



WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**OCT 2020
3rd Week**

OCTOBER 16-23

PracticeMock

CONTENTS

NATIONAL.....	3
27. STATES.....	4
35. INTERNATIONAL.....	5
41. REPORTS & SCHEMES.....	5
51. ECONOMY & BUSINESS.....	7
54. FINANCE AND BANKING.....	7
63. AWARDS & RECOGNITION.....	7
68. PERSON IN NEWS.....	8
73. OBITUARIES.....	8
76. IMPORTANT DAYS.....	8

NATIONAL

1. 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
2. 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 (MoS I/C) 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.
3. 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.
4. The **Myanmar** Navy will receive its first submarine namely "**Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sindhuvir**", a Kilo class submarine 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.
5. National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) 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.
6. 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.
7. Union Minister for Science & Technology, Harsh Vardhan launched '**CuRED**' or 'CSIR Ushered Repurposed Drugs' (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research-CSIR) a website for providing information on Repurposed Drugs for COVID-19.
8. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (**CSIR**)-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (**CMERI**) developed **Sustainable Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Processing Facility**. The CSIR-CMERI MSW Technology intends to achieve a Zero-Landfill and a Zero Waste City and envisions to develop job creation opportunities.

9. 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.
10. Airports Authority of India (AAI) is planning to develop at least **100 Airports**, Water-dromes, Heliports by 2024 under UDAN ("Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik")-Regional Air Connectivity Scheme.
11. 3rd Phase of the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) will commence from **January, 2021**. This phase will take the computing speed to 45 Petaflops (PF). The works on Phase Three will include Three systems of 3 PF each and one system of 20 PF as a national facility.
12. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (**FSSAI**) 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).
13. The Unique Identification Authority of India (**UIDAI**) has introduced a new form of Aadhaar, namely, Aadhar polyvinyl chloride (PVC) card.
14. 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 enable it with Geographic Information System(**GIS**).
15. 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 (IIT)-Kharagpur.

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STATES

16. **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).

17. 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.
18. **Gujarat's Surat** became the only city in the country to have **Longest Bus rapid transit (BRT) network** with 108 kms.
19. **Manoj Sinha**, Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) announced the "**My Town My Pride**" programme to deliver governance services at doorsteps to the people in urban areas.
20. Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minister of **Odisha** launched the electricity consumer service portal "**Mo Bidyut**" and mobile application, over a virtual platform.
21. 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.

INTERNATIONAL

22. Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman participated in the **102nd Meeting** of the **World Bank (WB) Development Committee** through video conferencing from New Delhi.
23. **India and Netherlands** discussed a joint effort in the **e-health sector**. This collaboration is part of National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) of India.
24. Sri Lanka and Indian Navy initiated **8th Edition of annual Sri Lanka Navy (SLN)** bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-20 from October 19-21 October 2020 off **Trincomalee** in Sri Lanka.
25. **Singapore** became the First Country to attach **Facial verification in the National Identification Database**. The function is called "**SingPass Face Verification**".
26. **Nokia** has been selected by the National Aeronautical Space Agency (**NASA**) to build the first ever **4G cellular network on the Moon**.

REPORTS & SCHEMES

27. 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 – 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.

28. 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.
29. 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**.
30. OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) has released the **44th edition of "International Migration Outlook 2020"** in which India 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.
31. 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).
32. 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.
33. According to the 3rd 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**.
34. According to **Asia Power Index 2020** released by Sydney based Lowy Institute, India is the 4th most powerful country in Asia-Pacific Region.
35. **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.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

36. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) expects Asia's Economy to **contract 2.2% in 2020**. The decline in economic growth is due to sharp slumps in countries like India, Philippines and Malaysia.



FINANCE AND BANKING

37. 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 upto INR 25 Lakhs.

38. **Indian Bank** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), and Small Industries Development Bank of India (**SIDBI**) pay subsidy to street vendors under the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (**PM SVANidhi**) Scheme.

39. 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**.

40. **Religare Health Insurance** has rebranded itself as **Care Health Insurance**.

41. **IKEA** has launched '**IKEA Family Credit Card by Citi**', in partnership with Citibank India and Mastercard.

42. **TATA Motors** has collaborated with **HDFC** (Housing Development Finance Corporation) **Bank** for financing of its passenger vehicles.

43. The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has constituted a **Market Data Advisory Committee**, Standing Committee headed by **Madhabi Puri Buch**, Whole Time Member, SEBI

44. 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.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

45. **Aishwarya Sridhar** became the **first and youngest Indian Woman** to win **Wildlife Photographer of the year 2020**.

46. **Pravir Krishna**, Managing Director (MD) 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.
47. The Bank of Ghana (BoG) has received the **Central Bank of the Year Award 2020** given by **Central Banking**.
48. **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.

PERSON IN NEWS

49. **Jacinda Ardern** of the Labour Party won the 2nd term as the Prime Minister of New Zealand.
50. **Rajkiran Rai G** has been elected as the Chairman of the the Indian Banks' Association (IBA), for the term 2020-21.
51. 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).
52. Shashi Tharoor will release his new book titled "**The Battle of Belonging**" in November 2020. The book is published by **Aleph Book Company**.

OBITUARIES

53. 'Mahakavi' **Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri**, renowned Malayalam Poet, passed away. He is the last Malayalam poet to be called as 'Mahakavi'. He is a recipient of Jnanpith Award (2019).
54. Padma Bhushan **P.S. Narayanaswamy**, esteemed **Carnatic vocalist** passed away at the age of 86 at his residence in Mylapore, Chennai. He was born on 24th February 1934 in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu.

IMPORTANT DAYS

55. 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**".

56.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**".

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