



# Weekly Current Affairs

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## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **1. Growth to stay negative in remaining 3 qtrs, FY21 to see 12.6% contraction: NCAER**

- The GDP growth rates in the remaining three quarters of this financial year — i.e. July-September, October-December and January-March are expected to remain negative at (-) 12.7 per cent, (-) 8.6 per cent and (-) 6.2 per cent, respectively, with the overall gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate for the full year seen at (-) 12.6 per cent, the NCAER.
- The think-tank, in its quarterly review of the economy, said that the Indian economy will catch up with its pre-pandemic growth path of 7 per cent only by 2037-38.

### **2. Water level in Stanley Reservoir at Mettur, Tamil Nadu reaches 100 ft**

- The water level in the Stanley Reservoir at Mettur in Tamil Nadu has reached hundred feet. This is considered the 66th time the level rises above 100-feet since its inception against its full reservoir level of 120-feet.
- The water inflow into the biggest dam in the state remains 35-thousand cusecs as it is raining in the catchment areas of the river Cauvery.
- Stanley Reservoir (also known as Mettur dam) is one of largest fishing reservoirs in South India.
- Its main source of water is the River Kaveri (Cauvery).

### **3. India ranked 89th in World Risk Report 2020**

- According to the World Risk Index (WRI) 2020, India has been ranked at the 89th spot among 181 Countries. WRI has been developed in cooperation with the United Nations University's Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU EHS) and calculated by the International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV).
- India is behind Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Maldives in terms of abilities to cope with extreme disasters, lack of adaptive capacities and the preparedness to deal with extreme events.
- According to the report, the Global Hotspots are in Oceania, South East Asia, Central America, West and Central Africa.

### **4. Amit Shah inaugurated 'Destination North East-2020' event to promote tourism and culture.**

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated a four-day event to showcase north east India's various potentials like eco-tourism, culture, heritage and business.

- The inauguration took place via video-conference and Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region Jitendra Singh was the guest of honour of the event.
- The theme of the event this year was ‘The Emerging Delightful Destinations’. The event, being organised on the day of World Tourism Day, attempts to bring focus to the emerging tourist destinations in the region.

### **5. Durgam Cheruvu cable stayed bridge opened in Hyderabad**

- Minister of State for Home G. Kishan Reddy inaugurated the new ‘Cable Stayed Bridge’ constructed across Durgam Cheruvu Lake along with four-lane elevated corridor connecting it with Jubilee Hills in Hyderabad. The bridge is 426 metre long, including the approaches on both ends, and 25.8 metre wide, with a total of 52 stay cables.
- The bridge is one of longest in the country constructed at a cost of over 334 crore rupees. On the occasion, the Minister appreciated the efforts of all workers and engineers involved in the construction of the iconic bridge.
- Telangana Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister K Taraka Ramarao and Hyderabad Mayor B Rammohan also joined the formal launch.

### **6. Amit Shah pays homage to Bhagat Singh on 113th birth anniversary**

- Home Minister Amit Shah paid tribute to Shaheed Bhagat Singh on his 113th birth anniversary. He expressed his gratitude to the revolutionary freedom fighter for giving a new direction to the Indian freedom struggle and making huge sacrifices to awaken the resolve of independence among the youth of the country.
- It was on this day in 1907, Bhagat Singh was born in Banga village of Lyallpur district of undivided Punjab province. He was a charismatic Indian socialist revolutionary whose two acts of dramatic violence against the British in India and execution at the age of 23 made him a folk hero of the Indian Independence movement. Bhagat Singh was hanged in the Lahore jail along with Shivaram Hari Rajguru and Sukhdev Thapar on March 23, 1931.
- Meanwhile, as the nation pays tributes to Bhagat Singh, Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh will stage a sit-in protest against the Farm Acts on Monday at KhatkarKalan, the ancestral village of Bhagat Singh. Former Uttarakhand Chief Minister and Congress General Secretary Harish Rawat will also be visiting Punjab for the first time since taking charge of state affairs.

### **7. Union Health Minister launches Vaccine portal for COVID-19**

- Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the vaccine portal for Covid-19 to create awareness among masses. Portal will disseminate vaccine related information regarding Indian efforts towards vaccine development against COVID-19. Currently 3 vaccines are undergoing clinical trials in India for COVID-19.
- Alongside, the Minister also launched a history timeline of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) displaying key milestones and programme interventions. The timeline depicted 108 year journey of the council. Also, a history book was launched on the 100-year journey of ICMR.
- The Minister also launched a data collection programme called “Mapping of nutrition and health status”. The programme will collect data on dietary intake through crowd sourcing approach.
- A report titled “What India Eats” was also released. The report provided information about dietary patterns in India. This is important for the policy makers to understand the distribution of diet among various population.

### **8. MEA brings Indo-Pacific, ASEAN policies under one unit**

- Keeping China in focus, India is bringing together its Indo-Pacific and ASEAN policies under a single unit, with the ministry of external affairs creating a new vertical, which includes a new Oceania territorial division with Australia at its centre, as well as including the Indo-Pacific and ASEAN divisions within it.
- The region targeted by India (western Pacific to Andaman sea) is considered by China as a strategic backyard. In 2019, India created the Indo-Pacific division to include Indian Ocean Rim Association, QUAD and ASEAN. The Indian Ocean Division was created earlier to bring together Maldives, Sri Lanka, Mauritius and Seychelles. Later Comoros, Madagascar and Reunion Islands were included.

### **9. PM Modi to inaugurate 6 mega projects under Namami Gange and first museum on Ganga**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate six mega projects in Uttarakhand under the 'Namami Gange Mission' through a video conference. The projects include the construction of a 68 MLD sewage treatment plant (STP), upgradation of the existing 27 MLD STP at Jagjeetpur in Haridwar and construction of an 18 MLD STP at Sarai in Haridwar, the Prime Minister's Office said on Monday.
- PM Modi will also inaugurate 'Ganga Avalokan', the first museum on Ganga aimed at showcasing the culture, biodiversity and rejuvenation activities done in the river. The museum is located at ChandiGhat, Haridwar.
- A book, ‘Rowing down the Ganges’, co-published by National Mission for Clean Ganga & Wildlife Institute of India was launched at the event. The



logo of Jal Jeevan Mission and 'Margdarshika for Gram Panchayats and Paani Samitis under Jal Jeevan Mission' was also unveiled by the Prime Minister.

### **10. Telangana Govt. to launch a portal Dharani for online property registration**

- As a part of the new Revenue Act, the Telangana government has decided to launch an online portal, Dharani for registration of properties across the State. The new portal will be launched on Dussehra this year.
- In a recent revelation, an online portal for registration of properties across Telangana shall be launched by the name of Dharani on Dussehra. The announcement regarding the same has been made by the Telangana Chief Minister, K Chandrasekhar Rao. The decision to launch the portal on the said date has been taken, keeping in mind the positive sentiments of the masses at the time of festivities.
- As part of the reforms, the government has scrapped the posts of village revenue officers (VROs) and village revenue assistants (VRAs). Records of rights relating to lands will now be maintained in electronic form in the Telangana Land Records Management System for ensuring hassle free revenue administration.

### **11. South Eastern Railway launches 'Operation My Saheli' to enhance security of women passengers**

- The South Eastern Railway has launched a project to boost the security of women passengers in trains during their entire journey. 'Operation My Saheli (friend) gives security to women passengers from the originating point to the destination.
- Since 18th September 2020, The pilot version of the project "Operation my Saheli" has been introduced in 3 trains: Howrah-Yesvantpur Duronto Special, Howrah- Ahmedabad Special and Howrah-Mumbai Special.
- "Operation my Saheli" is executed under the Framework of "Nirbhaya Fund" and no additional expenditure is provided by the Head of Railways.

### **12. India establishes Air Bubble arrangement with Kenya & Bhutan**

- India has established Air Bubble arrangement with Kenya and Bhutan. Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Purisaid, in order to further boost bilateral international air connectivity, Air Bubble arrangements are now in place with the two countries.
- Now Indian carriers will be able to operate to these countries.
- Carriers of these countries will also be able to fly to India.
- Air Bubble is the term coined during COVID-19 times. It refers to transport and people connectivity between specific regions in the world. Especially

between those regions where COVID-19 has been contained to similar levels.



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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS

### 1. India, Denmark ink pact to increase cooperation on IPRs

- India and Denmark inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to increase cooperation in the area of intellectual property rights (IPRs) by exchanging best practices and collaborating in training programmes.
- The two sides will draw up a biennial work plan to implement the MoU which will include detailed planning for carrying out cooperation activities, including scope of action, the Commerce and Industry Ministry said in a statement.
- The MoU aims to increase IP cooperation between the two countries by way of exchange of best practices, experiences and knowledge on IP awareness among authorities, businesses and research and educational institutions, and collaboration in training programmes, exchange of experts, technical exchanges and outreach activities.

### 2. Bangladesh to make film on revolutionary freedom fighter Pritilata Waddedar

- The government of Bangladesh is financing a film on the life of revolutionary freedom fighter Pritilata Waddedar.
- Addressing the 'Muhurat' of the film in Dhaka, Information Minister Dr.Hasan Mahmud said that the film 'Bhalobasha Pritilata' will be based on the first woman Bengali revolutionary nationalist of the Indian subcontinent

against the British regime. The film is based on the novel by Selina Hossain. Dr. Hasan expressed hope that the film will be screened in India and other countries also.

- Pritilata was born in Dhalghat village of Chittagong in Bangladesh on 5 May 1911. She had her education in Chattogram, Dhaka and then at Bethune College, Kolkata for graduation. She joined the freedom movement and worked with revolutionaries like Surya Sen and Nirmal Sen. She was involved in several revolutionary acts like the famous Chittagong armoury raid and attack on the Pahartali European club at Chittagong in 1932 where she received bullet injury.

### **3. US moves to restrict stay of Chinese journalists to 90 days**

- The Trump Administration is seeking to restrict the stay of journalists from China in the US to just 90 days with the provision of another extension for a similar duration.
- Foreign journalists and their dependents would have to leave the country immediately on expiry of their 'I' visa or denial of their extension application. Previously, foreign journalists were admitted in the US for the duration of their employment.
- Four Chinese State-run media outlets -- Xinhua News Agency, China Global Television Network, China Radio International and China Daily-- were asked to reduce their total staff of 160 Chinese nationals to 100.

### **4. US judge suspends Trump's TikTok download ban**

- A judge in Washington, temporarily blocked a controversial order by the Trump administration that was set to bar downloads of the popular Chinese-owned short video app TikTok.
- The district judge issued a temporary injunction at the request of TikTok, which earlier the White House had called national security threat claiming that its Chinese parent firm is tied to the Beijing government.
- However, the judge declined to grant an injunction on a separate set of prohibitions scheduled for November 12, 2020, that have been designed to further curb TikTok's use in the United States.

### **5. Former Mali foreign minister Moctar Ouane named transitional Prime Minister**

- Former Malian foreign minister Moctar Ouane has been named Prime Minister by the country's interim president Bah Ndaw.
- The appointment opens the way for the country's neighbours to lift sanctions imposed after its August military coup.
- A veteran diplomat, Ouane, served as Mali's ambassador to the United Nations from 1995-2002, and as foreign minister from 2004-2009 during Amadou Toumani Toure's presidency.

## 6. China to send first-ever 'asteroid mining robot' into space this November

- China will send out the world's first mining robot into space by November this year. A private Beijing company, Origin Space, will send out the world's first mining robot — termed as an 'asteroid mining robot' — into space by November 2020.
- The robot will, however, not do any actual mining. The mission will be a preliminary assessment of the asteroid mining robot's capabilities of identifying and extracting valuable resources, aimed at the eventual mining of asteroids.
- The 30-gram spacecraft, NEO-1, is likely to be launched as a secondary payload on a Chinese Long March rocket, which will enter at an orbit around the earth at 500-kilometre altitude.

## New Appointments and Person in News

### 1. L Adimoolam Elected as the President of Indian Newspaper Society

- L Adimoolam has been elected President of the Indian Newspaper Society, an apex body of the publishers of newspapers, magazines and periodicals in the country. Adimoolam (Health and The Antiseptic publication) was elected president at the 81st annual general meeting of the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) held in Bengaluru.
- D D Purkayastha (Ananda Bazar Patrika) is the deputy president, Mohit Jain (Economic Times) the Vice President and Rakesh Sharma (Aaj Samaj) the Honorary Treasurer of the Society for the year 2020-21, the INS said in a statement. Adimoolam, who succeeds Shailesh Gupta of Mid-Day as the president of INS, belongs to the family of Dinamalar, National Tamil Daily. He is the son of Dr.R. Lakshmiopathy a former INS president.

### 2. CEAT Tyres Signs Bollywood Actor Aamir Khan as Brand Ambassador

- CEAT Tyres has signed Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan as its brand ambassador for two years. As part of an integrated marketing campaign, Aamir Khan will feature in two commercials during the course of the IPL 2020 to promote CEAT's Secura Drive range of premium car tyres.
- The first ad will be aired at the beginning of IPL and will also be rolled out/promoted across different media platforms both online and offline.
- CEAT has been associated with cricket since 1995 with CEAT Cricket Ratings.

### 3. Centre appoints Gujarat cadre IAS officer PD Vaghela as chairperson of TRAI



- Senior bureaucrat P D Vaghela appointed as chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), according to a Personnel Ministry order. Vaghela, a 1986-batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre, is currently Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals.
- The order regarding his appointment says Vaghela's will serve as TRAI chief for three years or till he attains the age of 65.
- A 1986-batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre, PD Vaghela will succeed RS Sharma whose tenure as chairperson of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) ends on September 30. Sharma was appointed to the post in 2015 for a term of three years. However, his term was extended in August of 2018 till September 30, 2020.

#### **4. Former left arm spinner Neetu David to head new Women's Selection Committee**

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) named Neetu David as the chairman of the women's national selection panel. She will be joined by four other former India internationals – Arati Vaidya, Renu Margrate, Venkatacher Kalpana and Mithu Mukherjee.
- The applications were invited in January this year after all the members of the previous committee - headed by Hemalatha Kala - completed their terms. However, the pandemic delayed the entire selection process. It has been learnt that around 38 candidates had applied for the five vacant positions, and the candidates were chosen on the basis of their seniority and experience.

#### **5. KVIC appoints Fashion Design Council Chairman Sunil Sethi as advisor**

- The Khadi and Village Industries Commission said it has appointed Sunil Sethi, Chairman of the Fashion Design Council of India, as its Advisor.
- "Sethi will advise the Commission on latest design interventions in the readymade garments segment as well as promotion of Khadi in India and abroad," the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) stated.
- Sethi's appointment is for a period of one year. He succeeds fashion designer Ritu Beri whose term expired recently.

#### **6. ITBP Chief S S Deswal given additional charge of National Security Guard DG**

- ITBP Director General S S Deswal has been given the additional charge of counter-terrorism force National Security Guard (NSG) as its incumbent chief A K Singh is going to retire on September 30, according to a government order.
- Anup Kumar Singh, a 1985-batch Indian Police Service officer of the Gujarat cadre, was appointed the NSG Director General in October last year.

- The NSG was raised as the federal contingency force in 1984 to undertake specific counter-terrorism operations and hijack-like incidents. The "black cat" commandos of the force are based in five hubs across the country, apart from their main garrison in Gurgaon's Manesar.

### **7. Filmmaker Shekhar Kapur named FTII governing council chairman**

- Filmmaker Shekhar Kapur has been appointed as chairman of the governing council of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII).
- "Ministry of Information and Broadcasting today announced Shekhar Kapur as the new President of FTII Society and Chairman of FTII Governing Council. His tenure will be till March 3, 2023.
- Kapur, known for films like Masoom (1983), Mr India (1987), Elizabeth (1998) and Bandit Queen (1994), will replace television producer B P Singh. Singh's tenure had ended in March 2020 but he was given an extension owing to the coronavirus situation.

### **8. Sonu Sood honoured with SDA Special Humanitarian Action Award by UNDP**

- Bollywood actor, Sonu Sood has been conferred the prestigious SDG Special Humanitarian Action Award by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- He has received the award for selflessly extending a helping hand and sending lakhs of migrants, stranded students across geographies abroad, back to their homes.
- Besides that, he has also been providing free education and medical facilities to young children and has been creating free employment opportunities to the needy in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic with this prestigious honour, Sood joins the likes of Angelina Jolie, David Beckham, Leonardo DiCaprio, Emma Watson, Liam Neeson, Cate Blanchett, Antonio Banderas, Nicole Kidman and Priyanka Chopra who have been similarly honoured by different UN bodies

## **BANKING**

### **1. RBI publishes "Technology Vision for Cyber Security' for Urban Co-operative Banks – 2020-2023"**


- The Reserve Bank of India has placed on its website the "Technology Vision for Cyber Security' for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) - 2020-2023". The Technology Vision Document aims at enhancing the cyber security posture of the Urban Co-operative banking sector against evolving IT and cyber threat environment.

- The Technology Vision Document for Cyber Security for UCBs has been formalised based on inputs from various stakeholders. It envisages to achieve its objective through a five-pillared strategic approach GUARD, viz., - Governance Oversight, Utile Technology Investment, Appropriate Regulation and Supervision, Robust Collaboration and Developing necessary IT, cyber security skills set.
- With concerted efforts and involvement of all stake holders, the Technology Vision Document for Cyber Security for UCBs, with its 12 specific action points, aspires to (a) Involve more Board Oversight over Cyber security; (b) Enable UCBs to better manage and secure their IT Assets; (c) Implement an offsite supervisory mechanism framework for UCBs on cyber security related controls; (d) Develop a forum for UCBs so that they can share best practices and discuss practical issues and challenges; and (e) Implement framework for providing awareness/ training for all UCBs.

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## 2. Reserve Bank ropes in Amitabh Bachchan for customer awareness campaign

- After sport stars, the Reserve Bank has roped in Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan for the customer awareness campaign to prevent gullible account holders from being duped by fraudsters. As part of the public awareness initiative of RBI, the regulator keeps informing about dos and don'ts that have to be followed by customers to transact safely and securely.
- Besides its main twitter handle, RBI has another twitter account called 'RBI Says'. Here, Big B shared a message saying "the cost of awareness is hardly a penny, but ignorance can cost you hard earned money."
- The regulator has been running the campaign for more than a year not only in English and Hindi but in various regional languages for maximum reach. It keeps on repeating the message so that people don't forget their rights and responsibilities.

## 3. Indian Bank launches another Green-Tech Initiative, 'IB-eNote'

- Indian Bank, a premier Public Sector Bank, launched an green initiative, 'IB-eNote' that enables a totally paperless working environment. The IB e-Note is a tool that enables processing and tracking of notes put up by various offices digitally.
- This green initiative is expected to improve Turnaround Time considerably, besides saving on cost of paper, printing and other administrative expenses. For this Bank has customised SharePoint, which is one of the features of Microsoft Office.
- Microsoft is a leading technology company that has pioneered many industry-firsts.

#### **4. Vakrangee gets RBI nod to set up Bharat Bill Payment unit**

- Vakrangee Ltd said the Reserve Bank has granted in-principle approval to set up Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU) to handle payment services related to bills.
- Vakrangee (VL) has received in-principle authorisation to set up and operate BBPOU under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), it said in a release.
- The company offers banking, insurance, money transfer services, e-commerce, e-governance and other digital services on behalf of its partner banks, insurers, government agencies, e-commerce players among others through its branches mostly located in rural and semi-urban area.

### **Books and Awards**

#### **1. Rajnath Singh releases New Defence Acquisition Procedure**

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released the New Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) at the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) meeting at South Block .
- It has special incentives for products that are designed and developed by Indian vendors. Also, the procedure includes manufacturing category that encourages foreign investors and manufacturers to set up manufacturing facilities in the country.
- The Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP), 2020 replaces the procedure that was released in 2016. The 2020 DAP hosts new ideas such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), special alloys and Made in India high end materials. Under the procedure, the following categories are to be exclusively reserved for Indian vendors.

#### **2. Maharashtra govt announces Gan Samragini Lata Mangeshkar award for 2020-21 to Usha Mangeshkar**



- The Maharashtra government announced the Gan Samragini Lata Mangeshkar award for the year 2020-21 to veteran female playback singer Usha Mangeshkar.
- The award is given by the cultural department of the state government. Making the announcement, state culture minister, Amit Vilasrao Deshmukh said the award include cash prize of five lakh rupees, a certificate and a memento.
- The veteran singer has sung songs in Marathi, Hindi and several other Indian language films. Her songs from the film 'Subahka Tara', 'Jay Santoshi Maa', 'Azad', 'Chitrlekha', 'Khatta Meetha', 'Kala Pathar', 'Naseeb', 'Khubsurat', 'Disco Dancer', 'Inkar' ruled the chartbuster.

### **3. Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Sanju Yadav wins AIFF Player of the Year Awards for 2019-20 season**

- Indian men's team goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and women's squad's mid-fielder Sanju declared the winners of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) Footballer of the Year awards for the 2019-20 season.
- This is the first time Gurpreet has received the award, and in the process, he became the second goalkeeper after Subrata Paul in 2009 to be named the AIFF Player of the Year.
- He is only the second goalkeeper to win this award after Subrata Pal won it in 2009.
- Midfielder Sanju who was a regular feature for the Indian national team last year also winning the Indian Women's League with Gokulam Kerala was adjudged as the women's player of the year. She had won the emerging player of the year award in 2016.

### **4. Rajnath Singh Launches Book 'A Bouquet of Flowers' by Author Dr Krishna Sakshena**

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched 'A bouquet of flowers', a book written by author Dr Krishna Saksena, at his residence in Delhi. Saksena, 92, a retired English professor, was the first woman to get a PhD from Lucknow in the year 1955.
- "A bouquet of flowers", the ninth book authored by the senior English Professor, was launched at the New Delhi residence of Singh.
- Through this book, Dr Saksena, presents a series of anecdotes that allow the reader to extract the moral of the stories, rather than a didactic imposition of her views.

## **SPORTS**

### **1. SAI to resume sporting activities of Tokyo Olympics bound Para-athletes & athletes in NCOEs**

- Stepping up to the next phase of ‘Khelo India Phir Se’, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) has decided to resume sporting activities of Tokyo Olympics bound Para-athletes and athletes in SAI’s National Centre of Excellence (NCOEs) across the country, in a phased manner.
- In the first Phase, SAI in early June had started the training for only the Olympic bound athletes at various SAI centres as SAI infrastructure are captive infrastructure and could ensure protection of our national athletes against COVID 19.
- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in a statement said that in the next phase, the resumption of sporting activities for Tokyo Olympics bound para-athletes and athletes in NCOEs with a focus on 2024 Paris Olympics and the 2022 Asian and Commonwealth Games, has been planned in stages for nine disciplines. They include para-athletics, para-powerlifting, para shooting, para archery, cycling, hockey, weightlifting, archery, wrestling, Judo, athletics, boxing and fencing.

## **2. Sports Minister Kiren Rijju launches new logo of Sports Authority of India**

- Sports Minister Kiren Rijju launched the Sports Authority of India’s (SAI) new logo at Delhi’s Major Dhyan Chand Stadium. The event was attended by Sports Secretary Ravi Mital, Indian Olympic Association President Narinder Batra and Director General SAI Sandip Pradhan, at the stadium.
- SAI has been the pivot of the sports ecosystem in the country since its establishment in 1982 and has been instrumental in identifying and developing grassroots talents across the country.
- The new logo signifies SAI’s journey of metamorphosis from identifying and nurturing grassroots level sporting talent to creating sporting excellence in the country.

## **SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE**

### **1. IIT Madras launches ‘MOUSHIK’ Microprocessor for IoT Devices**

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras
- have developed ‘MOUSHIK,’ an indigenously-made Microprocessor that can cater to the rapidly-growing IoT devices as they become an integral part of smart cities for a digital India.
- As the researchers shared, MOUSHIK is a processor cum ‘system on a chip’ and was conceptualised, designed and developed at the Pratap Subrahmanyam Centre for Digital Intelligence and Secure Hardware Architecture (PS-CDISHA) of the RISE Group, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Madras.

- The Project is funded by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India.

## 2. Himalayan Chandra Telescope completes successful 20 years

- The Himalayan Chandra Telescope is located at the Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO). It has been scanning the night sky in search of comets, stellar explosions, exo-planets and asteroids.
- It operates using delicate satellite communication link from Centre for Research and Education in Science and Technology (CREST), IIA (Indian Institute of Astrophysics). The telescope marked 20 years of successful operation with more than 260 research papers published using data obtained from it.
- It is located on Mt Saraswati at an altitude of 4,500 metres. It is operated by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore. It was installed by IIA, Bangalore in 2000. The telescope has three major science instruments namely Near-IR Imager, Himalayan Faint Object Spectrograph and Optical CCD Imager. The telescope is remotely operated by INSAT-3B satellite link that allows operation even in sub-zero temperatures.
- It generated 1000 GB of data in a year.



## 3. ICMR warns of another Chinese virus which could spread disease in country

- While the world is attempting to deal with the novel coronavirus, scientists at the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) have warned of another Chinese virus, called 'Cat Que Virus' (CQV), which has a 'potential' to spread disease in India.
- According to the report, the CQV can cause febrile illnesses, meningitis and paediatric encephalitis in humans. CAT Que Virus is found in pigs and culex mosquitoes.
- The two samples out of the total 883 were from Karnataka and had tested positive in 2014 and 2017 respectively.

#### 4. BrahMos missile with indigenous booster successfully test-fired

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired the BrahMos surface-to-surface cruise missile with an indigenous booster and air frame sector, along with other sub-systems made within the country. The supersonic missile is one of the prime precision-strike missiles used by all three forces, the Army, Navy and the Air Force.
- BrahMos surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile features indigenous Booster and Airframe Section along with many other 'Made in India' sub-systems. The BrahMos Land-Attack Cruise Missile was cruising at a top speed of Mach 2.8. It is one more major step in enhancing the indigenous content.
- The missile weighs around 2.5 tonnes and has a strike range of approximately 300 km. It is the fastest supersonic cruise missile in the world.

### OBITUARIES

#### 1. PM condoles the demise of former Union Minister Shri Jaswant Singh

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has condoled the demise of former Union Minister Shri Jaswant Singh.
- The Prime Minister said, "Jaswant Singh Ji served our nation diligently, first as a soldier and later during his long association with politics. During Atal Ji's Government, he handled crucial portfolios and left a strong mark in the worlds of finance, defence and external affairs. Saddened by his demise."
- PM said "Jaswant Singh Ji will be remembered for his unique perspective on matters of politics and society. I will always remember our interactions. Condolences to his family and supporters.

#### 2. Noted economist, Padma Bhushan awardee Isher Judge Ahluwalia passed away at 74

- Eminent economist Isher Judge Ahluwalia (74), who has served as the chairperson of Delhi based think-tank Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), died. She was suffering from brain cancer.
- Ahluwalia is survived by her husband Montek Singh Ahluwalia, former deputy chairman of the Planning Commission and their two sons. Her memoir "Breaking Through", a testament of a career that broke many glass ceilings, was recently published.



- She was a professor at the Centre for Policy Research (CPR), and then director, and later chairperson, of ICRIER. Over the last decade and a half, she has built ICRIER into a leading global think tank.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **1. World Environmental Health Day observes on September 26**

- Every year World Environmental Health Day is observed on September 26. The International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) proclaimed World Environmental Health Day in 2011. This day aims to promote environmental health knowledge to the people and cooperation between countries to improve world's environment.
- The Theme for this year World Environmental Health Day is "Environmental health, a key public health intervention in disease pandemic prevention".

### **2. World Rabies Day observed on September 28, 2020**

- Every year, World Rabies Day is celebrated on September 28 by the Global Alliance for Rabies Control. The day is also celebrated by the World Health Organization and other international organizations.
- The day was endorsed by international organizations such as Pan American Health Organization, World Organization for Animal Health, WHO and the USA Centres for disease control and prevention.
- The day is marked on death anniversary of Louis Pasteur who developed the first rabies vaccine. The day aims to create awareness about the impact of rabies on animals and humans. Also, the day focuses on providing information and advice on preventing the disease.
- This year the World Rabies Day is celebrated under the theme of "vaccination and Collaboration"

### **3. World Heart Day is observed on 29th September every year.**

- The day is celebrated to create awareness of Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) including heart disease & stroke and highlights the preventive and control measures. This initiative was launched in 2000 by the World Heart Federation as an annual event and has been celebrated on the 29th day of September ever since.
- On an average, more than 17 million people die from heart-related illnesses every year.
- 2020 theme: "Use Heart To Beat Cardiovascular Disease".

### **4. International Translation Day: 30 September**

- The International Translation Day is marked every year on 30 September. The day aims to celebrate the work of language translation professionals which facilitates dialogue, understanding and cooperation, contributing to development and strengthening world peace and security.
- The day also marks the feast of St. Jerome, the Bible translator who is considered the patron saint of translators.
- 2020 theme: Finding the words for a world in crisis.

### 5. Harijan Sevak Sangh celebrates its foundation day on 30 September

- On 30 September in 1932, Harijan Sevak Sangh was founded, when Gandhi Ji was in Yervada Jail, Pune and on fast. The immediate historical background dates back to the Second Round Table Conference in London in 1931 when Gandhi ji opposed the segregation of the depressed classes of the Hindu community into a separate electoral group.
- Gandhi Ji saw in it a sinister device of the British government to create a split in the Hindu community in furtherance of its policy of divide and rule. The Sangh was established to combat untouchability and a new weekly paper, the Harijan, was started.

### 6. International Day of Older Persons observed on 01 October

- International Day of Older Persons is observed globally on 1st October every year. The year 2020 marks the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations and the 30th Anniversary of the International Day of Older Persons.
- The day is an opportunity to highlight the important contributions that older people make to society and raise awareness of the opportunities and challenges of ageing in today's world.
- 2020 theme: Pandemics: Do They Change How We Address Age and Ageing?



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