



CURRENT AFFAIRS
08 October 2020

Today's Important News

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



1. 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.



Foot Notes:

Chief of Air Staff: Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria

2. 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.

Foot Notes:

About Maharashtra:

Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshiyari

Capital: Mumbai

Chief Minister: Uddhav Thackeray

3. 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.



Foot Notes:

About Russia:

Capital: Moscow

President: Vladimir Putin

Currency: Russian ruble

Prime Minister: Mikhail Mishustin

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.

Foot Notes:

About Indian Coast Guard:

Director General: Krishnaswamy Natarajan.

Founded: 18 August 1978

Headquarters: Ministry of Defence, New Delhi

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.



Foot Notes:

Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment: Thaawar Chand Gehlot



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6. Smriti Irani launches first ever Brand & Logo for Indian Cotton on 2nd World Cotton Day

- Minister of Textiles Smriti Irani launched the first ever Brand and Logo for Indian Cotton on Second World Cotton Day through video conferencing. Now India's premium cotton would be known as



‘Kasturi Cotton’ in the world cotton trade. The Kasturi Cotton brand will represent Whiteness, Brightness, Softness, Purity, Luster, Uniqueness and Indianness.

- The Minister recounted the importance of cotton in Indian economy. She said, cotton is one of the principal commercial crops of the country and it provides livelihood to about six million cotton farmers. She said, India is the second largest cotton producer and the largest consumer of cotton in the world.
- It produces about six million tonnes of cotton every year which is about 23 per cent of the world cotton. She said, India produces about 51 per cent of the total organic cotton production of the world, which demonstrates India’s effort towards sustainability.
- Ms Irani also said that Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) made ever highest Minimum Support Price (MSP) operation of cotton. She hoped that during the new cotton season, the procurement under MSP will be increased. She said, CCI has opened 430 procurement centres in all cotton growing states and payments are being made digitally to farmers’ account within 72 hours.

Foot Notes:

About CCI (Cotton Corporation Of India):

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 31 July 1970

Chairman& Managing director: P Alli Rani

7. 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.



Foot Notes:

About QUAD(Quadrilateral Security Dialogue):

Founded: 2007

Members: Australia, India, Japan, United States

8. 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.



Foot Notes:

About RBI:

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

9. 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).



Foot Notes:

About C-DAC:

Established: 1988

Headquarters: Pune, India

Operating agency: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

10. Former CBI director Ashwani Kumar passed away

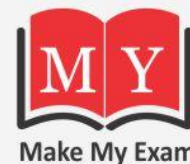
- Former Governor of Manipur and Nagaland and ex-Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director Ashwani Kumar was found dead at his residence in Shimla .Kumar was in service in both the central government and the Himachal Pradesh state government for more than 37 years.
- Kumar, who joined the Indian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



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