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Weekly Current Affairs

11 to 17 Oct 2020

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NATIONAL NEWS

1. Piyush Goyal gets additional charge of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

- Union Minister Piyush Goyal has been assigned the additional charge of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution by President Ram Nath Kovind.
- According to a release by the President Ram Nath Kovind's office, Goyal will hold the charge of this Ministry in addition to his existing portfolios.

2. Interviews for central govt jobs abolished in 23 states, 8 UTs: Jitendra Singh

- Union minister of state for personnel, public grievances & pensions Dr Jitendra Singh disclosed so far, interview for central government jobs has been abolished in 23 states and 8 Union territories of India.
- The Union minister said this is a follow-up to the abolition of interview for Group-B (Non- Gazetted) and Group – C posts in the Central Government ever since 2016.
- Giving a brief about some of the path-breaking reforms brought in by the department of personnel & training (DoPT), Dr Singh recalled that it was on August 15, 2015, while speaking from the rampart of Red Fort on the occasion of Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had suggested abolition of interview.

3. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat launches Saur Swarojgar Yojana to generate self-employment

- Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat launched Mukhya Mantri Saur Swarojgar Yojana. The Yojana aims at creating self-employment for nearly 10,000 youths in the state.
- The targeted beneficiaries, including the youth and migrants who have returned home after leaving their jobs in various parts of the country due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Thaawar chand Gehlot Virtually Inaugurates International Conference on “Mental Health: Looking Beyond COVID 19”

- Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment Shri Thaawar chand Gehlot inaugurated the virtual “International conference on Mental Health: Looking Beyond COVID 19” through video conferencing. Prof. Craig Jeffrey, Director, Australia-India Institute co-chaired the conference.
- Shri Thaawar chand Gehlot drew the attention of rising trend of mental health concerns across the globe. He also apprised about the recent initiatives of the Govt of India such as setting up of National Institute of

Mental Health Rehabilitation at Sehore, Madhya Pradesh & KIRAN mental health rehabilitation helpline for addressing mental health issues.

- The Conference was organized by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), M/o Social Justice & Empowerment in association with University of Melbourne, Australia as a part of joint initiative under the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Government of Australia and Government of India for cooperation in the disability sector in November, 2018.

5. Delhi exempts road tax on battery-operated vehicles; CM Kejriwal says 'crucial step'

- Delhi government exempts road tax on battery-operated vehicles under its new Electric Vehicle Policy, Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said.
- Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal termed the decision 'another crucial step towards ensuring a pollution-free Delhi'
- People have been asked to give their suggestions on the exemption of the registration fees of electric vehicles, according to a Delhi government statement. It said an order to waive the fees will be issued in three days.

6. Indian beaches awarded international 'Blue Flag' certification

- Eight beaches spread across five states and two union territories in India have been awarded the 'Blue Flag' certification, the environment ministry said.
- The eight beaches that have received the international 'Blue Flag' certification are Shivrajpur (Dwarka-Gujarat), Ghoghla (Diu), Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka), Kappad (Kerala), Rushikonda (AP), Golden (Puri-Odisha) and Radhanagar (A&N Islands).
- Blue flag certification is a globally recognised label that has been accorded by a Denmark based International agency called the foundation for environment education. The blue flag tag is provided to beaches that adopt eco-tourism model.

7. India ranked 155th on the health spending index

- The survey data show India spent less than 4% of its budget on health and ranked 155th on the health spending index. "Its health budget is the fourth lowest in the world.
- Just half of its population have access to even the most essential health services,"
- Afghanistan and India set aside the same share for health in their budgets, 4%, just above a quarter of the recommended spending and one-third of what the second poorest country in the world, Burundi, did.

8. India among top three FDI destinations in near future

- India has emerged as one of the top three choices for investments in the next two to three years, with more than two-thirds of respondents in a survey of multinational companies (MNCs) citing the country as their number one choice for future investments.
- Recent reforms in the country such as corporate tax cuts, 'Ease of Doing Business' measures, simplification of labour laws, FDI reforms, and focus on human capital have emerged as the top drivers for fresh investments.

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

- On the occasion of 75th Anniversary of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on 16 October 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release a commemorative coin of Rs 75 denomination to mark the long-standing relation of India with FAO.
- Prime Minister Modi will also dedicate to the Nation 17 recently developed biofortified varieties of 8 crops.
- It will be witnessed by Anganwadis, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, Organic and Horticulture Missions across the country. Union Agriculture Minister, Finance Minister and WCD Minister will also be present on the occasion.

10. Haryana govt launches mobile water testing labs

- The Haryana government has launched a mobile water testing laboratory van, fully equipped with a multi-parameter system containing analysers, sensor, probes and instruments meant for assessing water quality, the Jal Shakti Ministry said.
- Water quality in Haryana is mainly affected by constituents like total dissolved solids (TDS), fluoride, nitrate, iron and alkalinity.
- The work under the Jal Jeevan Mission, which aims to provide tap water to rural households by 2024, is being done on a war footing and it gives a lot of emphasis on water quality surveillance and monitoring, the ministry said in a statement.

11. NITI Aayog announces governing structure of India Energy Modelling Forum

- NITI Aayog has announced the governing structure of the India Energy Modelling Forum (IEMF) following its constitution in July. The Forum was jointly launched by NITI Aayog and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the US–India Strategic Energy Partnership.
- Part of the Sustainable Growth pillar of the US–India Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP), IEMF aims to engage Indian researchers, knowledge partners, think tanks and national and international government agencies and departments for modelling and long-term energy planning.

- The governing structure of IEMF will consist of an inter-ministerial and a steering committee. The inter-ministerial committee will be convened by NITI Aayog and headed by its CEO, and comprise senior officials from the ministries of petroleum and natural gas; power; new and renewable energy; coal; environment, forest and climate change; and department of science and technology.

12. E-Sanjeevani rapidly gaining popularity amongst patients & doctors

- Health Ministry's telemedicine initiative - E-Sanjeevani is rapidly gaining popularity amongst patients and doctors. It has recorded five lakh teleconsultations in a short span of time and the last one lakh consultations were completed in a record time of 17 days.
- As a digital modality of health care services delivery, e-Sanjeevani is gradually shaping into a parallel stream for the Indian healthcare delivery system with the number of teleconsultations per day on the platform touching 8,000 mark in the last few days.
- At present, 26 states are using e-Sanjeevani's two variants of telemedicine namely - doctor to doctor (e-Sanjeevani AB-HWC) and patient to doctor (e-SanjeevaniOPD).



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13. Ravi Shankar Prasad to host SCO meeting of law and justice ministers

- Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad will host the seventh meeting of Ministers of Justice of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) this week. The virtual meeting on October 16 will be attended by Law and Justice ministers of China, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz Republic.

- The ministers during the meet will share the knowledge on creating conducive environment to promote dispute resolution mechanism, forensic activities and other legal services. Also, the ministers will discuss on the action plan of the working groups of experts on legal services and forensic activities.
- SCO is a part of India's policy of "multi alignments". RATS is regional Anti-terror structure of SCO. Accessing information and intelligent from RATS will help India learn about non-Pakistan centred Counter Terrorism.

14. Kerala becomes first state to go digital in public education

- Kerala became the first state in the country to go completely digital in public education. Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) has implemented the project which comes under the general education department.
- Over 3.74 lakh digital equipments were distributed in 16,027 schools for the smart classroom project.
- Apart from KIIFB fund, the asset development funds of public representatives and local government funds were also utilized for the project.

15. India, France re-elected as President, Co-President of International Solar Alliance

- India and France were re-elected as the President and Co-President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), for a term of two years at the virtual meeting of the Third Assembly, informed the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- This was decided during the virtual meeting of the third assembly of the International Solar Alliance attended by 34 ISA members. Four new Vice-Presidents were also chosen to represent the four regions of ISA.

16. India contributes 1 million dollars to UNRWA for Palestine Refugees

- India has contributed one million dollars to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees in Near East. This aid will support the Agency's programmes and services, including education, health care, relief and social services.
- The Representative Office of India in Ramallah said, India's support for the Palestinian cause is an integral part of the nation's foreign policy. It shall continue supporting the UNRWA's activities in providing vital services and necessary humanitarian aid to Palestinian refugees.

17. Odisha Launches 'Sujal' Mission, first state to provide tap water fit for drinking in urban areas

- The Odisha Government launched 'Sujal - Drink from Tap Mission'. The aim of the mission is to provide quality drinking water, fit for direct consumption from the pipe, to over 15 lakh people in 15 towns.
- Rs 1300 crore will be spent by the Government to provide the drink directly from tap quality water to all households in urban areas. The initiative was started at Salia Sahi in Bhubaneswar and Masani Chandi in Puri.

18. CCEA approves demerger of Nagarnar Steel Plant from NMDC Limited

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its in-principle approval to the demerger of Nagarnar Steel Plant (NSP) from National Minerals Development Corporation (NMDC) Limited.
- It has also approved the strategic disinvestment of the demerged company (NSP) by selling the entire Government of India stake in it to a strategic buyer.
- NSP is a three million tonne per annum Integrated Steel Plant being set up by NMDC at Nagarnar in Bastar District of Chhattisgarh in an area of 1980 acres at revised estimated cost of Rs. 23,140 crore.
- As on date NMDC has invested Rs. 17,186 crore in the project.

19. Government sets up a panel of secretaries to streamline telecom spectrum allocation

- The government has constituted a panel of secretaries under cabinet secretary Rajiv Gauba to streamline the spectrum allocation process.
- It will also examine the possibility of drawing up an annual calendar for auction of airwaves that will give telcos a clear road map of the quantum as well as the frequency of spectrum on offer for commercial use.
- Besides Gauba, the panel comprises the secretaries of home, defence, railways, telecom, I&B and department of space.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. Nepal withdraws textbook which includes contentious border map with India

- Nepal has withdrawn a school textbook which included a contentious map of border areas with India that it earlier showed as part of its territory in its political map, a move being seen as a conciliatory step.
- Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli ordered the education ministry to halt distribution of the 110-page 'Self Study Material on Nepal's Territory and Border' to high school students, said people aware of the matter.

- The Nepali-language book also included a chapter on the campaign to reclaim disputed territory with India. The new books for the 9th and 12th classes have a preface written by education minister Giriraj Mani Pokharel.

2. Kyrgyzstan President Sooronbai Jeenbekov declares state of emergency amid protests

- The embattled president of Kyrgyzstan ordered a nearly two-week state of emergency in the capital in a bid to end the political turmoil that has been sparked by a disputed parliamentary election.
- President Sooronbai Jeenbekov decreed that the state of emergency, which starts at 8 pm on Friday and runs through 8 am on October 21, could include a curfew and travel restrictions. He also ordered the military to deploy troops to Bishkek, the capital, to enforce the measure.

3. Bangladesh's Cabinet approves death penalty in rape cases

- Bangladesh Cabinet approved a draft law to include death penalty as the highest punishment for rape.
- The decision to amend the Prevention of Women and Children Repression Act-2000 was announced after the Cabinet meeting Chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.
- The ordinance will be issued after getting approval of the President as Parliament is not in session.
- Currently, the highest punishment for rape is life imprisonment.

4. Pakistan, China re-elected to UNHRC; US slams United Nations for electing 'authoritarian regimes'

- The UN General Assembly elected Pakistan, China, Russia and 12 other countries to serve as members of the UN Human Rights Council for three-year terms starting from January 1, 2021.
- China was re-elected to the UNHRC after it defeated Saudi Arabia in the elections to win a seat by the smallest margin. Pakistan and Nepal have also been re-elected to the UN Human Rights Council.
- The United States Secretary of State Michael Pompeo slammed the United Nations for electing “authoritarian regimes” such as China, Russia and Cuba into the UN Human Rights Council. He added saying that the US' decision to withdraw from the council has been “validated”.

New Appointments and Person in News


1. Delhi teen, Chaitanya Venkateswaran, spends day as British High Commissioner

- Chaitanya Venkateswaran from New Delhi had the unique opportunity to spend a day as the UK's senior-most diplomat in India under the mission's initiative aimed at empowering and highlighting the challenges faced by women across the world.
- The British High Commission has been organising the 'High Commissioner for a Day' competition annually since 2017, inviting young Indian women aged 18 to 23 years to take over as their most senior diplomat. Chaitanya is the fourth young woman to take over as the British High Commissioner in an annual competition run by the UK mission in celebration of International Day of the Girl Child on October 11.
- Chaitanya, an active volunteer, has worked to aid visually-impaired students, acid attack survivors and marginalised LGBT groups.

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BANKING

1. RBI to move next generation treasury application for managing forex, gold reserves

- In a bid to improve its functioning, the Reserve Bank has decided to move to the Next Generation Treasury Application (NGTA) for managing the country's foreign exchange and gold reserves.
- The NGTA, according to the RBI, would be a web-based application providing scalability, maneuverability and flexibility to introduce new products and securities, besides supporting multi-currency transactions and settlements.
- The RBI said the objectives of the proposed system includes, dealing in various asset classes (like Fixed Income Securities, Forex, Money Market, Gold); portfolio management; workflow management; reserve management; integration with various third party and in-house systems; and dashboards, reports, widgets.

2. Axis Bank collaborates with Google Pay, Visa to launch a new ACE Credit card

- Axis Bank announced the launch of its ACE Credit Card in India in collaboration with Google Pay and Visa. The card meant to help with digital payments.
- From application to issuance, with the entire user journey for the credit card application will be done digitally.
- For essential use cases, including mobile recharges and bill payments made via Google Pay, users can earn a cashback of 5 per cent.
- There is also an unlimited 2 per cent cashback on other transactions.

3. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announces LTC cash voucher scheme, special festival advance

- To stimulate consumer demand, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced an LTC cash voucher scheme and a special festival advance of Rs 10,000 to all government employees, saying the Covid-19 pandemic had adversely affected the economy.
- Addressing a press conference, Sitharaman said the new proposals have been designed to stimulate demand in a fiscally prudent way by front-loading some expenditure.
- Under consumer spending, she announced proposals within two components: LTC cash voucher scheme and special festival advance scheme.

4. After Vishwanathan's resignation, RBI reallocates portfolios of deputy governors

- The Reserve Bank reallocated portfolios of deputy governors, with the Department of Regulation being entrusted to M K Jain. The move was necessitated as N S Vishwanathan demitted office on Tuesday, an RBI communique said.
- Among Vishwanathan's portfolios, regulation goes to Jain, a career commercial banker-turned-central banker, while inspection will be taken care of by B P Kanungo. Kanungo, a career central banker whose term was extended on Tuesday, will also oversee the coordination function, while risk monitoring will go to Jain.
- Jain will also take care of communication, while enforcement and secretary departments will be headed by Kanungo, the RBI said. Kanungo, Jain and the third DG Michael Patra will continue to hold their earlier portfolios.

5. RBI raises banks' aggregate exposure limit for small businesses to Rs 7.5 crore

- In a bid to increase credit flow to small businesses, the RBI raised banks' maximum aggregate retail exposure limit to entities with turnover up to Rs 50 crore to Rs 7.5 crore, up from Rs 5 crore.
- The risk weight of 75 percent will apply to all fresh exposures and also to existing exposures where incremental exposure may be taken by the banks up to the revised limit of Rs 7.5 crore, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a release.

6. Exim Bank extends \$400 mn soft loan to Maldives for connectivity project

- India has extended a USD 400 million (about Rs 2,932 crore) soft loan to Maldives through the Exim Bank to finance a connectivity project in the nation of islands.
- With the signing of the above agreement, Exim Bank has till date extended three LoCs worth a cumulative USD 1.2 billion to Maldives, on behalf of India.
- Exim Bank said the soft loans to Maldives have funded connectivity, water, sewerage projects, Addu Development Project, an international cricket stadium, Gulhifalhu port, Hanimaadhoo airport and road construction work.

Books and Awards

1. Paul R. Milgrom and Robert B. Wilson got Nobel Prize in Economics for their work on auction theory

- This year's Economic Sciences Laureates, Paul Milgrom and Robert Wilson, have improved auction theory and invented new auction formats, benefitting sellers, buyers and taxpayers around the world.
- The 2020 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel has been awarded to Paul R. Milgrom and Robert B. Wilson "for improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats."
- The Economic Science Laureates have not just clarified how auctions work and why bidders behave in a certain way but used their theoretical discoveries to invent entirely new auction formats for the sale of goods and services.

2. Indian-origin Philanthropist Harish Kotecha Wins Lifetime Award In US For Help To Children

- Indian-origin philanthropist Harish Kotecha has been conferred the prestigious Sandra Neese Lifetime Achievement Award for his efforts in meeting the needs of homeless children and youth in the United States.

- The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEH CY) presented the lifetime achievement award to Kotecha, who is the founder and President of Hindu Charities for America (HC4A), at its 32nd annual conference.
- Sandra Neese Lifetime Achievement Award is rewarded annually to honour the individuals who have worked tirelessly to ensure that children are given basic amenities such as safety, shelter, and a future.

3. PM Modi Releases Autobiography of Dr Bala saheb Vikhe Patil, Renames Rural Education Society After Him

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the autobiography of Dr Bala saheb Vikhe Patil and renamed Pravara Rural Education Society as 'Loknete Dr Bala saheb Vikhe Patil Pravara Rural Education Society'.
- Dr. Bala saheb Vikhe Patil served as Member of Lok Sabha for multiple terms. His autobiography is titled 'Deh Vechwa Karani' which means 'dedicating one's life for a noble cause'.
- Pravara Rural Education Society was established in 1964 at Loni in Ahmednagar district, with the aim to provide world class education to the rural masses and empower the girl child. The Society is currently serving with the core mission of educational, social, economical, cultural, physical and psychological development of students.

SPORTS

1. India's Nihal Sarin wins Junior Speed Chess Championship

- India's Nihal Sarin emerged winner in the Chess. com's 2020 Junior Speed Online Chess Championship after beating Russia's world junior No. 6 Alexey Sarana 18-7 in the final.
- The title win earned the 16-year old Sarin USD 8,766 and enabled him to qualify for the 2020 Speed Chess Championship Final, which will feature the world's best players.
- Sarin had beaten American Andrew Tang, Australia's Anton Smirnov and Armenian Haik Martirosyan en route the title. Past winners of the Speed Chess Championship include Magnus Carlsen (2017) and Hikaru Nakamura (2018, 2019).

2. Nadal beats Djokovic to win 13th French Open, equals Federer's Grand Slam record tally of 20

- Spaniard Rafael Nadal inflicted one of the most humiliating defeats on great rival Novak Djokovic in the French Open final, thrashing the world number

one 6-0 6-2 7-5 to lift a record-equalling 20th Grand Slam men's singles title.

- The defeat in French Open for world number one Novak Djokovic has ended his hopes of winning the 18th Slam and also of becoming the first man since Rod Laver to win all the four majors twice in 1969.

3. National Shooting Camp for core Olympic shooters to take place at Dr.Karni Singh Shooting Range for two months starting from Oct 15

- National Shooting Camp for core Olympic shooters will be taking place at Dr.Karni Singh Shooting Range, New Delhi for a period of two months starting 15th of October. In order to maintain a secure bio-bubble whereby the athletes can train safely and to prevent a Coronavirus outbreak, the responsibility of maintaining the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be shared by the Sports Authority of India and the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI).
- The NRAI will make boarding and lodging arrangements at a hotel nearby the venue, for which SAI will provide support as per existing norms. From the hotel to the entry to the shooting range, it will be the responsibility of the NRAI to maintain the SOP in order to keep a secure bio-bubble.

4. Five players from Indian Judo Team to participate in Grand Slam 2020 competition

- Five players from the Indian Judo Team will be participating in the Grand Slam 2020 competition, an International Judo Federation event happening in Budapest, Hungary from 23rd to 26th this month.
- The five judokas, consisting of two women and three men players, will leave for the competition on 19th.
- The women's team includes 25-year-old Sushila Devi 48 kg from Manipur and 22-year-old Tulika Mann 78 kg of Delhi.
- The men's team comprises former Olympian and 28-year-old Avtar Singh 100 kg, 22-year-old TOPS developmental group athlete Jasleen Singh Saini 66 kg from Punjab and 24-year-old Vijay Yadav 60 kg.



SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE

1. DRDO successfully test-fires sub-sonic cruise missile Nirbhay

- In a major boost for defence, India on Monday successfully test-fired its first Sub-sonic cruise missile, Nirbhay. The launch was conducted from a test range in Odisha at 11.44 am.
- Nirbhay was the tenth missile to be fired by India in the last 35 days. This says that India is firing an average of one missile in every four days. This is a response to mobilisation of troops and support elements by China in the Ladakh region.
- The missile tested uses Manik Engine. It is a Turbo Fan Engine.

2. Rajnath Singh inaugurates 44 bridges built by BRO, lays foundation stone of Nechiphu tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated 44 bridges built by Border Road Organisation (BRO), and laid the foundation stone of Nechiphu tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh. The 44 bridges which are located in seven states and union territories will usher in a new era of connectivity and development especially in the far flung areas of the country.
- These bridges will prove immensely beneficial in terms of military and civil transport in the western, northern and north-eastern areas of the country.
- The defence minister also symbolically laid the foundation stone of the Nechiphu tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh at the virtual event. The nearly 290-km-long road will be crucial for the movement of troops and heavy weaponry into the frontier bases of the Ladakh region and will provide a crucial link to the Kargil region.

3. Microsoft, AICTE to skill students in next gen technologies

- The All India Council For Technical Education (AICTE) announced that it has partnered with Microsoft to empower students and educators with future-ready skills.
- As part of this partnership, over 1500 course modules from Microsoft will be made available to students and educators free of cost through AICTE's e-learning portal, ELIS.
- Microsoft's learning resource centre, Microsoft Learn, has been integrated with the ELIS platform to provide access to personalized learning paths and resources for students, covering a broad range of technologies including AI, IOT, data science and cloud computing among others.

OBITUARIES

1. First woman chief justice of Kerala K K Usha passes away

- Former Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court, Justice KK Usha, passed away.
- She served as a judge from 1991 to 2000. and when she was appointed Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court from 2000 to 2001, Justice Usha became the first woman to join the High Court Judiciary from the Bar and became a Chief Justice.

2. Kaumudi Munshi, The Nightingale Of Gujarat passes away at 93

- Legendary singer Kaumudi Munshi, known as the ‘Nightingale of Gujarat’, passed away. Her contribution to make ‘Sugam Sangeet’ popular to the masses will be remembered by generations of music lovers.
- She tested positive for Covid-19 and was hospitalized
- Some of her songs in Gujarati that are popular even today are ‘Sachi re maari satre bhavani maa’, and ‘koi aghe aghe thi venu vai che’

3. Nagaland Environment Minister C M Chang passes away

- Nagaland Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Justice and Law C.M. Chang passed away.
- State Health officials confirmed that Chang died of COVID-19. He was the sitting MLA of NDPP from 51-Noksen Assembly Constituency.

4. Charlie Moore, 1952 Olympic 400 hurdles champion passed away

- Charlie Moore, the 400-meter hurdles champion at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics, has died. Moore died from pancreatic cancer, according to World Athletics.
- Moore won the 400 hurdles in the rain in 1952 in 50.8 seconds to tie the Olympic record he set in the quarterfinals.
- Moore also earned a silver medal in Helsinki on the United States’ 1,600-meter relay team.
- After the Olympics, he set a world record of 51.6 in the 440 hurdles at the British Empire Games in London.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. International Day of the Girl Child observed on 11 October

- Every year, International Day of the Girl Child is celebrated by UNICEF. On International Day of the Girl Child, 11 October, amplify the voices and rights of girls everywhere.

- The theme for this year, “My voice, our equal future”, reimagines a better world inspired and led by adolescent girls, as part of the global Generation Equality movement.

2. Prime Minister Modi bows to Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan on his Jayanti on 11 october

- Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has bowed to Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan and Nanaji Deshmukh, on their Jayanti today.
- The Prime Minister said, “I bow to Loknayak JP Narayan on his Jayanti. He valiantly fought for India’s freedom and when our democratic ethos was under attack, he led a strong mass movement to protect it. For him, there was nothing above national interest and people’s welfare.
- The great Nanaji Deshmukh was one of Loknayak JP’s most devout followers. He worked tirelessly to popularise JP’s thoughts and ideals. His own work towards rural development motivates us.

3. World Arthritis Day is observed globally on 12th October every year

- World Arthritis Day is observed globally on 12th October every year.
- The day is celebrated to raise awareness about arthritis, an inflammatory condition which causes pain and stiffness in joints which can worsen with age.
- There are more than 100 different types of arthritis, with different causes and treatment methods. The most common types are osteoarthritis (OA) and rheumatoid arthritis (RA).
- This day was started by Arthritis and Rheumatism International (ARI) in 1996 in order to spread awareness about arthritis and encourage policymakers to help reduce the burden of arthritis.

4. International Day for Disaster Reduction observed on 13 October

- The United Nations International Day for Disaster Reduction is observed annually on 13 October since 1989. The day is celebrated to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction and also celebrates how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of reigning in the risks that they face.
- Theme of 2020 International Day for Disaster Reduction is ‘Disaster risk governance’.

5. World Standards Day: 14 October

- World Standards Day or International Standards Day is observed globally on 14 October every year. The day aims to raise awareness about the

importance of standardisation to the global economy among the consumers, regulators and industry.

- 14 October was specifically chosen to mark the date, in 1946, when delegates from 25 countries first gathered in London and decided to create an international organization focused on facilitating standardization.
- The 2020 theme is “Protecting the planet with standards”.

6. World Students’ Day: 15 October

- World Students’ Day is observed every year on 15 October to mark the birth anniversary of former President A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.
- This year marks the 89th birth anniversary of the former president and ‘Missile Man’ Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.
- In 2010 the United Nations declared 15 October “World Students’ Day”, due to Kalam’s love for students and who himself was a dedicated teacher and identified himself foremost in that role before anything else.

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