



CURRENT AFFAIRS

03 October 2020

Today's Important News

India successfully test-fires nuclear-payload capable Shaurya missile.



1. India successfully test-fires nuclear-payload capable Shaurya missile

- In the face of the ongoing tensions between India and China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, India has been carrying out tests of several missiles and other platforms. An advanced version of the 'Shaurya' surface-to-surface nuclear-capable ballistic missile was successfully test-fired on Saturday, in Odisha.
- It has the capability to strike at targets which are in a range of about 800 km. It can carry nuclear payload. It is easier to use as it is lighter. When fired, the missile in the final phase of its course moves at hypersonic speeds before reaching a height of 40 km as it gets closer to its target.



Foot Notes:

About Odisha:

Chief Minister: Naveen Patnaik

Capital: Bhubaneswar

Governor: Ganeshi Lal

About DRDO:

Founded: 1958

Headquarters: DRDO Bhavan, New Delhi

Chairman: Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy

2. Gowda launches home delivery facility of fertilisers for Andhra Pradesh farmers

- Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister D V Sadananda Gowda launched the home delivery facility of fertilisers for farmers in Andhra Pradesh. Gowda launched POS 3.1 software, SMS Gateway and home delivery facility of fertilisers for farmers in Andhra Pradesh.
- Under the POS 3.1 version, keeping in view of prevailing pandemic condition, contactless one-time password (OTP)-based authentication option has been introduced. Farmers will be able to purchase fertiliser without touching fingerprint sensors.
- SMS Gateway will periodically send SMS to farmer about availability of fertiliser at retail outlets from where he last purchased the fertiliser. Under an initiative of home delivery of fertilisers in Andhra Pradesh, the state government has launched 10,641 Rythu Bharosa Kendralu (RBKs) in all gram panchayats to provide farmers with quality inputs and allied services.



Foot Notes:

About Andhra Pradesh:

Governor: Biswabhusan Harichandan

Chief Minister: Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy

Capitals: Visakhapatnam (executive); Amaravati (legislative); Kurnool (judicial)

3. Army builds memorial in Ladakh for soldiers killed in Galwan Valley clash

- The Indian Army has built a memorial for its 20 personnel who were killed while valiantly fighting Chinese troops in Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh on June 15.
- The memorial, located at Post 120 in eastern Ladakh and inaugurated earlier this week, mentions the heroics of the



'Gallants of Galwan' under operation 'Snow Leopard' and the way they evicted the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops from the area while inflicting "heavy casualties" on them in "hand-to-hand combat".

- China is yet to disclose the number of its soldiers killed and injured in the clash though it officially admitted to have suffered casualties.

Foot Notes:

Chiefs of Army Staff: Manoj Mukund Naravane

4. Google doubles down to help small and medium businesses go digital

- Google India today announced a new multi-pronged effort to help small and medium businesses navigate the challenging economic environment and adapt to the new digital first consumer behavior. Building on its effort to help consumers discover small businesses on Google search and maps, the new initiative will focus on accelerating the efforts to help businesses build digital presence in partnership with Zoho and Instamojo.
- Keeping the needs of different businesses in mind, Google has also partnered with Dunzo and Swiggy to fast track the on-boarding process, with both partners committing to provide additional support to small businesses to start accepting orders online and enable delivery logistics.
- The new initiative builds on the “Grow with Google Small Business hub” effort, and is in direct response to the feedback received from small medium businesses captured in the Google-Kantar small business tracker research conducted in July.



Foot Notes:

About Google:

Founded: 4 September 1998, Menlo Park, USA

CEO: Sundar Pichai

Headquarters: United States

5. SBI appoints Charanjit Attra as CFO, rare lateral hire from private sector for C-suite position

- The country's largest public sector lender State Bank of India (SBI) announced the appointment of Charanjit Singh Attra as Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Attra,

a former Partner at EY India and ICICI Securities senior executive joined the bank on October 1, the bank informed the stock exchanges.



- Money control was the first to report the key move a month back on August 31. This is a rare lateral hire from the private sector by SBI for a C-suite position. In the past, it has relied on its experienced talent pool of top management.
- The position of CFO has been vacant since former Deputy MD & CFO Prashant Kumar moved to Yes Bank as part of the RBI's rescue plan led by SBI. Kumar was replaced in an interim capacity by C Venkat Nageshwar.

Foot Notes:

About SBI:

Chairperson: Rajnish Kumar

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1 July 1955



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6. Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat gives away Swachh Bharat Awards 2020

- The Swachh Bharat Awards-2020 were given to States, Districts, Blocks and Village Panchayats by Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. The awards were given particularly under drinking water and cleanliness categories.
- The Union Government had earlier launched three missions under Swachh Sundar Samudayik Shouchalaya, Samudayik Shouchalaya Abhiyan and Gandagi Mukth Bharat. Under the Swachh Sundar Samudayik Shouchalaya category Gujarat bagged the first position at state level whereas Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu got the Award for cleanliness at District Level.
- Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Shekhawat said that the government is committed to maintain the status of Zero Open Defecation in the country. He said special care will be taken towards maintaining swachhata at public places and to construct more community sanitary complexes to ensure access of safe sanitation for all.



Foot Notes:

About Gujarat:

Capital: Gandhinagar

Governor: Acharya Devvrat

Chief Minister: Vijay Rupani

7. US Military Aircraft Refuels at Indian Base for first time Under Defence Pact

- Amid tensions between India and China, the US Navy's long-range anti-submarine warfare and maritime surveillance aircraft, P-8 Poseidon, carried out its maiden refueling from India's strategic base in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Sources said the refueling happened towards the end of last month and was carried out under the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), signed between India and the US in 2016.
- While the LEMOA was operationalised in 2017 with the US Navy tanker refueling an Indian Navy ship in the Sea of Japan, this is the first time an American aircraft had done so. In September, an Indian ship had been refueled through a US tanker.



Foot Notes:

About US:

President: Donald Trump

Capital: Washington, D.C

8. Over 97 percent of cities across country become Open Defecation Free

- The government said that more than 97 percent of the cities across the country have become Open Defecation Free, ODF. The spirit of Jan Andolan and Jan Bhagidari is exemplified by the Swachh Survekshan 2020 in which over 12 crores of citizens have participated in the survey.
- When Swachh Bharat Mission- urban was launched in 2014, it was with the vision of achieving Clean India by 2nd October 2019, the 150th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation.
- From a position of zero ODF states and cities in 2014, more than 97 percent of Indian cities have now become ODF.



9. Arjun Munda to Launch Largest Market Of Tribal Products 'Tribes India e-Marketplace'

- Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda virtually launched India's largest handicraft and organic products marketplace- Tribes India E-Marketplace on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.
- This path-breaking initiative of TRIFED will showcase the produce and handicrafts of tribal enterprises from across the country. It will help them market their products directly.
- On this occasion, Mr Arjun Munda also flagged off several other TRIFED initiatives that are aimed to support tribal brethren.
- These include the inauguration of Tribes India's 123rd and 124th outlets in Rishikesh and Kolkata, inclusion of new tribal product ranges from the states of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh and partnership of TRIFED and Tribes India with Amazon in their Seller Flex program.



Foot Notes:

About TRIFED:

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairman: Shri Ramesh Chand Meena

10. NASA Launches Cargo Spacecraft Named After Kalpana Chawla

- NASA launched a commercial spacecraft named after Indian Origin deceased NASA Astronaut “Kalpana Chawla”. The spacecraft carried 4 tonnes of cargo including refined radishes for the International Space Station.
- The spacecraft was built by a Virginia-based company Northrop Grumman. It currently holds space station resupply contract with NASA. It is an aerospace and defence technology company. The company has named the spacecraft after Indian-born astronaut Kalpana Chawla who died along with six other astronauts in 2003 Columbia Space Shuttle tragedy.
- Chawla was the first India-born woman to enter space. She also flew in 1997 as a primary robotic arm operator and also as a mission specialist. The Columbia spacecraft disintegrated during its return to earth that led to the death of the crew. The hot plasma entered the wing of the aircraft resulting in loss of control. Chawla is regarded as the National Hero of India.



Foot Notes:

About NASA:

Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States

Founder: Dwight D. Eisenhower

Founded: 1 October 1958, United States

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