

OCTOBER 2020

**MONTHLY UPDATES ON
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

WILEY

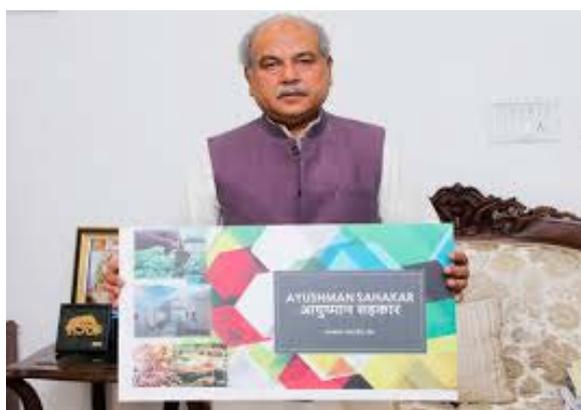
National

- Indian Air Force celebrated its 88th anniversary on October 8. Indian Air Force was officially established on October 8, 1932 by the British Empire as the Royal Indian Air Force.



The 'Royal' has removed in 1950 and it became 'Indian Air Force'. This special occasion celebrated with a ceremonial parade and flypast involving a variety of aircraft at the Hindon airbase. IAF's frontline warplanes like Rafale, Su-30MKI, Apache, Tejas, 'Gajraj' showcased its lethal firepower.

- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** announced two components under consumer spending: LTC cash voucher scheme and special festival advance scheme for government employees. It aims to increase consumer spending.
- Union Agriculture Minister, **Narendra Singh Tomar** has launched **Ayushman Sahakar**. This scheme is a unique way to assist cooperatives to play an important role in the creation of healthcare infrastructure in the country, aims at bringing transformation in the health services primarily in the rural areas.



It has been formulated by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

- The University Grants Commission announced a list of 24 unrecognised universities which have been termed as fake. This has been done by UGC to maintain the standards of higher education in the country. The

maximum number of these universities are operating from the states of Uttar Pradesh followed by Delhi. They have been termed fake based on the provisions of UGC act. In this list, 8 universities were from UP, 2 from West Bengal, 2 from Odisha and 7 from Delhi while states such as Karnataka, Maharashtra, Puducherry have one fake university each. It is also notified by UGC that the word 'University' shall not be used by any institutions other than those established and recognised by UGC.

- The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, **Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy** has launched **Jagananna Vidya Kanuka** scheme by allocating ₹ 650 crores for the scheme.



Under this scheme, the state government will provide school kits to 43.32 lakh government school students which will be named as Vidya Kanuka kits. It will comprise of one pair of shoes, three pairs of uniform, two pairs of socks, textbooks, notebooks, school bag and belt.

- Kerala has become the first state in the country to make public education completely digital. This initiative was launched in 2018 and the state government has achieved it by spending a cost of ₹ 42.36 crores. The project of making public education completely digital in Kerala was implemented by Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education.
- The adaption of Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj act has been approved by the Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi. This act will establish the 3-tier Grass root level democracy here, which was not in practice in the union territory. Also, the Government of India has been implementing several reforms and schemes in order to bring in normalcy in the Jammu and Kashmir region just like the rest of the country after the abrogation of article 370.
- Bangladesh government has decided that no service will be provided to people who don't wear a mask in the cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.





- ⊙ Under this announcement, all offices must install notice boards saying 'no mask, no service' in order to control the spread of COVID 19 virus in the country. The government has also talked to the Islamic scholars and religious leaders to publicise this at all mosques through the Imams.
- ⊙ India hosted the third India-US two plus two Ministerial Dialogue at Hyderabad House in New Delhi. The Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar led the Indian delegation.



The United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Secretary of Defence Mark Esper are leading the US delegation. The First two plus two dialogue was held in New Delhi in September 2018 and the Second in Washington DC in 2019.

- ⊙ Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated three projects in Gujarat from Delhi. These projects are as follows:
 - The United Nations Mehta Heart Research Institute, Ahmedabad
 - The Girnar Ropeway Project: It is a ropeway located in Mount Girnar in Junagadh district of Gujarat. The project was first proposed in 1983. However, the construction began only in September 2018 due to delay in project approval and litigation. It is one of the longest ropeway of Asia.
 - Kisan Sarvodaya Yojana: This scheme aims to provide day time power supply for irrigation. The farmers will avail power supply between 5 AM and 9 PM on the regular basis. To implement the scheme, the State Government of Gujarat has allocated

budget of ₹ 3,500 crores. These funds will install transmission infrastructure by 2023. Around 234 transmission lines are to be installed under the scheme. Each line is to carry power of 66 KW.

- ⊙ **E-Dharti Geo Portal** was launched by the Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. The portal will integrate map and lease plans in the Management Information System. It will make the system Geographic Information System enabled, GIS enabled. On the regular basis, the Land and Development Office deals with more than 50000 residential, commercial, Industrial and institutional properties. This launch of the portal the property certificate details and outline map of the property can be easily accessed online.
- ⊙ Kerala became the first Indian state to fix Minimum Support Price (MSP) for sixteen agriculture items which consists of vegetables, fruits and tubers. This scheme is launched to support farmers and increase agriculture sector. There is also a condition to revise the MSP price on a regular basis. The Base Price will be 20% more than production cost of vegetables. Local self-government bodies will correlate the procurement and circulation of vegetables.

Economy

- ⊙ The Reserve Bank of India recently ordered Payment System Operators (PSO) from launching new proprietor QR code for transactions. The apex bank asked the PSOs switch to at least 1 interoperable QR code. This is to use the same QR code across multiple payment applications. This is being done by the Reserve Bank of India to improve digital payment infrastructure in the country.
- ⊙ International Financial Services Centre Authorities approved to new regulations during the board meeting held. The new regulations which were approved are
 - International Financial Services Centre Authorities Bullion Exchange Regulations, 2020
 - International financial Services Centre Authorities Global In-house Centres Regulation, 2020
- ⊙ The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched **RuPay Festive Carnival**. It will give compelling advantage and interesting discounts to RuPay users. It aimed to contactless, motivating safe and cashless payments.
- ⊙ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has deferred implementation of provisions made under Basel III capital due to uncertainty related to COVID crisis. In this regard, RBI will repel the final tranche of the capital conservation buffer (CCB) and the implementation of net stable funding ratio (NSFR) by six months that is, April 1, 2021.

- ③ Three new economists as members of the six-member rate-setting Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been appointed by the Government of India. The government had formed a committee for selection of these three new members of MPC. This search-cum-selection committee for MPC was headed by Economic Affairs Secretary Tarun Bajaj and the new members are, Prof. Ashima Goyal, Prof. Jayanth R Varma and Dr. Shashanka Bhide.
- ③ Indian Bank has launched a green initiative **IB-eNote** to enable a total paperless working environment. This tool will enable the processing and tracking of notes put up by various offices digitally. For this initiative, the bank customised SharePoint, one of the features of Microsoft Office. The Bank also launched **Ind Guru**, an e-learning platform for its employees.
- ③ ICICI Bank has launched a debit card facility for the customers availing the Loan Against Securities (LAS) from the Bank. The debit card is available on the Visa platform. With this launch, the bank has become the first in India to launch such a facility.
- ③ Axis Bank has launched a new entry-level credit card named Axis ACE Credit Card, which will focus on increasing participation of users in the digital economy.
- ③ IDBI Bank announced the launch of banking services on WhatsApp. Now, the WhatsApp Banking service is being offered through a dedicated WhatsApp verified number ensuring end-to-end encryption, the Bank stated.
- ③ India has successfully conducted the night trial of its nuclear-capable **Prithvi-2** missile from Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur near Balasore, Odisha.

Science and Technology



The user flight trial was carried out by the Strategic Forces Command of the armed force under the watch of DRDO scientists as part of a training exercise. This is a 9-metre tall liquid-propelled Prithvi-2 has a range of 350 km and can carry a 1-tonne warhead. It uses Advanced Inertial Guidance System (AIGS) with manoeuvring trajectory to reach the target with a few metre accuracy. It has been designed to deliver advanced warheads deep into enemy territory.



It also aims to bring a seamless, digital experience to users from application to issuance. The card has been launched in collaboration with Google Pay and will run on Visa (Signature) platform.

- ③ HDFC Bank and Apollo Hospitals have collaborated to launch the **HealthyLife Programme**, a holistic healthcare solution.



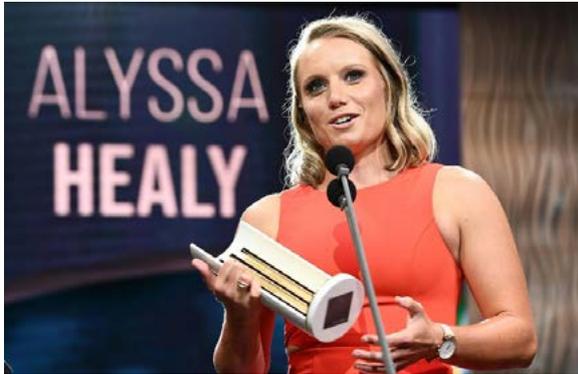
This programme will be launched for HDFC Bank customers, to make healthy living accessible and affordable while making the process convenient and easy for the customers.

- ③ The Minister of Science and Technology **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** launched the **SERB-POWER** initiative which will mitigate gender disparity in science and engineering research funding programmes in Indian Academic Institutions and Research and Development Laboratories. SERB-POWER is Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research and was exclusively designed for women scientist. SERB is Science and Engineering Research Board. It is a statutory body operating under Ministry of Science and Technology.

- ③ On October 12, 2020, the National Supercomputing Mission and C-DAC hosted institutes to sign Memorandum of Understanding to make India self-reliant in manufacturing critical components of supercomputers. C-DAC is currently in the process of accelerating research and innovation in manufacturing supercomputing components. This is a major step towards achieving **Atma Nirbhar Bharat**. The MoU was signed to establish manufacturing and assembly units of supercomputers.

Sports

- ⊙ Australian woman cricketer and wicketkeeper, **Alyssa Healy** broke the record of 'Most Dismissal by Wicket Keeper' set up by **MS Dhoni** who made 91 dismissals in 98 T20 Internationals (T20Is) for India.



- ⊙ India's **Visnu Shivaraj Pandian** has won the 10 metre air rifle event at the fifth edition of the International Online Shooting Championship.



He shot 251.4 to win the title by a clear margin of two points.

- ⊙ **Lewis Hamilton** (Mercedes-Great Britain) has won the 2020 Eifel Grand Prix, held at the Nürburgring in Nürburg, Germany. **Max Verstappen** (Red Bull-Netherlands) came second followed by **Daniel Ricciardo** (Renault-Australia) at third position.

Persons in News

- ⊙ The Supreme Court has appointed Justice **Madan B Lokur** (former judge of the apex court) as a one-man monitoring committee to prevent stubble burning in the states of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, amid rising levels of pollution in the national capital and adjoining regions.



The bench also directed court-appointed Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA) and the Chief Secretaries of Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh to help the Lokur panel with physical surveillance of fields to check instances of stubble burning and other related matters.

- ⊙ **Charanjit Singh Attra** has been appointed as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the State Bank of India (SBI) with effect from October 1, 2020 succeeding the former Deputy MD & CFO Prashant Kumar.
- ⊙ The Government of India has appointed **Dinesh Kumar Khara** as the new Chairman of State Bank of India for a period of three years effective from October.



- ⊙ **M A Ganapathy**, Senior IPS officer from 1986 batch of Uttarakhand cadre, has been appointed as the Director-General of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS). The post of BCAS chief fell vacant after Rakesh Asthana was appointed as the Director-General of Border Security Force in August.
- ⊙ **J Venkatramu** has been appointed the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB). He will succeed **Suresh Sethi**, who served the post till March 2020.
- ⊙ **Nilesh Shah** has been re-elected as the Chairman of Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI). He was earlier elected as the Chairman for 2019 – 2020.
- ⊙ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the term of **Rajesh Kumar Chhibber** as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Jammu & Kashmir Bank for another 6 months, effective from October 10, 2020, or till the appointment of Managing Director(MD) and Chief Executive Officer(CEO), whichever is earlier.

- ⊙ **BharatPe** announced the launch of its high impact TV campaign starring **Team BharatPe** with 11 Cricketers as brand ambassadors which includes Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, KL Rahul, Mohammed Shami, Ravindra Jadeja, Suresh Raina, Shreyas Iyer, Prithvi Shaw, Sanju Samson, Yuzvendra Chahal, and Shubhman Gill.
- ⊙ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has extended the tenure of the chairman and managing director of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd., **Gurdeep Singh** till 31 July 2025. He had first assumed the charge of utility's chairman and managing director in February 2016.
- ⊙ **Vishal V. Sharma** has been appointed as the next Permanent Representative of India to the Permanent Delegation of India to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), with the rank of Ambassador by succeeding **Jawed Ashraf**.
- ⊙ **Dr. Michael Irani** of Great Britain (GBR) has been appointed as the Interim President of the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) at the meeting of the IWF Executive Board by succeeding former IWF President **Tamás Aján**.



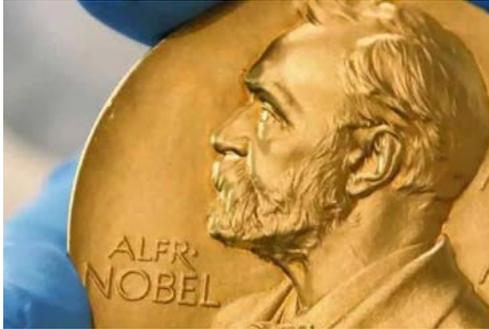
- ⊙ Advocate **Rohan Jaitley**, the son of late Union Minister Arun Jaitley, has been elected unopposed as the President of the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA).
- ⊙ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension of the tenure of Home Secretary, **Ajay Kumar Bhalla** till August 22, 2021. He is a 1984 batch IAS officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre, was appointed as Home Secretary in August 2019. He was to superannuate on November 30, 2020.

Plans and Policies

- ⊙ **Thaawarchand Gehlot**, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment launched the **Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM)**. This mission has been launched under the Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (SCs) in order to promote innovation and enterprise among SC students studying in higher educational institutions.
- ⊙ On the 400th birth anniversary of **Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur**, the Centre has set up a high-level committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This committee will look into the approval of policies, plans, programmes and supervision and guiding the commemoration, as well as for deciding dates for detailed programmes of celebration.
- ⊙ **Arjun Munda**, Union Minister of Tribal Affairs has virtually launched the Tribal Entrepreneurship Development Programme. This 3-years initiative has been jointly launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), an apex industry body. The initiative will develop the potential of the tribal communities and building their capacities to enhance their contribution in socio-economic growth.
- ⊙ The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has launched an online discovery platform for startups called **Startup India Showcase**. The main aim of this website is to make a repository of India's most promising startups that have proved their capabilities, from across sectors such as fintech, enterprise tech, social impact, health tech, and edutech, among others.
- ⊙ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the programme of physical distribution of Property Cards under the SVAMITVA scheme through video conferencing. The Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA) is a Central Sector Scheme, which was launched in April 2020 to provide the 'record of rights to document the residential properties' to village household owners in rural areas and issue Property Cards.
- ⊙ Union Education Minister, **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has virtually launched the campaign **KAPILA**, which stands for Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness campaign on 15th October 2020. The day was launched in honour of 89th birth anniversary celebration of former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.

Awards and Honours

- © **Nobel Prizes 2020** announced in Sweden and Norway to honour intellectual achievement in the world in the field of sciences, literature and economics, as well as peace work.



Nobel Laureates	Field	Contribution
Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton and Charles M. Rice	Medicine	Discovered Hepatitis C virus
Roger Penrose	Physics	Discovered that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity
Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez	Physics	Discovered supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy
Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna	Chemistry	Discovered the method for genome editing
Louise Glück	Literature	For her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal
World Food Programme (WFP)	Peace	For its efforts to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict.
Paul R. Milgrom, Robert B. Wilson – Sveriges Riksbank (Sweden's central bank)	Economic Sciences	For improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats.

- © **Rafael Nadal** beats **Novak Djokovic** to win the men's 2020 French Open Title which is his 13th French Open men's singles title and 20th Grand Slam title.



In Women's single, **Iga Swiatek** of Poland, claimed a historic win, by becoming the youngest women to win the title in the history of the championship. She defeated **Sofia Kenin**, of the United States and became the first Polish tennis player to win the singles' Grand Slam.

- © For the first time, since the inception of the framework agreement of ISA, the Solar Awards were presented during the third Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) to the countries of the region as well as institutions working for solar.

Three categories of awards were conferred which included:

- **Visvesvaraya Award** recognises the countries with a maximum floating solar capacity in each of the four regions of ISA.
- **Kalpana Chawla Award** recognises the outstanding contribution of scientists and engineers working in the field of solar energy.
- **Diwakar Award** recognizes organisations and institutions that have been working for the benefit of differently-abled people and have maximised the use of solar energy in the host country.

List of Winners

- **Visvesvaraya award:** Japan for the Asia Pacific region and the Netherlands for Europe and Others region.
- **Kalpana Chawla awards:** Dr. Bhim Singh from IIT Delhi (India) and Dr. Aasha Alnuaimi from Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (United Arab Emirates).
- **Diwakar award:** Arpan Institute (Haryana) and Arushi Society.

