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**PDF No. 6**

**(PDF in English)**



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## An important message from Team Smartkeeda

Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill 100 of October 2020 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial if you want to score a high rank in Current Affairs Mocks at Testzone. Therefore, we urge you to go through each piece of information carefully and try to remember the facts and figures because the questions to be asked in the Current Affairs MockDrill will be based on the information given in the PDF only.

We hope you will make the best of use of this PDF and perform well in MockDrill Tests at Testzone.

All the best!

Regards

Team Smartkeeda



### स्मार्टकीड़ा टीम की ओर से एक महत्वपूर्ण सन्देश!

मित्रों! हम आशा करते हैं की आप सभी स्वस्थ और कुशल होंगे। इस सन्देश के माध्यम से हम आपसे यह कहना चाहते हैं की ये PDF अक्टूबर माह में Testzone पर होने वाले MockDrill 100 में आपकी तैयारी को बेहतर करने के लिए उपलब्ध करायी जा रही है। इस PDF में हमने कुछ अति आवश्यक 'Key-Points' के माध्यम से आपको सम-सामयिकी (Current Affairs) सूचनाओं से अवगत कराया है और अगर आप MockDrill में अपनी योग्यता सिद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो आपके लिए हर सूचना को पढना, समझना और उसे याद रखना भी अति आवश्यक है क्योंकि MockDrill में शामिल किए गए प्रश्न PDF में दी गयी सूचना या जानकारी पर ही आधारित होंगे।

हम आशा करते हैं की आप इस PDF का भरपूर लाभ उठाते हुए आने वाले MockDrill Test में बेहतर अंक प्राप्त करेंगे।

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा



### 501. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

As per the Indian Tourism Statistics (ITS) - 2020, Uttar Pradesh has gained the top position in terms of attracting the highest number of domestic tourists in 2019, leaving Tamil Nadu behind. As many as 53.6 crore domestic tourists visited UP in 2019. While Tamil Nadu has secured the first position in attracting foreign tourists leaving Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh behind respectively. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- “Indian Tourism Statistics-2020” (Domestic) = 1<sup>st</sup> – Uttar Pradesh | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tamil Nadu | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Andhra Pradesh
- “Indian Tourism Statistics-2020” (Foreign) = 1<sup>st</sup> – Tamil Nadu | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Maharashtra | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Uttar Pradesh
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

### 502. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has been selected as the national industry partner for the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of ‘Make in Odisha’ conclave by the Odisha government. An MoU was signed between IPICOL (Industrial Promotion & Investment Corporation of Odisha) and FICCI. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- FICCI + Odisha = an MoU for national industry partner for the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of ‘Make in Odisha’ conclave
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Sangita Reddy

### 503. Appointments & Resignations

Priyanka Chopra Jonas has been appointed the national Brand Ambassador, while Jr. NTR has been roped as the brand ambassador for markets in the south by Parle Agro for its new drink brand “B-Fizz”. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Priyanka Chopra Jonas – appointed as National Brand Ambassador by Parle Agro for “B-Fizz”
- N. T. Rama Rao Jr. – appointed as the Brand Ambassador for markets in the South for “B-Fizz”
- HQs of Parle Agro – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Schauna Chauhan



#### 504. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

Indian Bank has collaborated with IIT Madras Incubation cell to launch “IND Spring Board”, an initiative for funding start-ups. The Bank will extend loans of up to Rs 50 crore to these start-ups for their working capital requirements or purchase of machinery and equipment. [{Read more}](#)

##### Key Points:

- Indian Bank + IIT Madras = collaboration to launch “IND Spring Board” – to extend loans of up to Rs 50 crore
- HQs of Indian Bank – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Padmaja Chunduru

#### 505. National & States Affairs

Union Minister Mansukh L. Mandaviya has e-launched an indigenous software solution for Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) and Vessels Traffic Monitoring Systems (VTMS). [{Read more}](#)

##### Key Points:

- Mansukh L. Mandaviya – e-launched an indigenous software solution for ‘VTS’ & ‘VTMS’
- VTS – Vessel Traffic Services | VTMS – Vessels Traffic Monitoring Systems
- MoS I/C of Ministry of Shipping – Mansukh L. Mandaviya

#### 506. National & States Affairs

Reliance Capital's subsidiary, Reliance General Insurance has unveiled its new brand campaign Tech + Heart with its new brand mascot “BroBot”. [{Read more}](#)

##### Key Points:

- Reliance General Insurance – unveiled its new brand campaign Tech + Heart with its new brand mascot “BroBot”
- HQs of Reliance General Insurance – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Rakesh Jain

#### 507. Persons in News

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has set up panel to examine need for standard cyber liability insurance product. The panel is headed by P Umesh. [{Read more}](#)

##### Key Points:

- IRDAI – to set up panel to examine need for standard cyber liability insurance product – headed by P Umesh
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur



## 508. Books & Authors

The book “Portraits of Power: Half a Century of Being at Ringside”, is written by former bureaucrat and current chairman of the Finance Commission Nand Kishore Singh. This book is an autobiography of Veteran Economist N K Singh. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- N K Singh wrote his autobiography titled – “Portraits of Power: Half a Century of Being at Ringside”

## 509. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

India is in talks with Kazakhstan defence industries for co-production and co-development in defence production to widen defence partnership including joint production as well as opening a new chapter in the heavy engineering sector. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India + Kazakhstan = for co-production and co-development in defence production
- Kazakhstan – Nur-Sultan – Tenge

## 510. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

Foodgrain production is estimated at record 144.52 million tonnes in the 2020-21 kharif season notwithstanding COVID-19 crisis, according to Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar. Foodgrain production stood at 143.38 million tonnes during the 2019-20 kharif season, as per official data. Currently, harvesting of kharif crops is underway. Rice is the main kharif crop. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Estimation of Foodgrains production for 2020-21 – at record 144.52 million tonnes
- Production of Foodgrain in the 2019-20 kharif season – at 143.38 million tonnes
- Rice – the main kharif crop

## 511. Defence Affairs

Alpha Design Technologies Ltd. (ADTL) has signed the first of two-phase defence contracts worth ₹753 crore. Under the first contract worth ₹53 crore, Alpha Design would set up and run Russia’s MiG-29 simulator centre at the Adampur airfield near Jalandhar (Punjab) initially for two years. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Alpha Design Technologies – to build & run Russia's MiG-29 Simulator Centre for IAF – at Adampur, Punjab
- Contract worth – Rs 753 crore
- HQs of ADTL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – H. S. Shankar
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore



### 512. Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

A 14-year-old Indian-American girl, Anika Chebrolu has won a USD 25,000 the “3M Young Scientist Challenge” for a discovery that could provide a potential treatment for COVID-19. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Anika Chebrolu – won a USD 25,000 the “3M Young Scientist Challenge”

### 513. Meetings, Conferences and Summits

India has kept its engagements up at Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, SCO as it participated in 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of Prosecutors General of SCO. Tushar Mehta - represented India at the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of Prosecutors General of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Tushar Mehta – represented India at the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of “Prosecutors General of SCO”
- HQs of SCO – Beijing, China | Secretary General – Vladimir Norov

### 514. Meetings, Conferences and Summits

The 9<sup>th</sup> session of the India-Oman Joint Commission was held virtually. The meet was co-chaired by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Hardeep Singh Puri. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- 9<sup>th</sup> session of the India-Oman Joint Commission – co-chaired by Hardeep Singh Puri
- Oman – Muscat – Rial

### 515. International Affairs

Mozambique Railways will get Diesel loco sets from Indian Railways’ Rail Wheel Factory (RCF), Bengaluru. The RCF in Bengaluru has paved the way for exports through swift production of as many as 90 wheels and 45 axles, which will be soon assembled at Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW) in Varanasi. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Mozambique Railways – to get Diesel loco sets from Indian Railways’ Rail Wheel Factory (RCF), Bengaluru
- HQs of DLW – Varanasi, UP | General Manager – YashPal Singh
- Mozambique – Maputo – Mozambican metical
- Chairman of Indian Railways – Vinod Kumar Yadav | HQs – New Delhi



### 516. Current GK

The Government has established a domestic airport at Jharsuguda. It is also known as Veer Surendra Sai Airport. It is located 5 kilometers north-east of Jharsuguda, Odisha. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Jharsuguda Airport/ Veer Surendra Sai Airport – located in Odisha
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

### 517. National & States Affairs

Paytm is in talks with various banks to launch co-branded cards and plans to issue 2 million new cards over the next 18 months. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Paytm – to launch co-branded cards and plans to issue 2 million new cards over the next 18 months
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO of Paytm – Vijay Sekhar Sharma
- HQs of Paytm Money – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Varun Sridhar
- CEO of Paytm Payment Bank– Satish Kumar Gupta | CEO of Paytm General Ins. – Vineet Arora

### 518. Meetings, Conferences and Summits

The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of India International Science Festival (IISF) 2020 was held virtually from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> December, 2020. It will be a reflection on Indian Science & Technology Innovations for Atmanirbhar Bharat and Global welfare. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- 6<sup>th</sup> edition of India International Science Festival (IISF) 2020 held virtually from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> December, 2020

### 519. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

As per the report titled "State of Global Air 2020", India has the first-ever comprehensive analysis of air pollution's global impact on newborns finds that outdoor and household Particulate Matter (PM 2.5) pollution contributed to the deaths of more than 1,16,000 Indian infants in their first month of life in 2019, a new global study. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> "State of Global Air 2020" report – India has the highest burden of infant deaths due to air pollution in 2019





## 520. Persons in News

The Supreme Court has appointed retired apex court judge Justice Madan Bhimaroo Lokur as a one-man committee to take steps for preventing stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh which is a source of pollution in Delhi-national capital region (NCR). [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- SC constituted one-man committee to take steps for preventing stubble burning – headed by ‘Madan B. Lokur’
- Stubble burning in – Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh
- Supreme Court Chief of Justice – Sharad Arvind Bobde (47<sup>th</sup>)

## 521. Appointments & Resignations

Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla’s tenure has been extended up to August 22, 2021. He was due to retire on November 30, 2020. He is a 1984-batch Assam-Meghalaya cadre IAS officer. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Ajay Kumar Bhalla – tenure extended as ‘Union Home Secretary’ – up to August 22, 2021

## 522. Important Days & Dates

“Police Commemoration Day” is observed on October 21 every year to remember and honour the brave policemen who have laid down their lives in the line of duty. The National Police Memorial commemorates 34,844 police personnel from all of the central and state police forces who have sacrificed their lives since 1947. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- October 21 – “Police Commemoration Day” – to commemorate the valour of CRPF personnel
- National Police Memorial commemorates 34,844 police personnel – sacrificed their lives since 1947

## 523. Defence Affairs

The 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has launched a Cycling Expedition from its Pegong base in Sikkim to border villages of the state. Total 218 Kilometers will be covered by the ITBP team in the course of 20 days in difficult terrains. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion ITBP – launched a Cycling Expedition from its Pegong base in Sikkim
- HQs of ITBP – New Delhi | Director General – Surjeet Singh Deswal
- Sikkim: Capital – Gangtok | CM – Prem Singh Tamang | Governor – Ganga Prasad



## 524. Important Days & Dates

“World Iodine Deficiency Day” is observed on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October every year to mark the need for awareness about nutrient deficiency. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- October 21 – “World Iodine Deficiency Day”

## 525. National & States Affairs

“SCALE India”, an android app aimed to integrate quality assurance under Skill India Mission was launched by Leather Sector Skill Council, a non-profit organization (NGO). The android app was unveiled by Mahendra Nath Pandey. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Leather Sector Skill Council launched – “SCALE India” an android app to integrate quality assurance
- The app unveiled by – Mahendra Nath Pandey (MSDE Minister | Constituency – Chandauli, UP)
- HQs of Leather Sector Skill Council – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Chairman – P. R. Aqeel Ahmed

## 526. Ordinance, Bills and Acts

Ministry of Home Affairs has amended “Jammu and Kashmir’s Panchayati Raj Act, 1989”, to establish District Development Councils (DDCs) in all districts in the union territory. According to the amendment, every district in J&K will be divided into 14 territorial constituencies to elect members of the body in the maiden DDC election. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Ministry of Home Affairs – amended “Jammu and Kashmir’s Panchayati Raj Act, 1989” – to set up DDCs
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha
- Ministry of Home Affairs - Shri Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat

## 527. International Affairs

Israel Embassy will have a separate 'Water Attache' from January 2021 to help share their country's best practices and technologies for advancements in India's water management and agriculture sectors. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Israel – will have a separate 'Water Attache' from January 2021
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu



### 528. Important Days & Dates

“International Chefs Day” is observed every year on 20 October to celebrate and honour the noble profession, and to educate people around the world about eating healthy. This year, the theme is “Healthy Food For the Future”. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- October 20 – International Chefs Day
- Theme – “Healthy Food For the Future”

### 529. Current GK

The water levels in ‘Hussain Sagar lake’ have crossed full tank level after heavy rains that lashed the city recently. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Hussain Sagar lake – located in Telangana
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

### 530. National & States Affairs

Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has e-launched projects worth more than Rs 200 crore in Surat. The BRTS corridor from Kumbharia to Kadodora was opened. With the opening of this BRTS (Bus Rapid Transit System) corridor, Surat has become the only city in the country to have the longest BRTS network of 108 km. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Vijay Rupani – e-launched projects worth more than Rs 200 crore in Surat
- Surat – the only city in India to have the longest BRTS network of 108 km
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

### 531. National & States Affairs

The West Bengal government has launched a campaign in areas adjoining elephant habitats in the northern parts of the state to prevent electrocution deaths of the pachyderms. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- West Bengal – launched a campaign to prevent electrocution deaths of Elephants
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar



### 532. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

A team of scientists from West Bengal has discovered the 1<sup>st</sup> dragonfly fossil found in India in Jharkhand's Latehar district, according to a study published in Current Science. The fossil is said to be at least 2.5 million years old. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Scientists from West Bengal – discovered the 1<sup>st</sup> dragonfly fossil found in India in Jharkhand (2.5 million years old)
- Study published in – Current Science
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Draupadi Murmu

### 533. Meetings, Conferences and Summits

The 5<sup>th</sup> Joint Working Group (JWG) on coal between India and Indonesia will be held on November 5, 2020. The one-day meeting will be held through video conference from New Delhi due to travel restrictions on account of the coronavirus pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- 5<sup>th</sup> Joint Working Group on coal between India and Indonesia – to be held virtual
- Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah | President – Joko Widodo



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### 534. Persons in News

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has formed a Market Data Advisory Committee (MDAC) headed by SEBI's whole time member Madhabi Puri Buch. It is a standing panel to recommend appropriate policy for access to securities market data. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- SEBI formed a Market Data Advisory Committee – headed by 'Madhabi Puri Buch'
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi

### 535. Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

Bank of Ghana has won "Central Bank of the Year Award 2020". The Bank of Ghana demonstrated its strengths with the delivery of a major banking sector and microfinance clean-up operation. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Bank of Ghana – won "Central Bank of the Year Award 2020"
- Ghana – Accra – Cedi | President – Nana Akufo-Addo



### 536. Obituaries

The first woman officer of the Indian Air Force (IAF), Wing Commander Vijayalakshmi Ramanan, has passed away recently in Bengaluru. She was 96. She was the first lady commissioned officer as a Gynaecologist to the Air Force. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Vijayalakshmi Ramanan – 1<sup>st</sup> woman officer of IAF (Gynaecologist) – passed away
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria

### 537. International Affairs

Singapore-based bond exchange, BondEvalue, developed by India-origin entrepreneurs, is targeting to launch a blockchain-platform in the New Year to facilitate investment in bonds by individuals and common man. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- BondEvalue – to launch a blockchain-platform in Indian in 2021
- HQs of BondEvalue – Singapore | CEO – Rahul Banerjee

### 538. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

Zenpay Solutions has announced its partnership with RBL bank and YAP to drive financial inclusion to issue salary cards to its customers across India. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Zenpay Solutions + RBL bank + YAP = partnership to drive financial inclusion to issue salary cards
- HQs of Zenpay Solutions – New Delhi | Founder & CEO – Ankit Bhargava
- HQs of RBL Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Vishwavir Ahuja

### 539. National & States Affairs

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched an electricity consumer service portal “Mo Bidyut” and its mobile app to provide efficient, time-bound and transparent online service to the people of the State. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Naveen Patnaik launched – “Mo Bidyut” an electricity consumer service portal
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal



#### 540. Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

TRIFED has won 3 awards at the virtual edition of “National Awards for Excellence – PSU”, which recognize the outstanding initiatives taken by government departments, Public Sector units and industry leaders. Pravir Krishna, MD of TRIFED has won 2 individual awards - the “CEO of the Year” and “Visionary Leadership Award” for his exemplary and inspirational leadership. [{Read more}](#)

##### Key Points:

- TRIFED has won 3 awards at the virtual edition of “National Awards for Excellence – PSU”
- Pravir Krishna – won the “CEO of the Year” and “Visionary Leadership Award”
- TRIFED works under – Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Arjun Munda – Khunti, Jharkhand)
- HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | MD – Pravir Krishna

#### 541. Amount & Agreements

World Bank has sanctioned Rs 3 crore to a project proposed by the Goa state biodiversity board that will see India’s first sand dune parks and interpretation centres developed along select stretches. [{Read more}](#)

##### Key Points:

- World Bank sanctioned Rs 3 crore for Goa to develop India’s first sand dune parks
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Satya Pal Malik
- World Bank HQs – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

#### 542. Science & Technology

CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI) has developed Sustainable Municipal Solid Waste Processing Facility. This CSIR-CMERI MSW Technology envisions a Zero-Landfill and a Zero Waste City in addition to developing Job-Creation opportunities. [{Read more}](#)

##### Key Points:

- CSIR-CMERI (Durgapur) – developed Sustainable Municipal Solid Waste Processing Facility
- HQs of CSIR – New Delhi | CSIR President – Narendra Modi | Director General – Shekhar C. Mande

#### 543. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

Major stock exchange BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange) has signed an MoU with the Telangana government, along with GlobalLinker, to help micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) raise equity funds. [{Read more}](#)

##### Key Points:

- BSE + Telangana + GlobalLinker = signed an MoU to support MSMEs to raise equity funds
- HQs of CBSE – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shri Manoj Ahuja
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan



#### 544. Important Days & Dates

“World Osteoporosis Day”, which is observed on 20 October each year, attempts to create awareness about this bone condition. Osteoporosis is a bone-related disease that results in brittle bones that are highly-prone to fractures. [{Read more}](#)

##### Key Points:

- October 20 – “World Osteoporosis Day”

#### 545. National & States Affairs

Union health and science and technology minister Dr Harsh Vardhan has launched “CuRED” (CSIR Ushered Repurposed Drugs), a website that gives comprehensive information about the numerous Covid-19 clinical trials that the CSIR is engaged in partnership with industry, other government departments and ministries. [{Read more}](#)

##### Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan launched “CuRED” (CSIR Ushered Repurposed Drugs) website
- CuRED – CSIR ushered Repurposed Drugs
- HQs of CSIR – New Delhi | CSIR President – Narendra Modi | Director General – Shekhar C. Mande

#### 546. National & States Affairs

Multi-Commodity Exchange of India Ltd (MCX) has launched futures trading on the India's first tradable real-time Base Metals Index namely "METLDEX". [{Read more}](#)

##### Key Points:

- Multi-Commodity Exchange of India launched – "METLDEX" India's first tradable real-time Base Metals Index
- HQs of MCX – Mumbai, MH | Chairperson – Mr. Saurabh Chandra | CEO – P. S. Reddy

#### 547. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has expected a 7-9% on-year drop in the value of global trade in 2020 due to a possible resurgence of Covid-19 infections. [{Read more}](#)

##### Key Points:

- UNCTAD expected a 7-9% drop in the value of global trade in 2020
- HQs of UNCTAD – Geneva, Switzerland | UNCTAD Secretary-General – Mukhisa Kituyi



## 548. Appointments & Resignations

LG Electronics (LG) has announced that 6-Time Formula-1 World Champion Lewis Hamilton has been signed to be the Global Ambassador for its LG SIGNATURE, the company's premium home solutions brand. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Lewis Hamilton – appointed as Global Ambassador by LG Electronics for its 'LG SIGNATURE'
- Lewis Hamilton (UK) – drives 'Mercedes'
- HQs of LG Electronics – Seoul, South Korea | CEO – Kwon Bong-seok

## 549. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

Advances in robotics and artificial intelligence will lead to a net increase in jobs over the next 5 years but the coronavirus pandemic will result in "double-disruption" for workers, according to 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of "The Future of Jobs Report 2020" released by the World Economic Forum (WEF). The rise of machines and automation would eliminate a huge 85 million jobs by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of "The Future of Jobs Report 2020" – released by the World Economic Forum (WEF)
- COVID-19 and Technological Advances may eliminate 85 million jobs by 2025 [{Prediction}](#)
- HQs of WEF – Cologny, Switzerland | Executive Chairman & Founder – Klaus Schwab

## 550. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

India has emerged as the second largest source country both in terms of the "total" inflow of new migrants to OECD countries during 2018 and also as regards the number of Indians acquiring citizenship of these countries, as per the 44<sup>th</sup> edition of "International Migration Outlook 2020". [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- 44<sup>th</sup> edition of "International Migration Outlook 2020" – unveiled by OECD
- India – 2<sup>nd</sup> largest source country | Topped by – China
- HQs of OECD – Paris, France | Secretary-General – Angel Gurría | Member countries in OECD – 37

## 551. Science & Technology

India has successfully test fired "BrahMos" supersonic cruise missile from Indian Navy's indigenously-built stealth destroyer INS Chennai hitting a target in the Arabian Sea. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India test fired "BrahMos" supersonic cruise missile from – INS Chennai
- Missile range – 400 km





## 552. Important Days & Dates

Every 5 years, October 20 is celebrated as “World Statistics Day”. The day intends to raise awareness on the importance of trustworthy, authentic data. This year, the theme is “Connecting the world with data we can trust”. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- October 20 – 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of ‘World Statistics Day’ – every 5 years since 2010
- Theme – “Connecting the world with data we can trust”

## 553. Books & Authors

The book, called “Voice of Millions”, was published earlier this year but is yet to be launched formally. Mukherjee was due to address another session of Bangladesh Parliament, this time a Special Session on March 22-23 to mark the Mujib centenary, and also to attend the book’s launch. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- “Voice of Millions” book (Anthology of Essays) – written by Pranab Mukherjee – on ‘Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’

## 554. National & States Affairs

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has laid the foundation stone for India's first Multi-Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) in Assam to be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 694 crore under the ambitious Bharatmala Pariyojna. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone for India's first Multi-Modal Logistics Park in – Assam | Cost: Rs 694 Cr
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

## 555. Important Days & Dates

Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Food Processing Industries, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Narendra Singh Tomar has virtually inaugurated the “India - International Food & Agri Week” being organised from 16th to 22nd October 2020. It was organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in association with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Ministry of Food Processing Industries. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- October 16-22 – “India - International Food & Agri Week” – inaugurated by Narendra Singh Tomar
- Organised by = CII + MoAFW + MoFAHD + MoFPI
- Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development – Narendra Singh Tomar (Morena, MP)



## 556. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

NTPC Ltd has started to collaborate with cement manufacturers across the country to supply fly ash to achieve 100% utilisation of the by-product produced during power generation. NTPC Rihand is the first power plant in Uttar Pradesh to send conditioned fly ash to cement manufacturers. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- NTPC Ltd – started to collaborate with cement manufacturers across the country to supply ‘fly ash’
- NTPC Rihand power plant (UP) – the 1<sup>st</sup> plant to send conditioned fly ash to cement manufacturers
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh

## 557. Defence Affairs

India and France will be involved in Exercise Varuna, a naval effort between October 10 and 15. SITMEX, will be a 4-day naval exercise with Singapore and Thailand, beginning November 17. SIMBEX, will involve India and Singapore between the 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of November. Both will happen in the Andaman Seas. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- “Varuna” – between “India & France”
- “SITMEX” – “Singapore + India + Thailand” Maritime Exercise
- SIMBEX – “Singapore + India” Maritime Bilateral Exercise

## 558. National & States Affairs

The government has approved the 14<sup>th</sup> tranche of Electoral Bonds which was open for sale from October 19 to October 28. The Election Commission of India (ECI) accorded 'no objection' from the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) angle on October 15. State Bank of India has been authorised to issue and encash Electoral Bonds. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Government approved the 14<sup>th</sup> tranche of Electoral Bonds
- SBI – authorised to issue and encash the 14<sup>th</sup> tranche of Electoral Bonds
- Chief Election Commissioner – Sunil Arora (23<sup>rd</sup>)
- HQs of ECI – New Delhi



## 559. Science & Technology

Amazon Web Services (AWS) and the NITI Aayog have set up a Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Center (CIC) that will work on addressing societal challenges around areas like agriculture and healthcare through digital innovation. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- NITI Aayog + AWS = launched Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Center (CIC)
- NITI Aayog HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle , USA | Founder & CEO – Jeff Bezos

## 560. Defence Affairs

The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual Indian Navy (IN) - Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) bilateral maritime exercise “SLINEX-20” is scheduled off Trincomalee, Sri Lanka from October 19 to 21. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- 8<sup>th</sup> edition of “SLINEX-20” bilateral maritime exercise between India & Sri Lanka – at Trincomalee, Sri Lanka
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

## 561. Current GK

13 out of the 17 gates of the “Himayat Sagar lake” were opened in Hyderabad as the water level reached the full reservoir level (FRL) after the city received incessant rainfall. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Himayat Sagar lake – located in Hyderabad, Telangana
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

## 562. Sports & Games

Elavenil Valarivan has won a Gold medal in the Women’s event and Shahu Tushar Mane has bagged a Silver medal in the Men’s event at the “Sheikh Russel International Air Rifle Championship - 2020”. The championship was organised by Bangladesh Shooting Sport Federation (BSSF). [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- “Sheikh Russel International Air Rifle Championship - 2020” – organised by BSSF
- Elavenil Valarivan (Shooter - Tamil Nadu) – won Gold medal in Women’s event
- Shahu Tushar Mane (Shooter - Maharashtra) – won Silver medal in Men’s event | Gold: Naoya Okada (Japan)



### 563. National & States Affairs

The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation System is considered to be one of the world's largest multi-purpose projects. It is designed to provide water for irrigation and drinking purposes in Telangana. The cost of the project is Rs 80,000 crore, but is expected to rise to Rs 1 lakh crore by the time it is completely constructed by the end of 2020. The total length of the entire Kaleshwaram project is approximately 1,832 km. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- "Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project" – in Telangana
- Total cost: Rs 80,000 crore (expected to rise to Rs 1 lakh crore by 2020) | Total length: 1,832 km approximately
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

### 564. International Affairs

The Ministry of Shipping has extended the current concessional rate of 40% discount for coastal movement of cargo and vessel-related charges, for a period of further 1 year to clients for cargo being handled at Jawaharlal Nehru Port and Deendayal Port from or to Shahid Beheshti Port, Chabahar, Iran. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Ministry of Shipping – extended the current concessional rate of 40% discount on cargo movement between India & in Iran
- Shahid Beheshti Port + Chabahar Port = in Iran
- MoS I/C in Ministry of Shipping – Mansukh L. Mandaviya
- Iran – Tehran – Rial | President – Ali Khamenei

### 565. Sports & Games

Union Minister of Youth and Sports Kiren Rijiju has attended the 1<sup>st</sup> ever "Youth-20 (Y20) Summit" held virtually in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The theme of the Summit is "Government - Youth dialogue on post-COVID-19 opportunities". [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Kiren Rijiju – attended the 1<sup>st</sup> ever "Youth-20 (Y20) Summit" – hosted by Saudi Arabia
- Theme – "Government - Youth dialogue on post-COVID-19 opportunities"
- Sports Ministry – Kiren Rijiju | Constituency – Arunachal West



## 566. Schemes & Initiatives

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has launched “AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR” scheme. AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR scheme has been formulated by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). The loan of Rs. 10,000 crore will be provided by NCDC to set up healthcare facilities. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Narendra Singh Tomar launched – “AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR” scheme – formulated by NCDC
- The loan of Rs. 10,000 crore to be provided by NCDC
- Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development – Narendra Singh Tomar (Morena, MP)
- HQs of NCDC – New Delhi | Managing Director – Sundeep Kumar Nayak

## 567. Important Days & Dates

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Dhaka to participate in the celebration of 50<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of Bangladesh on March 26, 2021. Bangladesh celebrated December 16 when the 1971 India-Pakistan war came to an end with the defeat of Pakistan Army but the country marked March 26 as the official Independence Day as it was on this day in 1971, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman announced the birth of Bangladesh in a dramatic speech. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- March 26, 2021 – 50<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of Bangladesh – to be participated by Narendra Modi
- Bangladesh’s Foreign Minister – Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Seikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

## 568. National & States Affairs

Uttar Pradesh government has launched a 6-month long women empowerment campaign ‘Mission Shakti’ to raise awareness and tackle crime against women in the state. Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel has inaugurated the 'Safe City Project', a 180-day-long campaign. The central government has approved the project for Lucknow at a total cost of Rs 194 crore with an aim to strengthen security of women in public places. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – launched a 6-month long women empowerment campaign ‘Mission Shakti’
- Anandiben Patel – inaugurated the 'Safe City Project' | Cos: Rs 194 crore
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel



### 569. Current GK

People have celebrated “Kati Bihu” festival in Assam’s Bongaigaon on October 17. The Kati Bihu is also closely related to agriculture. Kati Bihu is celebrated on the first day of 'Kati' month in Assamese calendar. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Kati Bihu” festival – Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

### 570. Defence Affairs

Australia is set to join the “Malabar” trilateral naval exercise comprising India, Japan and the US. The Malabar exercises will take place in November in the in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Australia – to join the “Malabar” trilateral naval exercise comprising India, Japan & USA
- To take place in November – in the Bay of Bengal & the Arabian Sea
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

### 571. Appointments & Resignations

Rohan Jaitley, the son of former finance minister late Arun Jaitley, has been elected unopposed as the new President of Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA). [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Rohan Jaitley – elected unopposed as the new President of – Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA)
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Bajjal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

### 572. National & States Affairs

The Aadhaar issuing body, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has announced that individuals can now avail Aadhaar in a PVC card form by paying a nominal fee of Rs 50. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Aadhaar Card can be obtained in a PVC card form – at Rs 50
- HQs of UIDAI – New Delhi | CEO – Pankaj Kumar



### 573. National & States Affairs

Kerala Automobiles Ltd (KAL) has claimed to be the first State-level public sector undertaking to export “Neem-G electric” auto rickshaws, when it shipped the first batch of 25 eco-friendly electric three-wheelers from its plant by road to Nepal. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- “Neem-G electric” auto rickshaws of Kerala Automobiles Ltd – exported to Nepal
- 1<sup>st</sup> batch of – 25 Eco-friendly electric 3-wheelers
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

### 574. Banking & Economic Affairs

Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance has launched a new Unit Linked Insurance Plan (ULIP) titled ‘Invest 4G’. New “Invest4G” offers three options to the individuals: Life Option, Care Option and Century Option. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance – launched a new ULIP “Invest4G”
- HQs of CHOBCLI – Gurugram, Haryana | Chairman – R. A. Sankara Narayanan | MD & CEO – Anuj Mathur

### 575. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

Jammu and Kashmir government has signed MoU with Flipkart to provide an online platform for showcasing and facilitating the local artisans/craftsmen/weavers to reach customers across the globe. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- J&K + Flipkart – an MoU to provide an online platform for showcasing the local artisans/craftsmen/weavers
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal

### 576. Appointments & Resignations

Senior journalist and editor of The Citizen, Seema Mustafa, has been elected as the new President of the Editors Guild of India. Mustafa takes over from Shekhar Gupta, editor-in-chief of The Print. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Seema Mustafa – elected as the new President of – Editors Guild of India (by replacing - Shekhar Gupta)



### 577. National & States Affairs

'Heeng or asafoetida' which has never been grown locally is now going to be cultivated in India. Scientists from CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT), Palampur have planted saplings of the condiment in Himachal Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- The 1<sup>st</sup> plantation of saplings of 'Heeng or asafoetida' is done in Himachal Pradesh – by IHBT
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

### 578. Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

Indian-origin philanthropist Harish Kotecha has been awarded the prestigious “Sandra Neese Lifetime Achievement Award” in recognition of his work in the US for meeting the needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Harish Kotecha – awarded the prestigious “Sandra Neese Lifetime Achievement Award” for his work in the US
- Harish Kotecha – the founder and President of Hindu Charities for America (HC4A)
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Donald Trump

### 579. Sports & Games

In Badminton, former World Champion Nozomi Okuhara has clinched the “Denmark Open title” beating three-time world champion Carolina Marin in women's singles. In the men's singles final, world number seven Anders Antonsen has won the same title. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Nozomi Okuhara (Badminton-Japan ) – won the women's singles “Denmark Open Title”
- Anders Antonsen (Badminton-Denmark ) – won the men's singles “Denmark Open Title”
- Denmark – Copenhagen – Danish krone

### 580. Science & Technology

India has successfully test-fired the Stand-off Anti-Tank (SANT) Missile off the coast of Odisha. The Missile is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the Indian Air Force (IAF). [{Read more}](#)





### Key Points:

- India successfully test-fired “SANT” Missile – off the coast of Odisha
- SANT – Stand-off Anti-Tank | developed by – DRDO
- DRDO: HQs – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy

### 581. National & States Affairs

Shripad Yesso Naik has inaugurated a Regional Raw Drug Repository (RRDR) for Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy (ASU&H) medicine (Southern Plateau Region) at the National Institute of Siddha, Chennai. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Shripad Yesso Naik – inaugurated RRDR for ASU&H medicine – at National Institute of Siddha, Chennai
- MoS of AYUSH – Shripad Yesso Naik | Constituency – North Goa
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

### 582. National & States Affairs

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed the Centenary Convocation of the University of Mysore via video conferencing. The University of Mysore was established in 1916 and was the first university in Karnataka as well as the sixth university in the country. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – addressed the Centenary Convocation of the ‘University of Mysore’ (Karnataka)
- The University of Mysore was established in – 1916 | 6<sup>th</sup> university in India
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – B S Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

### 583. Current GK

Kathak Queen Jayanti Mala (daughter of celebrated Kathak maestro Sitara Devi) has inaugurated Kathakworld.com, a website dedicated to bringing back the relevance and appeal of the dance to the younger new-age audience through its experiential way of learning. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- “Kathak” dance form – Uttar Pradesh
- Kathak Queen – Jayanti Mala
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel



## 584. International Affairs

Andorra has formally joined the International Monetary Fund (IMF) becoming its 190<sup>th</sup> member state as the tourism and trade-dependent principality struggles with the coronavirus pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Andorra – joined IMF (190<sup>th</sup> member state)
- HQs of IMF – Washington, D.C., USA | President – Kristalina Georgieva | Member countries – 190
- Andorra – Andorra la Vella – Euro

## 585. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

According to the Sydney-based Lowy Institute's "Asia Power Index for 2020", India is the 4<sup>th</sup> most powerful nation in the Asia-Pacific following the US, China and Japan. The country's (India's) power score dipped 1.3 points to 39.7 this year as compared to 41.0 in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- "Asia Power Index for 2020" – released by 'Lowy Institute' (Sydney)
- India – 4<sup>th</sup> | 1<sup>st</sup> – USA | 2<sup>nd</sup> – China | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Japan

## 586. Banking & Economic Affairs

Bank of Baroda (BoB) has signed an MoU with Mahindra and Mahindra for tractor finance business to push agriculture finance. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- BoB + Mahindra and Mahindra = signed an MoU for tractor finance business
- HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat | CEO – Sanjiv Chadha
- HQs of Mahindra and Mahindra – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Dr Pawan Goenka

## 587. Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

Mrs. Seema Gupta has been named the winner of "GOLD Stevie Award" in the Lifetime Achievement - Business category in the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Stevie Awards for Women in Business. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Seema Gupta – won "GOLD Stevie Award" in the Lifetime Achievement - Business category
- 17<sup>th</sup> edition of annual Stevie Awards for Women in Business – held virtually



## 588. National & States Affairs

In Madhya Pradesh, a fine of 500 rupees will be imposed now on the people who spit in the railway premises. West Central Railway has taken this step to prevent corona infection. It has been started from Bhopal division. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- A fine of Rs 500 will be imposed on the people who spit in the railway premises – in Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

## 589. Appointments & Resignations

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has delivered the biggest election victory for her centre-left Labour Party in half a century as voters rewarded her for a decisive response to COVID-19. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Jacinda Ardern – won ‘historic’ re-election & became the Prime Minister of – New Zealand
- New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar (NZD) | Prime Minister – Jacinda Ardern

## 590. Amount & Agreements

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Indian government have signed an agreement for \$177 million loan to upgrade 450 kilometres of state highways and major district roads in the state of Maharashtra. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- ADB + Indian Gov – an agreement for \$177 million loan – to upgrade 450 km of state highways of ‘Maharashtra’
- ADB: HQs – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

## 591. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

The Cost of a Plate of Food 2020” report released by the United Nations World Food Programme (UNWFP) shows the countries where a basic meal such as rice and beans costs the most when compared with people’s incomes. South Sudan has topped the list where basic food ingredients cost 18% of a person’s daily income. 17 of the top 20 countries featured in the index are in sub-Saharan Africa. India features within the top 30 countries at 28th position. On an average an Indian spends 3.5% of his/ her daily income for a plate of food. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- “The Cost of a Plate of Food 2020” report – released by United Nations World Food Programme
- Indian spends 3.5% of his/ her daily income for a plate of food
- India – 28th | Topped by – South Sudan
- South Sudan – Juba South – Sudanese Pound
- HQs of UNWFP – Rome, Italy | ED – David Muldrow Beasley | Countries – 36



### 592. National & States Affairs

Food regulator FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) has decided to extend “Food Safety Compliance System” (FoSCoS) in the entire country from November 1. Currently, the system is operational in 9 States/UTs. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- FSSAI – to extend “Food Safety Compliance System” (FoSCoS) from November 1
- HQs of FSSAI – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rita Teotia

### 593. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has conducted an online survey to study the travel pattern of commuters amid coronavirus. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Delhi Metro Rail Corporation – conducted an online survey to study the travel pattern of commuters
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Bajjal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

### 594. Science & Technology

The IIT-Madras incubated dairy-tech startup and World Economic Forum’s technology pioneer, Stellapps, has launched “mooPay” in Bhilwara district of Rajasthan for dairies and dairy farmers. National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has launched “Pashu Mitra” call centre for dairy farmers. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Stellapps – launched “mooPay” in Bhilwara, Rajasthan – for dairy farmers
- NDDB – launched “Pashu Mitra” call centre for dairy farmers
- Stellapps – IIT-Madras incubated dairy-tech startup
- HQs of NDDB – Anand, Gujara | Chairman – Dilip Rath
- HQs of Stellapps – Bangalore, Karnatak

### 595. Banking & Economic Affairs

Fino Payments Bank is planning to add another 300 points at BPCL outlets to its existing 1,075 in Tamil Nadu, to help truck drivers to get fleet cards recharged by paying equivalent cash, without any hassles. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Fino Payments Bank – to add another 300 points at BPCL outlets to its existing 1,075 in Tamil Nadu
- HQs of FPBL – Maharashtra | MD and CEO – Rishi Gupta
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit



### 596. International Affairs

Singapore will become the world's first country to use facial verification in its national ID scheme to pay taxes. Millions of people living in the city-state will be able to access government agencies, banking services and other amenities with a quick face scan by using this "SingPass Face Verification". [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Singapore – became the world's 1<sup>st</sup> country to use facial verification in its national ID scheme to pay taxes
- Singapore – Singapore – Dollar | PM – Lee Hsien Loong | President – Halimah Yacob

### 597. Sports & Games

Mohun Bagan FC has been handed over "Hero I-League 2019/20 trophy" officially after 7 months. The trophy was handed over to players and coaches by I-League CEO Sunando Dhar in presence of club president Swapan Sadhan Bose and West Bengal Sports Minister Aroop Biswas. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- "Hero I-League 2019/20 trophy" – handed over to 'Mohun Bagan FC' (Kolkata)
- Coach of Mohun Bagan FC – Antonio Lopez Habas

### 598. Sports & Games

Former Manchester City, Argentina defender 'Pablo Zabaleta' has announced retirement from football. Zabaleta left West Ham at the end of last season and has decided to retire at the end of his successful 18-year career. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Pablo Zabaleta (Argentina) – retirement – from Football
- Argentina – Buenos Aires – Peso

### 599. International Affairs

According to the WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom, 184 countries have now joined the COVAX facility, which aims to finance COVID-19 vaccines. Ecuador and Uruguay were the most recent countries to join. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- 184 countries – joined the 'COVAX facility' as on October 19, 2020 (Latest: Ecuador & Uruguay)
- Ecuador – Quito – US Dollar | Uruguay – Montevideo – Peso Uruguayo



## 600. Amount & Agreements

The Central government will borrow the Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation shortfall of Rs 1.1 lakh crore and will lend to states. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- The Central government – to borrow the GST compensation shortfall of Rs 1.1 lakh crore
- GST Council constituted in 2016 under – Article 279A of the Constitution





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