



## CURRENT AFFAIRS

12 September 2020

**Today's Important News**

Iran's military begins annual exercise 'Zolfaghar-99' amid tensions with US.



### 1. MHA clears FCRA to directly credit donations

- After over three and a half decades, foreign-based followers of Sikhism will now be able to credit donations or 'daswandh' (one-tenth of income) directly in a dedicated account of the Golden Temple.
- The Union government registered Sri Harmandir Sahib under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, (FCRA) 2010. After 1984, foreign-based Sangat was restricted from directly sending donations to the Golden Temple account.
- Now, after the FCRA registration, they will be able to fulfill their religious aspirations.



#### Foot Notes:

**Ministry of Home Affairs:**

**Minister:** Amit Shah

**Minister of state:** G. Kishan Reddy

### 2. Vice President inaugurates 125th birth anniversary celebrations of Sri Viswanatha Satyanarayana

- Vice President Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the 125th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Telugu literary legend, Kavi Samrat Shri Viswanatha Satyanarayana. Viswanatha Satyanarayana (1895 – 1976) was a 20th century Telugu writer.
- His works included poetry, novels, dramatic play, short stories and speeches, covering a wide range of subjects such as analysis of history, philosophy, religion, sociology, political science etc. Viswanatha wrote in both a modern and classical style, in complex modes.
- He was given the honorific "Kavi Samrat" (emperor of poets). In 1971 he was awarded with Jnanpith Award for his book "Ramayana Kalpavri ksham". He was the first Telugu writer to receive the Jnanpith Award.



### 3. Former health secretary Preeti Sudan appointed as WHO panellist

- The World Health Organisation's independent panel for pandemic preparedness and response appointed former health secretary Preeti Sudan as one of its 11 panelists from across the world.
- Member states such as India were invited to nominate their candidates but the chairs had the freedom to pick their own candidate as they did with Sudan. The prestigious panel also has former UK foreign secretary David Milliband as a member.
- Their first meeting is on September 17 and in the report expected by May 2021, the panel is expected to address how the pandemic emerged.



#### Foot Notes:

#### About WHO:

**Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland

**Founded:** 7 April 1948

**Director-General:** Tedros Adhanom

### 4. UNICEF appoints Ayushmann Khurrana for children's rights campaign

- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has appointed Bollywood Actor Ayushmann Khurrana as its celebrity advocate for children's rights campaign, "For Every Child".
- He will work towards this initiative in India. He will support UNICEF to end violence against children, especially in the



present situation COVID-19 is increasing the risk of violence and abuse against children due to the extended lockdown and the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic.

**Foot Notes:**

**About UNICEF:**

**Headquarters:** New York, United States of America.

**Executive Director:** Henrietta H. Fore

**5. Iran's military begins annual exercise 'Zolfaghar-99' amid tensions with US**

- The Iranian navy began a three-day exercise Zolfaghar-99 in the Sea of Oman near the strategic Strait of Hormuz, deploying an array of warships, drones and missiles. One of the exercise's objectives is to devise "tactical offensive and defensive strategies for safeguarding the country's territorial waters and shipping lanes,".
- The navy will test-fire surface-to-surface and shore-to-sea cruise missiles and torpedoes, and rocket-launching systems fitted on warships, submarines, aircraft, and drones.
- The exercise will be held over two million square kilometers (772,000 square miles) of sea stretching from the northern part of the Indian Ocean to the eastern end of the Strait of Hormuz, the sensitive shipping lane from the Gulf through which a fifth of world oil output passes.
- Tensions between Iran and the United States have soared since President Donald Trump withdrew from a landmark nuclear agreement with Tehran in 2018 and unilaterally reimposed crippling economic sanctions.



**Foot Notes:**

**About Iran:**

**Capital:** Tehran

**Currency:** Iranian rial

**President:** Hassan Rouhani

**About US:**

**President:** Donald Trump

**Capital:** Washington, D.C

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### 6. Cristiano Ronaldo becomes second men's player to score 100 international goals

- Cristiano Ronaldo became the second man to score 100 international goals, hitting the landmark for Portugal in a UEFA Nations League match against Sweden. The 35-year-old Juventus forward became the first European to reach 100 goals for his country after Ali Daei, who scored 109 times for Iran.
- It took him 165 appearances to reach the milestone.
- India's Sunil Chhetri (72) and Argentina's Lionel Messi (70) are the next closest.
- On the women's side, 17 players have hit the 100-goal mark, with seven of them Americans.
- Canada's Christine Sinclair is the all-time leader with 186 goals, two more than USA's retired forward Abby Wambach (184).



#### Foot Notes:

#### About UEFA:

**Formation:** 15 June 1954

**Founded at:** Basel, Switzerland

**Headquarters:** Nyon, Switzerland

**President:** Aleksander Čeferin

### 7. Gujarat, Andaman & Nicobar Islands are best performers in startup India Rankings

- The state of Gujarat and Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been named the best performers in the State StartUp Rankings 2019. They have been recognized for their outstanding performance in simplifying commerce, enhancing productivity, and leveraging technology.
- Karnataka and Kerala are the top-performing states in the State StartUp Rankings for fostering innovative entrepreneurship to attract business and finance.
- The idea behind the exercise is to build capacities at the state level to support innovation and entrepreneurship. 22 states and 3 Union Territories participated in the exercise.
- Along with the rankings, the government also released a report on how the states can further work on improving innovation in the region.



#### Foot Notes:

##### About Gujarat:

**Capital:** Gandhinagar

**Governor:** Acharya Devvrat

**Chief Minister:** Vijay Rupani

##### About Andaman & Nicobar:

**Lieutenant Governors:** Devendra Kumar Joshi

**Capital:** Port Blair

### 8. Police Officer Poonam Khatri crowned Wushu World Champion

- Indian Police Officer, Poonam Khatri has claimed World Championship status after her silver medal at the Wushu World Championship last year was upgraded to a Gold medal. Poonam hails from Haryana's Jhajjar district.
- Poonam had lost the final to Iranian opponent Mariyam in the Women's 75 kg category but after Mariyam recently failed the dope test, the gold medal was awarded to Poonam Khatri.
- The information was clarified by Secretary-General of the Indian Wushu Association, Suhel Ahmed.



### 9. 'Game of Thrones' & Bond star Diana Rigg passes away at 82



- English actor Diana Rigg has died at the age of 82. Diana Rigg, known to the young generation for playing the role of Olenna Tyrell in HBO's Game of Thrones.
- She went on to star in the James Bond film "On Her Majesty's Secret Service".
- Rigg won numerous Emmy, Tony and Bafta awards during her long and prestigious career, equally at home in classical theatre roles as those in popular TV shows.



#### 10. PM Modi participates in 'Griha Pravesh' ceremony virtually

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the 'Griha Pravesh' ceremony and virtually inaugurated 1.75 lakh houses in Madhya Pradesh. Mr. Modi also talked to some of the beneficiaries.
- Beneficiaries had received one and a half lakh rupees from the government to build a house.
- The state government transferred Rs 102 crore in the accounts of 68,000 beneficiaries of the state under the PMAY. This is the fourth installment under Yojna.



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