

The background of the entire page is a blurred photograph of a person's hands typing on a laptop keyboard. A large, red, arrow-shaped graphic points from the right side towards the center, containing the main title and date.

# Weekly Current Affairs

04 to 10 Oct 2020

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## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **1. India donates 41 ambulances, 6 school buses to Nepal on Gandhi Jayanti**

- India donated 41 ambulances and 6 school buses to several organisations working in the fields of health and education in Nepal on the occasion of 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi ji was born on this day in 1869 at Porbandar in Gujarat.
- The vehicles were provided to organisations working across 30 districts of Nepal, according to a statement issued by the India embassy in Kathmandu. India has gifted nearly 823 ambulances since 1994, including those given on Gandhi Jayanti.
- However, this is the first time the embassy has gifted three different categories of ambulances Advanced Life Support category, Basic Life Support and Common Life Support ambulances. All three categories are built as per the guidelines of Government of Nepal. The Advanced Life Support category ambulances include equipment such as travelling ventilator, ECG, wheelchair and 4G mobile device among others.

### **2. West Bengal Launches Pathashree Abhijan Scheme To Repair 7,000 Roads In State**

- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee launched the Pathashree Abhijan, a road repair scheme, where more than 7,000 stretches of roads comprising 12,000 kilometers across the state will be repaired.
- Informing about the same, the Chief Minister said that under the scheme the roads will be repaired in a mission mode and in a time-bound manner.

### **3. Meity holds Conference to unveil RAISE 2020 – a Global Virtual Summit on AI to be organised from 5 to 9 October, 2020**

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology MEITY unveiled 'RAISE 2020', a Global Virtual Summit on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Electronics Niketan, New Delhi. The Mega Virtual Summit AI, RAISE 2020 is organized by the MEITY and NITI Aayog.
- Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020 (RAISE 2020) will be held from 5-9 October 2020. The summit will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The summit aims to start discussion on the creation of robust AI-powered public infrastructure that benefits all across the world.
- India is one of the founding members of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence. GoI aims to implement AI-based solutions domestically as well as in countries around the world. #AIForAll is the main objective of India's AI strategy and the focus is to build responsible AI for social empowerment, transformation and inclusion.

### **4. Railway Minister Shri Piyush Goyal inaugurates Phool bagan Metro station of East-West Metro corridor in Kolkata**

- Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry, Government of India inaugurated Phoolbagan Metro station of East-West Metro on 4th October, 2020. Shri Piyush Goyal also flagged off the first train from the newly inaugurated Phoolbagan station through video link.

- In his address, congratulating all for taking extra initiative to complete the work of Phoolbagan station in the midst of Covid-19 pandemic, Shri Goyal said that this extension of services from Salt Lake Stadium to Phoolbagan (a stretch of 1.665 kms) will be a great help for the commuters more so because of its proximity to Sealdah station.
- Terming this as a gift for Durga Puja, he also said that Metro provides the safest, cleanest and fastest transportation system in Kolkata. He has further reassured that if land is made available and encroachments are removed then funds won't be a constraint for implementing any Railway project.

#### **5. DoNER minister Dr. Jitendra Singh releases coffee table book Discovering the Heritage of Assam**

- Minister for Development of North Eastern Region, DoNER, Dr Jitendra Singh released a Coffee Table Book on Discovering the Heritage of Assam, with foreword by Amitabh Bachchan and published by Penguin.
- The voluminous coffee table book with pictures and photographs presents an absorbing compilation of heritage, faith, beliefs and traditions of different ethnic tribes and subtribes living in the largest State of the North Eastern Region.
- The book has been written by IRS officer Padampani Bora who has over the years established himself as an accomplished author, specializing in the subjects reflecting diverse nuances of the North Eastern Region of India.

#### **6. 12th BRICS Summit to be held virtually for 1st time on Nov 17**

- For the first time since the standoff between Indian and Chinese troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping are expected to come face-to-face virtually at the BRICS annual summit to be held on November 17.
- Russia, the chair of the five-nation BRICS, announced on Monday that the annual summit of the bloc will be held on November 17 via video conference.
- The BRICS is known as an influential bloc that represents over 3.6 billion people, or half of the world's population. The BRICS countries have a combined GDP of USD 16.6 trillion.
- "The theme of the meeting of the leaders of BRICS countries is "BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth"," the Russian government said in a statement.

#### **7. India, Myanmar Agree to target operationalisation of Strategic Sittwe Port in Q1 2021**

- During the visit of the Indian army Chief and Foreign Secretary to Myanmar, the two countries agreed to work towards operationalising the Sittwe port in the first quarter of 2021.
- Indian army Chief General M.M. Naravane and Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla travelled to Myanmar on a two-day visit. They called on State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and Myanmar's Commander in Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.
- The last time that India's foreign secretary and army chief had travelled together was to Bhutan in 2018. It made sense to do so again in Myanmar due to its government structure – a reference to the role of the military at the top of the decision-making set-up in the south-east Asian country.

### 8. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announces anti-pollution campaign 'Yudh Pradushan ke Virudh'

- Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, October 5, launched an anti-air pollution campaign named "Yudh Pradushan Ke Virudh" to keep a check on the air pollution levels in the national capital.
- Stressing that polluted air can prove harmful to the health amid the coronavirus outbreak, he said, "Polluted air can be life-threatening in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. Both affect lungs."
- Under the campaign, separate plans have been prepared for each of the 13 pollution hotspots in the city, the Chief Minister stated while addressing a digital press conference. He said, "Customised plans of action are being made for each area, according to their respective causes of pollution & the thereby execution those plans to deal with all that pollution."

### 9. Puducherry airport becomes AAI's first 100% solar-powered airport

- Puducherry airport has become the Airports Authority of India's (AAI) first entirely solar-powered airport in the country with the commissioning of 500KWp ground-mounted solar power plant at a cost of Rs 2.8 crore.
- The 500KWp ground-mounted solar power plant was commissioned on 2nd October 2020. With becoming absolutely power-neutral, the Puducherry airport will be able to meet its entire power requirement through the solar power plant.



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### 10. Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan launches 'Ayush Standard Treatment Protocol'

- The Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan on October 6, 2020, launched the Ayush Standard Treatment Protocol at an event held via video conference. The protocols detail the self-care guidelines for preventive health measures which will help in protecting against COVID-19.
- While launching the protocols, the health minister hailed the up-gradation of the protocols by the AYUSH Ministry which has been done in sync with CSIR- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and ICMR- Indian Council of Medical Research.



- The Union Health Minister while launching the Ayush Standard Treatment stated that the modern systems of medicine have their own strengths as they have made available medicines and operations which have helped in making people's lives much better.

### **11. Govt removes requirement of Minimum Qualifying Service for Defence personnel for Enhanced Family Pension**

- In a major announcement giving huge benefit to Defence Forces personnel, Government today scrapped the requirement of Minimum Qualifying Service for Enhanced Family Pension with effect from 1st October 2019.
- As per existing provision, there is a requirement of continuous qualifying service of 7 years for grant of Ordinary Family Pension at enhanced rate to Next of Kin of Defence Forces personnel. The requirement of continuous qualifying service of 7 years is done away with effect from 1st October 2019. Additionally, Defence Forces personnel who died within ten years before the 1st of October 2019 without completing continuous service of 7 years, their family will also be eligible for family pension at the enhanced rates.
- Family Pension at enhanced rate is calculated at the rate of 50 per cent of last emoluments whereas normally it is 30 per cent of the last pay drawn.

### **12. India and South Africa ask WTO to waive rules to aid COVID-19 drug production**

- According to a letter to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), India and South Africa have asked to waive off the intellectual property rules in order to make it easier for the developing countries to import or produce the drugs for COVID-19.
- The two countries in their letter dated October 2, 2020, have called on the global trade body to waive parts of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), which governs trademarks, patents, copyright, and other intellectual property rules globally.

### **13. MoHUA enters into MoU with Swiggy to take street food vendors online under PM SVANIDHI scheme**

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has entered into an MoU with Swiggy, one of the leading food delivery platforms, to onboard street food vendors on its e-commerce platform.
- The MoU aims at giving the street food vendors online access to thousands of consumers and help them grow their businesses.
- The arrangement has been facilitated under the Prime Minister Street Vendor's Atma Nibhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme. The Ministry and Swiggy will run a pilot programme by on-boarding 250 vendors across five cities namely - Ahmedabad, Chennai, Delhi, Indore, and Varanasi.
- The street vendors will be helped with PAN and FSSAI registration, training on technology, menu digitization and pricing along with hygiene and packaging best practices.

### **14. Centre to urgently release Rs. 20,000 crore as compensation to States for revenue losses**

- The Centre will urgently disburse nearly 20 thousand crore rupees among the states from the amount collected as compensation cess this year.

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman made the announcement after the 42nd GST Council meet.
- The Centre will also disburse Rs. 25 thousand crore towards Integrated GST for 2017-18 to those states that received less amount due to the anomalies.
- Also, the revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey informed that starting from 1st January next year, taxpayers with less than Rs. 5 crore annual turnover will not be required to file monthly GSTR-1 and GSTR-3B returns.

#### **15. Edappadi K Palaniswami Named as AIADMK's CM candidate for Tamil Nadu assembly polls, BJP welcomes decision**

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS) has been named as the chief ministerial candidate of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) for Tamil Nadu 2021 Assembly polls.
- The announcement was made by Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister and AIADMK leader O Panneerselva during a press conference on October 7, 2020.

#### **16. Sikkim's Dalle Khursani one of the world's spiciest chillies gets GI tag**

- Dalle Khursani, the famous red hot cherry pepper of Sikkim, is set to get a geographical indication (GI) tag from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- The GI tag is a name or a sign given to a certain product that has a specific geographical location or origin. An application filed by the Guwahati-based North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (Neramac) for the GI tag of Sikkim's Dalle Khursani has been accepted by the DPIIT.
- Considered one of the world's hottest chillies, it has a range of 1,00,000 to 3,50,000 SHU (Scoville Heat Units). The Scoville scale is a measurement of spiciness or heat of chillies. The famous Bhut Jolokia, grown in neighbouring Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Manipur, has an SHU range of 8,55,000 to 10,41,427.

#### **17. Maharashtra becomes first state to regulate prices of masks**

- Maharashtra has become the first state to regulate the rates of face masks during COVID-19 pandemic as a committee formed to implement caps on the price of masks has submitted its recommendations to the state government and formal order will soon be issued.
- The state govt had constituted a committee to give suggestions about regulating prices of Masks and Sanitisers.
- The prices have been fixed after studying all the factors like raw material, production cost, profit of producers and distributors. After the government approval, the N-95 mask will be available for around 19 to 50 rupees depending on the type, whereas double and triple layer masks will be available for just three to four rupees.
- With this, Maharashtra has become the first state to cap the prices of masks. The prices of sanitizers are also being capped as well.

### **INTERNATIONAL NEWS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

### 1. India expresses concern over raging military conflict between Armenia, Azerbaijan

- For almost four decades, Armenia and Azerbaijan have been battling over a piece of land situated in the mountainous region of south Caucasus. The dispute over Nagorno Karabakh that began in 1988 has over the years caused massive human rights violations, a severe refugee crisis and impacted the economies of both the Transcaucasian republics.
- The issue flared up once again this week, resulting in more deaths and destruction.
- Reportedly, close to a hundred lives have been lost between civilians and Armenian combatants. Azerbaijan is yet to release data on its military losses.
- India has expressed its concern over reports of resumption of hostilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Armenia-Azerbaijan border which took place in the early hours of September 27.


### 2. Russia Successfully tests new 'Tsirkon' Hypersonic Missile

- Russia has successfully test-fired its highly touted hypersonic cruise missile called Tsirkon in the waters of northwestern Russia.
- Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces Valery Gerasimov reported to President Vladimir Putin on his 68th birthday that the Tsirkon's launch from a guided missile frigate "directly hit" its intended target.
- The missile hit its target at a distance of 450 kilometres (280 miles) in four and a half minutes after reaching hypersonic speeds of more than Mach 8.

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### 3. QUAD Foreign Ministers of India, USA, Japan, Australia meet in Tokyo

- QUAD Countries' Foreign Minister meet held in Tokyo, Japan. All four Quad countries the United States, Japan, India and Australia to hold bilateral discussions over "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" (FOIP) initiative amid the coronavirus pandemic.
- This is the second Quad Finance Ministers meeting. The first was held in 2019. The Quad FM meeting was represented by External Affairs Minister of India S Jaishankar, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne, and Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi.

- They discussed the post-COVID-19 international order and the need for a coordinated response to the various challenges emerging from the pandemic.

## **New Appointments and Person in News**

### **1. Priyanka Chopra's memoir 'Unfinished' to release in January 2021**

- Actor-producer Priyanka Chopra Jonas' long-awaited book debut, "Unfinished", will be launched on January 19, 2021, publisher Penguin Random House India announced on Friday.
- The "thoughtful and revealing" memoir will take readers through Priyanka's childhood in India, her teenage years in the US living with extended family in the Midwest, Queens, and suburban Boston, where she endured bouts of racism; to her return to India, where she unexpectedly won the national and global beauty pageants (Miss India and Miss World) that launched her acting career.

### **2. Modern Family Star Sofia Vergara Tops Forbes List Of Highest Paid Actresses**

- Forbes released this year's list of Highest Paid Actresses and Modern Family star Sofia Vergara has scored the top spot with earnings of \$43 million. Second on the list is Hollywood star Angelina Jolie with \$35.5 million.
- Sofia and Angelina are followed by Wonder Woman star Gal Gadot with \$31.5 million
- Last year's number one, Scarlett Johansson, had made \$56 million. Dwayne Johnson topped the male list, with \$87.5 million. Akshay Kumar was the only Indian actor on either list.

### **3. Senior IPS officer M A Ganapathy appointed Director General of BCAS**

- Senior IPS officer M A Ganapathy has been appointed as director-general of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security. The 1986 batch, Uttarakhand cadre IPS officer is currently CISF special director-general and head of the airport sector.
- PM Modi-headed appointments committee of cabinet approved the aviation ministry's proposal to appoint Ganapathy as DG BCAS till his superannuation on February 29, 2024, or until further orders, whichever earlier.
- Rakesh Asthana, a 1984 batch IPS officer, held this position till this August when he was appointed as the chief of the Border Security Force (BSF). Asthana is also holding additional charge of DG, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).

### **4. Dinesh Khara takes charge as the Chairman of State Bank of India**

- The senior-most Managing Director of State Bank of India (SBI) Dinesh Kumar Khara on Wednesday took charge as the new chairman of India's largest public lender. The government had appointed Khara as the chairman of the bank for a period of three years. Khara has replaced chairman Rajnish Kumar, whose three-year term came to an end on October 7.
- "The Central Government, hereby appoints Dinesh Kumar Khara, Managing Director, State Bank of India as Chairman, for a period of three years with effect from the date of his taking over charge of the post on or after 7.10.2020, or until



further orders, whichever is earlier,” a notification by the Department of Financial Services.

#### **5. M Rajeshwar Rao appointed as deputy governor of RBI**

- The Centre has appointed M Rajeshwar Rao as the new deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India. Prior to this, M Rajeshwar Rao was an executive director at RBI.
- He succeeds N S Vishwanathan as the central bank's fourth deputy governor. N S Vishwanathan who resigned from the post in March 2020 before the completion of his term in June, citing health reasons.

#### **6. HDFC Bank's Ravi Santhanam in Forbes list of World's Most Influential CMOs**

- Ravi Santhanam, Chief Marketing Officer (CMO), HDFC Bank has been recognized in the Forbes list of 'The World's Most Influential CMOs'.
- Ranked at Number 39, he is the only CMO of an Indian company to be featured in the illustrious list which includes marketing heads of Apple, BMW, Lego, Adobe, Microsoft, P&G among others.
- This is the eighth edition of this annual list released by Forbes with research partners Sprinklr and LinkedIn. This year, 427 global CMOs were eligible for consideration. It is generated using data from news reports, websites, and social networks to measure influence.

## **BANKING**

#### **1. NABARD launches sanitation literacy campaign in Karnataka**

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, NABARD regional office in Karnataka launched the Sanitation Literacy Campaign to promote literacy on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, (WASH) under Swach Bharath Mission.
- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has announced a special refinance facility of Rs 800 crore for Fiscal Year 2021.
- With this, NABARD will support the Government of India's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programme. NABARD will provide concessional refinance to all eligible financial institutions including commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperative banks with a repayment period of up to 36 months.

#### **2. Nirmala Sitharaman launches Indian Bank's business mentoring programme 'MSME Prerana' for MSMEs**

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched 'MSME Prerana', an online business mentoring programme for MSMEs by state-run Indian Bank. The programme, to be made available in local languages, is aimed at empowering entrepreneurs through skill development and capacity building workshops, the bank said in a release.
- "Indian Bank has taken an out-of-the-box initiative in launching MSME Prerana which will handhold the entrepreneurs through a mentoring program. This novel initiative shall further inspire others in the banking sector to adopt similar measures," Sitharaman said.

- The initiative was launched by the finance minister at the bank's corporate centre in Chennai. Financial Services Secretary Debashish Panda, who also participated in the launch event through video conferencing, delved on the various initiatives taken by the government to support MSMEs.

## **Books and Awards**

### **1. Three scientists share 2020 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine**

- The Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology has been jointly awarded to Harvey J Alter, Charles M Rice and Michael Houghton. The scientists have been awarded for the discovery of Hepatitis C Virus.
- The Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology is the first of six prizes that are to be announced in coming days. The other Noble Prizes to be announced are in the field of Physics, Chemistry, Literature, Peace and Economics.

### **2. IACC presents lifetime achievement award to Ratan Tata**

- The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) has presented the lifetime achievement award to business icon Ratan Tata as part of its recent global leadership awards.
- The IACC leadership bestowed the IACC Lifetime and Global Excellence Awards to Tata at a closed-door meeting, owing to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, according to a statement.
- This award was announced in the virtual event of IACC "COVID Crusader Award-2020". This is the 1st time IACC conferred the Lifetime Achievement award to any individual.

### **3. Delhi's Deputy CM Manish Sisodia launches a book "Bapu-The unforgettable"**

- On the occasion of the 151st Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia has launched the coffee-table book titled "Babu - The Unforgettable" over the virtual event.
- This virtual event was organised by the Delhi Archives & Department of Art, Culture and Language, Government of Delhi. The department also organised a webinar on "Footprints of Gandhi Ji in Delhi".
- The book "Bapu - The Unforgettable" will make the readers think and provide a glimpse of the ideology and philosophies of Mahatma Gandhi. The book also holds several untouched aspects of history, rare photographs, epigraphs and other details about Delhi.

### **4. Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A Doudna wins Nobel Prize in Chemistry for developing CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors**

- The Nobel Prize for Chemistry, 2020 has been awarded to Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A Doudna for "Development of a method for Genome Editing". The scientists had developed the Gene Editing Technique called "CRISPR-Cas9 Snipping Scissors".
- The researchers can change the DNA of animals using the Gene Editing Technique invented by the Nobel Laureates. The technology has had

revolutionary impact on life sciences contributing to new cancer therapies. It has potentials to cure inherited diseases.

## **SPORTS**

### **1. Visnu Shivaraj Pandian wins gold in 10 meter air rifle event of International Online Shooting Championship**

- India's Visnu Shivaraj Pandian won the 10m air rifle event at the fifth edition of the International Online Shooting Championship yesterday. The 16-year-old Visnu shot 251.4 to win the title by a clear margin of two points.
- The second place was won by world no. 27 Etienne Germond of France while Olympic quota winner Martin Strempfl of Austria took the third place.
- Shooters from 15 countries are participating in the two-day competition. The 10m air pistol event will be held today. Leading India's challenge will be Olympic quota winner Yashaswini Singh Deswal.



## **SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE**

### **1. India, Bangladesh hold naval drills 'Bongosagar' in Bay of Bengal**

- The second edition of the bilateral naval exercise Bongosagar between India and Bangladesh was held on Saturday in Northern Bay of Bengal. Ships from both navies participated in surface warfare drills, seamanship evolutions and helicopter operations.
- The first edition of the exercise was held in October last year. Bongosagar will be followed by the third edition of India Bangladesh Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) on 4-5 October. The exercise Bongosagar is aimed at developing interoperability and joint operational skills through the conduct of maritime exercises and operations, as per the Ministry of Defence.
- During the CORPAT exercise, both navies will undertake joint patrolling along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). In addition to ships, Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both navies and integral helicopters would also be participating in the exercise.

## **2. ISRO scheduled to launch its Venus mission in 2025**

- ISRO is scheduled to launch its Venus mission in 2025 and France will participate in it. The VIRAL (Venus Infrared Atmospheric Gases Linker) instrument co-developed with the Russian federal space agency Roscosmos and the LATMOS atmospheres, environments and space observations laboratory attached to the French national scientific research centre CNRS has been selected by the ISRO after a request for proposals.
- ISRO chairman K Sivan and CNES president Jean-Yves Le Gall held talks and reviewed the areas driving cooperation between France and India in space. After the Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan) and Moon missions Chandrayaan-1 and 2, ISRO has set its eyes on Venus for carrying out its interplanetary mission.
- France and India share a robust collaboration in the arena of space. It is one of the three nations with whom India collaborates in the strategic sectors of nuclear, space and defence -- the other two being the US and Russia.

## **3. India successfully flight tests Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo**

- India successfully flight tested the Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) from Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha.
- Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), SMART is a missile assisted release of lightweight anti submarine torpedo system for Anti Submarine Warfare (ASW) operations far beyond torpedo range. The launch demonstrated India's anti submarine warfare capabilities.

## **4. Indian Coast Guard offshore Patrol Vessel 'Vigraha' launched to enhance coastal security**

- The seventh offshore patrol vessel of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), 'Vigraha' was formally unveiled at Kattupalli.
- The vessel, built by Larsen and Toubro, is the last in the series of seven OPVs contracted to the company by the Ministry of Defence in 2015.
- It was the first time a private sector shipyard has undertaken the design and construction of offshore patrol vessel class of ships.

## **5. NCERT books to be converted into Indian Sign Language**

- Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal and Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Thaawar Chand Gehlot attended the 60th Foundation Day of NCERT virtually on.
- During the event NCERT signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Sign Language Research and Training Center-ISLRTC to make education materials accessible for Deaf children in their preferred format of communication viz Indian Sign Language. During the programme the online format of NISHTHA training was also release.

## **6. C-DAC to Commission India's Fastest HPC-AI Supercomputer PARAM Siddhi - AI with NVIDIA**

- The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) will be commissioning India's largest HPC-AI supercomputer 'PARAM Siddhi - AI'. This



initiative will place India among the top countries in global AI supercomputing research and innovation.

- The initiative was headed by Abhishek Das, Scientist and Program Director (HPC-AI Infrastructure Development) at C-DAC, who conceived the idea and designed the architecture for the largest HPC-AI infrastructure in India.
- This high-performance computing-Artificial Intelligence (HPC-AI) supercomputer is a machine with 210 AI Petaflops (6.5 Petaflops Peak DP).

## **OBITUARIES**

### **1. Social activist Pushpa Bhawe passes away at 81 in Mumbai**

- Veteran social activist Pushpa Bhawe passed away in Mumbai following a prolonged illness. She was 81. She has been associated with the Rashtra Seva Dal and democratic movements since her student days.
- She was also an academician and an intellectual, who fought for the rights of common citizens.
- She had taken part in the Samyukta Maharashtra movement and the Goa liberation movement.
- During the Emergency, she had offered her home as shelter to underground political workers.

### **2. Justice AS Dave, former Judge and acting CJ of the Gujarat HC passes away**

- Former Acting Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court Justice Anant S Dave passed away at the age of 62
- Justice Dave was appointed as a Gujarat High Court Judge in 2004 and was made permanent in 2006.
- He was appointed as an Acting Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court on November 14, 2018 and served until the present Chief Justice Vikram Nath took over the helm in September 2019.

### **3. Rock star and guitar legend Eddie Van Halen dies of cancer aged 65**

- Rock star and guitar legend Eddie Van Halen has died aged 65 after a "long and arduous battle" with cancer, his son has said.
- Kiss singer Gene Simmons remembered him as a "Guitar God", while other stars likened him to a modern-day Mozart.
- The Dutch-American musician had been receiving treatment for throat cancer. His band were best known for their song Jump, which hit the top of the US charts in 1984.

### **4. Former CBI director Ashwani Kumar passed away**

- Former Governor of Manipur and Nagaland and ex-Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director Ashwani Kumar was found dead at his residence in Shimla. Kumar was in service in both the central government and the Himachal Pradesh state government for more than 37 years.

- Kumar, who joined the Indian Police Service in 1973, took over the reins of the office of the Director-General of Police (DGP) of the Himachal Pradesh in August 2006.
- After two years, Kumar was appointed to the sensitive post of CBI Director.
- He was sworn-in as the Governor of Nagaland on March 21, 2013 and as Governor of Manipur on July 29, 2013.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **1. World Animal Welfare Day is celebrated on 4 October**

- World Animal Welfare Day is celebrated on 4th October across the world. The day aims to raise awareness about improving the welfare standards of the animals across the world and also to celebrate the relationship between humankind and animal kingdom. It also aims to educate the world and full regard to their welfare.
- World Animal Day was first organized by Heinrich Zimmermann on 24th March 1925, at Sports Palace in Berlin, Germany. More than 5,000 people attended the first event. Initially, it was scheduled for 4th October to align with Saint Francis of Assisi feast day.
- In 1929, World Animal Day was celebrated on 4th October for the first time. World Animal Welfare Day was first started in 1931 at a convention of ecologists in Florence, Italy, to highlight the importance of endangered species.

### **2. World Teachers' Day observed on 05 October**

- World Teachers' Day is celebrated every year on October 5 globally. It aims to focus on appreciating, assessing and improving the educators of the world and to provide an opportunity to consider issues related to teachers and teaching.
- International Teachers Day is celebrated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in partnership with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), International Labour Organisation (ILO) and Education International.
- The theme for World Teachers' Day 2020 is "Teachers: Leading in Crisis, Reimagining the Future".

### **3. Indian Air Force proudly celebrates its 88th anniversary on 08 Oct 2020**

- Indian Air Force Day is celebrated every year by the Indian Air Force on 8th of October. This year Indian Air Force celebrated its 88th anniversary.
- Indian Air Force was officially established on 8 October 1932 by the British Empire as the Royal Indian Air Force. The name was changed to Indian Air Force in 1950.

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