**.
127. A Survey was conducted by the **Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO)**, NITI Ayog to **assess performance of different Ministries or Departments’ on the implementation of Central Sector Schemes (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)**.
128. **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs** will celebrate Six Years of Swachh Bharat Mission as **Swachhata ke 6 saal, Bemisaal’**.
129. Under the Prime Minister Street Vendor’s AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (**PM SVANidhi**) Scheme, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs had launched the Application Programming Interface (API) integration between the **PM SVANidhi Portal and the State Bank of India (SBI) portal**.
130. PM **Narendra Modi** has launched **physical distribution of property cards** under the **SVAMITVA** scheme. Beneficiaries of ‘SVAMITVA Scheme’ can use the property as a financial asset for taking loans and other financial benefits.
131. India ranks **155th** in the **Health Spending Index 2020** released by **Oxfam**. Globally, the report found, only 26 of the **158 countries surveyed** were spending the recommended 15% of their budgets on health.
132. India ranks **129th** among 158 countries in the **2020 Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index**. According to the report, India has spent only 4 percent of its budget on health during the Pandemic, which is the Fourth Lowest in the world.

133. **Tech for Tribals**” initiative was e-launched by **TRIFED**, Ministry of Tribal Affairs in association with **Chhattisgarh MFP Federation** and **IIT Kanpur**. TRIFED commenced the ‘Tech for Tribals’ programme in collaboration with Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).
134. The **2020 State of Climate Services report** was released on **International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction** by the UN **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**. The 2020 State of Climate Services report comprises of **16 different case studies** on successful early warning systems for hazards such as tropical cyclones, floods, droughts, hurricanes, heatwaves, forest fires, desert locusts, dust and sand storms, severe winters and glacial lake outbursts.  
The report highlights that:
- Extreme weather and climate events have increased in frequency, severity, and intensity.
  - One in three people are not adequately covered by early warning systems.
  - In 2018, around 108 million people needed the help from the international humanitarian system because of storms, floods, droughts, and wildfires.
  - The report estimates that, by 2030 the number of people taking international humanitarian system could increase by 50% at a cost of around US\$ 20 billion a year.
135. According to the **Global Tuberculosis Report 2020** released by **World Health Organization (WHO)**, there is a **25 to 30 % drop in Tuberculosis cases** across three high-burden countries of India, Indonesia and Philippines between January-June 2020. According to the report, India has the highest burden of drug-resistant TB. **India (27%)**, China (14%) and Russian Federation (8%) had the largest share of Tuberculosis in the world.
136. **Concern Worldwide** and **Welthungerhilfe** released the **Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020** report in which India ranked **94th among 107 countries** and it represents a serious level of hunger.
137. As per the “**The Cost of a Plate of Food-2020**” report released by **United Nations World Food Programme (UN-WFP)**, on an average Indian spends **3.5% of his/ her daily income for a plate of food**. The report has ranked **36 countries where India stood at 28th position**. The most expensive plate of food is of **South Sudan**.
138. **OECD** (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) has released the **44th edition of “International Migration Outlook 2020”** in which India has emerged as the **second largest source country** in terms of the “**total**” **inflow of new migrants** to OECD countries during 2018. China was at first place.
139. According to the 3rd **State of Global Air 2020 (SOGA 2020)** report was released recently by USA based **Health Effects Institute (HEI)** and **Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation’s (IHME) Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Project**, India recorded the **highest** annual average **PM 2.5 concentration** exposure in the world in 2019 followed by Nepal (2nd), and Niger (3rd).
140. According to “**Trade and Development Report 2020** titled **From Global Pandemic to Prosperity for All: Avoiding Another Lost Decade**” released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (**UNCTAD**), Global Trade is expected to **fall by 7-9% in 2020** due to the Pandemic.

141. According to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of “**The Future of Jobs Report 2020**” released by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**, COVID-19 and Technological Advances will disrupt around **85 Million Jobs by 2025**. The WEF report is based on the **Future of Jobs Survey**.
142. According to **Asia Power Index 2020** released by Sydney based **Lowy Institute**, India is the 4th most powerful country in Asia-Pacific Region. Index is topped by the USA.
143. **Andorra** has formally joined the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** as **190th Member**. Andorra had applied for membership to the IMF in January 2020. The capital Andorra is **Andorra la Vella** & Euro is its currency.
144. The 8th Governing Body Meeting of the State Health Society of the **National Health Mission (NHM)** was held in Chandigarh where **Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) Index** was released which was topped by **Haryana**. *Anemia Mukht Bharat is an initiative of the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) and UNICEF (United Nations Children’s Fund) to reduce the prevalence of anemia all over India.*
145. As per **Ministry of Tourism** annual publication titled ‘**India Tourism Statistics (ITS) at a Glance – 2020**’, **Uttar Pradesh** tops the **Domestic Tourist Visits list 2019**. UP was followed by Tamil Nadu.
146. The **Ministry of Labour and Employment** announced the extension of **Employees’ State Insurance (ESI)** scheme to **Arunachal Pradesh** with effect from 1st November 2020.
147. **Uttar Pradesh** has secured **First Rank** in **Disbursing Loans under PM Street Vendor’s AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)** scheme by approving the highest number of loans under the scheme in the country.
148. A report “**Human Mobility, Shared Opportunities: A Review of the 2009 Human Development Report and the Way Ahead**” was released by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** stating how governments can shape migration to benefit development and boost recovery. *Report cited a research by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB), which found that a percentage increase in the migrant share of the population in high income countries boosts per capita income by 2%. If immigrants increased the workforces of wealthy countries by 3%, that would boost world GDP by US\$356 billion by 2025.*
149. United Nations has released the report titled “**The World’s Women 2020: Trends and Statistics**” which stated that **no country has achieved the goal of Gender equality** however the attitudes of **discrimination have slowly changed**. The status of women has improved with regard to education, early marriage, childbearing and maternal mortality but remains stagnant in other areas.
150. As per the latest **World Bank’s ‘Migration and Development Brief**, remittance to India will **fall by 9% to USD 76 billion** due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and global economic recession. The top 5 countries in 2020 to receive foreign remittances are expected to be India, China, Mexico, the Philippines, and Egypt, unchanged from 2019.

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## ECONOMY & BUSINESS

151. **Tata Steel** and **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)** have signed an MoU to collaborate in the area of **Carbon Capture, Utilisation & Storage (CCUS)**.
152. Minister of Tribal Affairs **Arjun Munda** virtually launched **India's largest handicraft and organic products marketplace - (market.tribesindia.com)** on Gandhi Jayanti on October 2, 2020. This e-marketplace in line with the vision of the Prime Minister of making India Aatmanirbhar and self-reliant. This initiative of **TRIFED** will showcase the produce and handicrafts of tribal enterprises from across the country.
153. Tribal Affairs Minister **Arjun Munda** has inaugurated **Tribal Entrepreneurship Development Programme** through Video conference. Its Centre of Excellence is set up by apex industry body **Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)**. This initiative will run for 3 years.
154. **Paytm** has announced the launch of its **"mini app" store** to support Indian developers in taking their products to the masses in line with Google
155. **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** has signed MoU with **Swiggy** to onboard street food vendors on its e-commerce platform under **PM SVANidhi Scheme**.
156. **Prasar Bharati** has signed MoU with **Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO)** to **broadcast and promote new agriculture technology and innovations**. As per the MoU, **DD Kisan** will broadcast various innovative techniques of agriculture field in easy language through 30 minutes program series.
157. **Microsoft** has partnered with **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** to empower students, educators in Next-Generation Technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), Data Science and Cloud Computing.
158. Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitaraman** has announced measures to boost the demand in the country on October 12, 2020. The measures include the schemes namely, the **Special Festival Advance Scheme** and **LTC Cash Voucher Scheme**. For booting the demand, Government of India has allocated **Rs 73,000 crores**. It will simulate the consumer spending.
159. As per the **'World Economic Outlook'** report published by the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** Indian Economy will contract by **10.3 per cent** in the financial year 2020-21. As per the report, India will slip below Bangladesh in terms of per capita GDP in 2020.
160. The **World Bank** has projected India's GDP to contract by **9.6%** in the fiscal year 2020-21. The World Bank recently released its report titled 'South Asia Economic Focus', noting that the country's economic situation is much worse than ever seen before.
161. The Union Cabinet has approved the **World Bank-supported Strengthening Teaching- Learning and Results for States (STARS)** project on October 14, 2020 under the New Education Policy (NEP). The project will be implemented as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** under the **Department of School Education & Literacy**, Ministry of Education



162. The **Ministry of MSME** has launched the **artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) tools** to provide effective assistance and solutions to the issues of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). These tools have been started on its Single Window System called the **‘Champions’ portal**.
163. The **Labour and Employment Ministry** has revised the **base year of the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW)** from 2001 to **2016** to reflect the changing consumption pattern. It gives more weightage to spending on health, education, recreation, and other miscellaneous expenses, while reducing the weightage given to food and beverages.  
*CPI-IW index is used to measure inflation in retail prices, for regulation of Dearness Allowance (DA) of government employees and industrial workers, and for fixing and revising minimum wages in scheduled employments.*
164. Government of India **GeM (Government eMarketplace)** has been **integrated with eProcurement System of India Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP)** for creation of a Unified Procurement System.
165. NITI Aayog has constituted a 14-member advisory committee headed by **Rajiv Kumar**, Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog to **evaluate the reforms in the urban planning education system**.



## FINANCE AND BANKING

166. **Indian Bank** has unveiled its **“IB-eNote”** to enable a total paperless working environment in its offices.
167. The country’s largest public-sector lender **State Bank of India** has announced the appointment of **Charanjit Singh Attra** as CFO.
168. The **42nd GST Council** met on October 5, 2020 under the Chairmanship of Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister. GST Compensation Cess levy have been extended beyond the transition period of five years i.e. beyond June 2022.
169. Government has appointed **Dinesh Kumar Khara** as the **Chairman of State Bank of India** for three years effective from 7 October. He will succeed **Rajnish Kumar**.
170. **ICICI Bank** in partnership with **VISA** has launched a debit card facility for the customers availing the **Loan Against Securities (LAS)** from Bank.
171. Government has named three eminent economists **Ashima Goyal, Jayanth R Varma and Shashanka Bhide** as the **new members** of the **Monetary Policy Committee**. The step is taken as **Chetan Ghate, Pami Dua, and Ravindra Dholakia** terms ended.
172. **SEBI** has introduced **‘very high-risk category’** on its **Mutual Funds (MF) riskometer tool**, to warn investors, who are investing in mutual fund schemes. Prior to this, **MF risk-o-meter** (that indicates risk level of

investment) had five categories: **low, moderately low, moderate, moderately high and high**. The 6<sup>th</sup> category will come into effect from 1 January 2021.

173. **Amazon e-commerce company** has partnered with '**Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** to provide facility to book reserved train tickets on its platform.
174. As per the **3rd bi-monthly monetary policy**, the repo rate under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility has been kept unchanged at **4%**. The Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate have been kept unchanged at **4.25%**.
175. **Axis bank** has launched a new **entry-level credit card** named **ACE Credit Card**, with a focus on increasing participation of users in the digital economy **partnership with Google Pay**.
176. The **Reserve Bank of India** has decided to move towards the **Next Generation Treasury Application (NGTA)**. This decision has been taken by the RBI for managing the country's foreign exchange and gold reserves. The NGTA application will help improve the functioning of the central bank.
177. **LIC Housing Finance Limited** has launched "**Project RED**" to improve efficiencies at every level of the organization.
178. **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has released Guidelines for Standard Life Insurance Product '**Saral Jeevan Bima**'. which should be mandatorily offered by **All Life Insurance Companies from January 1, 2021**. The minimum amount under the product will be INR 5 Lakh, and maximum amount will be INR 25 Lakhs.
179. **Jana Small Finance Bank (SFB)** becomes **Sponsor Bank of Ashoknagar Co-operative Bank Limited**. Jana SFB becomes the **1st SFB to go live under the bank sponsorship programme**.
180. **Religare Health Insurance** has rebranded itself as **Care Health Insurance**.
181. **IKEA** has launched '**IKEA Family Credit Card by Citi**', in partnership with Citibank India and Mastercard.
182. **TATA Motors** has collaborated with **HDFC Bank** for financing of its passenger vehicles.
183. The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has constituted a **Market Data Advisory Committee** headed by **Madhabi Puri Buch** (Whole Time Member, SEBI).
184. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) set up a **9-member panel** under **P Umesh** to explore the possibility of a **basic standard cyber liability insurance product** for individuals and establishments that can manage their cyber risks.
185. The **Reserve Bank of India** has issued the **revised regulatory framework for Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)** under which the minimum net owned funds (NOF) size for HFCs is fixed at **Rs 25 crore**. It also finalized guidelines to set up **Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO)** for Payment System Operators (PSOs)

under Companies Act, 2013. RBI has also decided that two interoperable QR codes in existence – **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) QR** and **Bharat QR**, will continue to exist.

186. **Mastercard** has entered into partnership with **Atlantis** to expand the Digital First Program in India.
187. **SBI Card** in association with **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)** launched ‘**Delhi Metro- SBI Card**’, a Multipurpose Credit Card for Delhi Metro Commuters.
188. **NTPC** (formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation Limited) Limited has signed foreign currency loan agreement with **Japan Bank** for USD 480 million.
189. **IndusInd Bank** has become the **1<sup>st</sup> bank in India** to go live as a **Financial Information Provider (FIP)** under the new Account Aggregator (AA) Framework of the Reserve Bank of India.
190. Punjab National Bank (PNB), India’s 2nd largest public sector bank launched the **PNB Tracking & Monitoring Staff Accountability Cases (TMSAC)** portal and PNB’s 2020 Vigilance Manual.

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## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

191. The Union **Jal Shakti Minister** Gajendra Singh Skekhawat presented the **Swachh Bharat Awards, 2020** on October 2, 2020. **Swachh Bharat Awards 2020** were presented to States, Districts, Blocks and Village Panchayats in 3 categories:
- **Gujarat** bagged 1<sup>st</sup> position at state level, while **Tirunelveli (Tamil Nadu)** at district level in **Swachh Sundar Samudayik Shouchalaya category**
  - **Gujarat** and **UP** were best performing states in **Samudayik Shouchalaya Abhiyan category**.
  - **Haryana, Telangana** bagged top position in **Gandagi Mukth Bharat category**.
192. Commerce and Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal** announced the results of the **first edition of National Startup Awards** in New Delhi.
- Awards are given in **12 sectors**: Agriculture, Education, Enterprise Technology, Energy, Finance, Food, Health, Industry and Urban Services
  - National Startup Awards for Agriculture Productivity: Nava Design and innovation Pvt Ltd.
  - Clean energy sector: Aloe E cell Pvt Ltd
  - Satellite technology: Bellatrix Aerospace Pvt Ltd.
193. **Harvey J Alter, Charles M Rice (America)** and **Michael Houghton (British)** have jointly won the **Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology 2020** for the discovery of the **hepatitis C virus (HCV)**.
194. **Roger Penrose** and **Reinhard Genzel & Andrea Ghez** have been conferred with **Nobel Prize in Physics 2020** for their discoveries about **Black hole**. **Roger Penrose** used mathematical methods to prove black holes are direct consequence of Einstein’s general theory of relativity. **Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez** bagged the award for the discovery of supermassive compact object at centre of our galaxy.

195. **Nasrin Sotoudeh (Iran), Bryan Stevenson (US), Lottie Cunningham Wren (Nicaragua) and Ales Bialiatski (Belarus)** have bagged **Right Livelihood Award 2020**. It is an international award, also known as **Alternative Nobel Prize**.
196. The **2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry** is awarded to **Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna** for the development of a **method for genome editing**.
197. The **Nobel Prize in Literature** is awarded to the American poet **Louise Glück**. She has also received several prestigious awards, among them the Pulitzer Prize (1993) and the National Book Award (2014).
198. The Nobel Prize for **Economics 2020** was awarded to **Paul R Milogrom and Robert B Wilson** for making certain improvement to **Auction theory**. The prize is also called **Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel**.
199. The **Nobel Peace Prize 2020** has been awarded to the United nation's **World Food Programme (WFP)**. The programme has been awarded the prize for its efforts to fight the hunger specially in the war zones and conflict affected areas.
200. **Aishwarya Sridhar** became the **first and youngest Indian Woman** to win **Wildlife Photographer of the year 2020**.
201. **Pravir Krishna**, Managing Director of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (**TRIFED**) received the **CEO of the Year and Visionary Leadership Award** for his exemplary and inspirational leadership. The awards were presented by the World Human Resource Development (HRD) Congress.
202. The **Bank of Ghana** has received the **Central Bank of the Year Award 2020** given by **Central Banking**.
203. **Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project**, a **Bhutan-India Friendship** project in Bhutan won the **2020 Brunel Medal for Excellence in Civil Engineering** at the Annual Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) Awards 2020.
204. **NTPC Limited** tops the list of Indian Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) featured in the 4th annual "**World's Best Employer 2020**" list published by **Forbes**.
205. **Global Himalayan Expedition (GHE) of India** has won the **2020 United Nations (UN) Global Climate Action Awards** under **Financing for Climate Friendly Investment** for its efforts to combat climate change amid COVID-19 pandemic.
206. **Global Finance**, New York based trade publication released the list of **World's 50 Safest Banks 2020** which has named **DBS Bank of Singapore** as the Safest Bank in Asia for the 12th consecutive year. Global Finance has named State Bank of India (**SBI**) as the **Safest Bank in India**.
207. During India **International Film Festival of Boston (IIFFB)**, the Lifetime Achievement Award 2020 was accorded to Late Actor **Om Puri**.

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## PERSON IN NEWS

208. ITBP Director General **S S Deswal** has been given the additional charge of counter-terrorism force **National Security Guard (NSG)**.
209. **M Rajeshwar Rao** has been appointed as the **New Deputy Governor** of the **Reserve Bank of India**.
210. **Nilesh Shah** has been elected as the **Chairman of Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)**.
211. **J. Venkatramu** has been appointed the **Managing Director** and **Chief Executive Officer** of **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)**.
212. **Piyush Goyal** has been assigned the additional charge of **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** after the demise of Ram Vilas Paswan.
213. **Jacinda Ardern** of the Labour Party won the 2nd term as the **Prime Minister of New Zealand**.
214. **Rajkiran Rai G** has been elected as the Chairman of the **Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** for the term 2020-21.
215. The **Supreme Court** bench headed by Chief Justice **Sharad Arvind Bobde** has formed a one-man committee under former SC judge **Madan Bhimarao Lokur** to monitor and prevent stubble-burning by farmers in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh (UP).
216. **Shashi Tharoor** will release his new book titled "**The Battle of Belonging**" in November 2020. The book is published by **Aleph Book Company**.
217. **Saad El-Din Hariri** was elected as the Prime minister of **Lebanon**.
218. **Apurva Chandra**, Secretary (Labour and Employment), Ministry of Labour and Employment was elected as the **Chairperson of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation (ILO)** for the period October 2020- June 2021.
219. **Parle Agro** has appointed **Priyanka Chopra** as the **national brand ambassador**.
220. India origin **Wavel Ramkalawan** was elected as the President of **Seychelles**. The capital and currency of Seychelles is **Victoria & Seychellois rupee** respectively.
221. **Alpha Condé** has won the 3rd term as the President of **Guinea**.
222. **Luis Arce** has become new President of **Bolivia**.

## OBITUARIES

223. **Former Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court Justice Anantkumar Surendraray Dave** has passed away in Ahmedabad.
224. Veteran Samajwadi Party leader **Mulayam Singh Yadav** has passed away. He started his political career from **Auraiya district (Uttar Pradesh)**.
225. Former CBI Director **Ashwani Kumar** has passed away recently; he also served as governor of Nagaland and Manipur.

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226. Union minister **Ram Vilas Paswan** passed away recently; he was president of which political party **Lok Janshakti Party**.
227. Justice **KK Usha**, passed away, she was first women chief justice of **Kerala High Court**.
228. Indian sportsman **Carlton Chapman** has passed away recently he was associated with **Football**.
229. ‘Mahakavi’ **Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri**, renowned **Malayalam Poet**, has passed away. He is the last Malayalam poet to be called as ‘Mahakavi’. He is a recipient of **Jnanpith Award (2019)**.
230. Padma Bhushan **P.S. Narayanaswamy**, renowned **Carnatic vocalist** has passed away at his residence in Mylapore, **Chennai**. He was born on 24<sup>th</sup> February 1934 in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu.
231. Retired Wing Commander **Dr. Vijayalakshmi Ramanan**, first woman commissioned officer of the Indian Air Force (IAF) has passed away. She was born in February 1924 in **Madras** (now Chennai).
232. First Home Minister of Telangana **Nayani Narasimha Reddy** has passed away.
233. **Keshubhai Savdas Patel**, former **Chief Minister of Gujarat** and veteran leader of Bharatiya Janata Party has passed away. He was born in 1928 in Visavadar, Junagadh, Gujarat.

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## IMPORTANT DAYS

234. The **International Day of Older Persons** is observed on **1st October** every year to raise awareness about issues affecting the elderly. The theme of 2020 is ‘**Pandemics: Do They Change How We Address Age and Ageing?**’.

235. The **International Day of Non-Violence** is observed on **October 2** to commemorate the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. This year the day is being celebrated under the **Theme- Shaping Peace Together**.
236. **World Day for Farmed Animals** was celebrated on **October 2, 2020** by the International Animals' Welfare Organization, World Animal Protection along with the Asia for Animals Coalition.
237. **World Animal Day** is observed every year on **October 4** across the globe.
238. **World Teachers' Day (International Teachers Day)** is being observed annually on **October 5**. It is co-convened in partnership with **UNICEF, the International Labour Organization and Education International**. Theme 2020: **Teachers: Leading in crisis, reimagining the future**.
239. The **World Habitat Day** is observed on the first Monday of October month every year. In 2020, the day is being celebrated under the theme- **Housing for All-A better Urban Future**.
240. **Wildlife Week** is being observed in India annually from **2 to 8 October** to conserve and protect the fauna or animal life of the country. Theme for Wildlife Week 2020: **RoarR (Roar and Revive) – Exploring Human-Animal Relationships**.
241. The **World Post Day** is observed every year on which date **9th October**.
242. The **World Migratory Bird Day** is observed globally on **10th October**. This time the theme of World Migratory Bird Day 2020 is **"Birds Connect Our World"**.
243. The **World Mental Health Day** is observed globally every year on **10th October**. This year's theme set by the World Federation for Mental Health is **'Mental Health for All'**.
244. The **International Day of the Girl Child** is observed globally every year on **11th October**. The theme for 2020 International Day of the Girl Child is **"My voice, our equal future."**
245. The United Nations (UN)'s **World Food Day** is annually celebrated on **October 16** to commemorate the founding date of the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** of the UN in 1945, this year (2020) marks the **75th anniversary of FAO**. Theme of World Food Day 2020– **"Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together"**.
246. United Nations (UN)'s **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty** is annually observed across the globe on **17th October**. The theme of 2020 International day for the Eradication of Poverty is **"Acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all"**.
247. **75th anniversary of United Nations** was celebrated as UN Day on **October 24**. During the high-level event of the 75th anniversary celebrations, a political declaration was adopted. The declaration was negotiated through an intergovernmental process under the theme **"The future we want; the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism"**.
248. **World Polio Day** is annually observed across the globe on **24th October**. The theme of 2020 World Polio Day is **"A win against polio is a win for global health"**.

249. The ‘Vigilance Awareness Week’ 2020 is observed in India from **October 27 to November 2, 2020** by **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)**. This year the week is being observed on the theme “**Satark Bharat, Samridh Bharat (Vigilant India, Prosperous India)**”.
250. The **International Animation Day** is annually celebrated across the globe on **October 28**.
251. The **International Internet Day** has been annually celebrated on **29th October** since 2005 to mark the anniversary of the first internet transmission on 29th October 1969.



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## SPORTS

252. Sports Minister **Kiren Rijiju** has launched the **Sports Authority of India's (SAI) new logo** at Delhi's Major Dhyan Chand Stadium, Delhi.
253. India's **Visnu Shivaraj Pandian (16 year)** has won 10m air rifle event at the fifth edition of the **International Online Shooting Championship**.
254. **Lewis Hamilton** has won the **2020 Eifel Grand Prix**, held at the Nürburgring in Nürburg, **Germany**.
255. **Rafael Nadal** has won the **men's single title** of 2020 French Open. This is his 13th French Open men's singles title and 20th Grand Slam title. The Spaniard defeated **Novak Djokovic**. Women's 2020 French Open Single Title was won by **Iga Swiatek**.
256. **Nihal Sarin** won the 2020 Junior Speed Online Chess Championship.
257. British Driver **Lewis Hamilton** of Mercedes has won the 2020 **Portuguese Grand Prix** held at Algarve International circuit, Portugal. With this win, **Lewis Hamilton became the most successful driver** of Formula One with **92 wins**. Hamilton has moved ahead of Schumacher's record of 91 wins.



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The advertisement features a dark purple background. On the right, there is a graphic of a podium with a gold medal on top, flanked by laurel wreaths. The number 1 is on the podium.