

Current Affairs Today –09.10.2020

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CURRENT AFFAIRS: DAYS

World Sight Day



- **World Sight Day** is an annual day of awareness held on the **second Thursday of October**, to focus global attention on blindness and vision impairment.
- **This year**, World Sight Day will take place on **8 October 2020** with the **theme: Hope In Sight**.

CURRENT AFFAIRS:

Union Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot inaugurates virtual “International conference on Mental Health: Looking Beyond COVID 19”



- Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment **Thaawarchand Gehlot** inaugurated the virtual “**International conference on Mental Health: Looking Beyond COVID 19**” through video conferencing.
- Delivering the inaugural address, Mr. Gehlot spoke about the rising trend of mental health concerns across the globe.
- He also spoke about the recent initiatives of the government including setting up of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation at Sehore in Madhya Pradesh and KIRAN mental health rehabilitation helpline for addressing mental health issues.
- Prof. Craig Jeffrey, Director of Australia-India Institute co-chaired the conference.

Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' virtually inaugurates Gyan Circle Ventures



- Union Minister for Education **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** virtually inaugurated **the Gyan Circle Ventures**, a **MeitY** funded Technology Business Incubator (TBI) of Indian Institute of Information Technology, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh through Video Conference.
- Speaking on the occasion Mr. Pokhriyal stated that Innovation is the engine that powers the progress of the nation.
- He stated innovation and entrepreneurship needs to be fostered to ensure self-sustainability and remain a global leader.
- The Minister stated that centers like 'Gyan Circle ventures' instill entrepreneurship in young minds and steward them to become successful innovators.

Government to launch Ayurveda and Yoga protocols for management of Covid-19



- **The National Clinical Management Protocol** based on **ayurveda and yoga** for the management of coronavirus disease (Covid-19) will be jointly released by Union health and family welfare minister Harsh Vardhan and **minister for Ayush (ayurveda, yoga & naturopathy, unani, siddha and homoeopathy) Shripad Yesso Naik**. The event will be held virtually.
- The government has been promoting medicinal herbs under the Ayush system for people to improve their immunity levels to be able to fight off infections.
- Last month, the Union health ministry issued guidelines on managing post-recovery symptoms of Covid-19 such as fatigue, body ache, cough, sore throat, breathing difficulty, etc., which largely promoted medicinal herbs for the purpose.
- "Take immunity promoting Ayush medicine to be practiced and prescribed by a qualified practitioner of Ayush. If health permits, regular household work to be done. Professional work to be resumed in graded manner. Depending on the physical condition, mild to moderate exercise daily such as yogasana, pranayama and meditation... breathing exercises as prescribed by treating physician and daily morning or evening walk at a comfortable pace as tolerated," the ministry's guidelines advise.
- The Ayush ministry also approved a clinical study last month to assess the role of medicinal herbs vasa and guduchi in the therapeutic management of symptoms in Covid-19 cases.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: INTERNATIONAL

Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin gives country's top job to a teenager for a day

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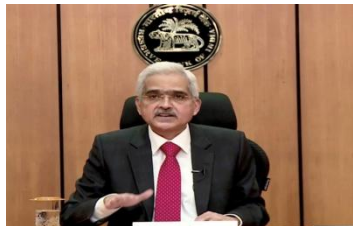
- **Finish Prime Minister Sanna Marin stepped aside** to let **16-year-old take her place**, with the **young campaigner Aava Murto** using the platform to decry online violence and gender stereotypes about technology.
- The teenager also warned of **online violence that restricts girls' access to information**.
- This swap was part of an international campaign dubbed Girls Takeover, which comes ahead of the **UN Girls Day on Oct 11th**.
- During her brief tenure as the country's top leader, Murto met with Marin, as well the minister for development and trade and the country's chancellor of justice.

About Finland

- Capital: Helsinki
- Currency: Euro
- President: Sauli Niinistö

CURRENT AFFAIRS: BANKING AND FINANCE

RBI keeps key interest rates unchanged



- The **Reserve Bank of India** in its bi-monthly Monetary Policy statement issued has maintained a status quo keeping the key interest rates unchanged.
- The reverse repo rate remains unchanged at **3.35 per cent**, the repo rate at **four per cent**.
- The Monetary Policy Committee has also decided to maintain its accommodative stance as long as necessary at least through the current financial year and next year as Indian economy is entering into decisive phase in its fight against coronavirus.
- He stated, the RBI stands ready to undertake further measures as necessary to assure market participants of access to liquidity and easy finance conditions.
- The new housing loans risk weights to be linked to Loan-to-value ratio and also rationalize risk weights for all new housing loans until **March 31, 2022**.
- Also the bank will extend scheme for co-lending to all NBFC, HFC. As for GDP, the growth may break out of contraction and enter positive zone by fourth quarter of current fiscal.

World Bank projects India's GDP to contract 9.6% in FY21



- The World Bank projected India's gross domestic product (GDP) to plunge in **FY21** by **9.6%** revised down since its June forecast of 3.2% drop, reflecting the impact of the nationwide lockdown and the income shock experienced by households and small urban service firms.
- "However, there is substantial uncertainty related to the course and duration of the pandemic; the speed at which households and firm behavior will adjust to the lifting of lockdowns; and a possible new round of countercyclical fiscal policy," the World Bank stated in its latest South Asia Economic Focus report.
- While the government has signalled it is prepared to support the economy, there is no clarity about the timing or the extent of the next round of stimulus.
- The Indian economy contracted a record 23.9% in the June quarter, underlining the extent of economic damage brought about by the pandemic and the ensuing lockdown. Many forecasters now expect Indian economy to contract in double digits in FY21.

RTGS to be available 24x7 from December



- The Reserve Bank of India announced that the **Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)**, which is used for large value fund transfers, will be available round the clock from December this year.
- At present, RTGS, which has a minimum fund transfer of **Rs.2 lakh**, is available for customers from 7.00 am to 6.00 pm on all working days of a week (except second and fourth Saturdays of the month).
- "With this, India will be one of the very few countries globally with a **24x7x365** large value real time payment system," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das stated.
- In December last year, the National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) system was made available on a 24x7x365 basis.
- Meanwhile, in another measure aimed at easing digital payments, the RBI also announced that it has been decided to grant authorisation for all **Payment Service Operators (PSOs)** – new applicants as well as existing players, on a perpetual basis, subject to certain conditions.
- This will "reduce licensing uncertainties and enable PSOs to focus on their business and optimise utilisation of scarce regulatory resources," it noted.
- Authorisation (including renewal of authorisation) of such PSOs has been largely for specified periods up to five years.

LIC Housing launches 'Project RED' to improve efficiencies



- **LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LICHFL)** launched "**Project RED**" (Reimagining Excellence through Digital transformation) to improve efficiencies at every level of the organisation.

- Project RED aims to create value across the entire spectrum of stakeholders that includes employees, shareholders, business associates, existing and potential customers of LICHFL, as per the housing finance company's statement.
- To be implemented over the next 21 months, the company stated the initiative is expected to bring transformational changes by organically linking LICHFL's work culture, strengthening processes across all verticals, deepen customer engagement and adopting the best-in-class technology to build capacity.
- LICHFL has engaged Boston Consulting Group as its consultant for this project and will be setting up a high-level Project Implementation Group which will approve and monitor capacity building plans of every constituent in the company, it added.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: STATES

Meghalaya partners with Israel to set up centre of excellence on high-value vegetables



- The **Meghalaya government** has decided to partner with **Israel** for establishing a **Centre of Excellence (CoE)** on **high value vegetables** in the state.
- The CoE is vital to tap the diverse bio-diversity and resources available in the State in terms of its soil and agro-climatic conditions.
- It will also act as an impetus for further research and expansion into multi-fold aspects, including tourism potential considering the State has a gene pool of important vegetables, fruits and plants such as the Citrus fruits in Nokrek, East Garo Hills District.

About Meghalaya

- Capital: Shillong
- Governor: Satya Pal Malik
- Chief Minister: Conrad Sangma

Kerala govt sets up welfare board for farmers



- **In a first in the country, the Kerala government** has decided to form a **Welfare Fund Board** for the **uplift of farmers in the state**.
- They decided to set up the board to be known as '**Kerala Karshaka Kshemanidhi Board**'.
- The cabinet also decided that **Dr P Rajendran** would be appointed as the **chairman of the Kerala Farmers Welfare Fund Board**.

- As per the Kerala Karshaka Kshemanidhi Act, agriculture includes horticulture, medicinal plant cultivation, nursery management, fish, ornamental fish, mussels, bees, silkworms, poultry, ducks, goats, rabbits, livestock, and the maintenance and use of land for such agricultural purposes.
- For the farmers to become a member of the Board, they need to pay Rs 100 as registration fee and a monthly fee of Rs 100.
- Farmers can pay the monthly fee together for six months or one year. The government will provide an equivalent share of upto Rs 250 to the members of the Welfare Fund.
- The Board members are entitled to personal pension, family pension, sickness benefit, disability benefit, medical assistance, marriage and maternity allowance, education assistance and posthumous benefits.
- The benefit would be given for the marriage of women members and daughters of members of the Welfare Fund.
- As per the Act, a farmer is an owner, licensee, sole proprietor, oral tenant, government land leaseholder who owns **not less than 5 cents and not more than 15 acres**, with an annual income of **less than Rs five lakh**.

About Kerala

- Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
- Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan
- Chief minister: Pinarayi Vijayan

J-K Police organises 'Jashn-E-Dal' festival to boost water sports activities, tourism in Valley



- Jammu and Kashmir Police have organised a **three-day water sports festival -- 'Jashn-E-Dal'** -- with an aim to boost water sports activities and promote tourism in the valley. The festival was organized by Jammu and Kashmir Police under civic action programme in collaboration with water sports association after three years.
- "This event was last organised in 2017. 'Jashn-e-Dal' has been one of the favourite events as far as the celebration of these beautiful water bodies are concerned.
- Kashmir, which is famous for natural beauty and water bodies including the world-famous Dal Lake, which has always played a tremendous role in attracting visitors from across the world. Such events can play a vital role in promoting water sports in the valley and energetic young players can get professional platforms to showcase their talent. "Jashn-e-Dal is being organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Police in association with J-K water sports association. Over 200 participants will be performing in various competition in this three-day event.

CM Vijay Rupani e-dedicates online e-Sanjeevani OPDs scheme across Gujarat



- Gujarat Chief Minister **Vijay Rupani** e-dedicated online **e-Sanjeevani OPDs scheme** across Gujarat through videoconferencing. The main objective of this scheme is to provide medical facilities online to the patients for common diseases at their homes.
- e-Sanjeevani OPDs scheme is the central scheme and now the people of Gujarat will get its benefits.
- The Chief Minister Vijay Rupani described this service as an extension of free treatment and medicines being provided to Covid-19 patients.
- It is one step ahead of tele-medicine facilities for diagnosis on the phone through the latest technology.
- The State Government is also planning to extend its scope to medical colleges and young doctors.

AP govt launches Rs.650 crore scheme to distribute kits to school students



- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched a new scheme, **Jagananna Vidya Kanuka**, providing free kits to students studying in government schools from Class 1 to 10 ahead of the academic which is scheduled to begin from November 2.
- The Vidya Kaunaka kits comprise three pairs of uniform cloth, one pair of shoes, two pairs of socks, a belt, textbooks and notebooks and a school bag. The distribution of the kits will continue for the next three days all over the state.
- The kits will be given to about 42.32 lakh students studying in government schools and the stitching charges for uniforms would be credited to mothers' account directly so that the children will be ready for November 2 reopening of schools. The total cost of the scheme is Rs.650 crore.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: APPS AND PORTALS

A portal for mental healthcare from October 10



- To address the growing issue of mental illness during Covid, **Mental Health Foundation of India** has launched an exclusive **web portal** for mental healthcare. Called **MiHOPE**, the portal will be functional from October 10. People can access it for online consultations including with AIIMS doctors.
- The announcement was made during the ongoing **Mental Health Access Summit 2020**, which is taking place between October 4 and 11.
- The summit focuses on structural barriers to accessing treatment for mental health problems like lack of mental health professionals and inadequate recognition of mental healthcare.
- The portal is meant to help people overcome stress-related disorders and prevent emotional and mental health problems through diet, yoga, meditation and other lifestyle changes.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: MOU

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Amazon ties up with IRCTC for train ticket booking



- **Amazon** has tied up with **IRCTC** for **train ticket booking**, giving cashback offers to its prime and non-prime members.
- Train ticket booking is available only on the latest version of Amazon App and mobile web.
- This offer is applicable only on first train ticket booking on Amazon.
- Customers receive will depend on the booking amount and 'Prime membership' status.
- Prime members will get flat 12 percent back, up to Rs 120 while non-Prime Members will get flat 10 percent back, up to Rs 100.

Zurich firm signs agreement with UP government Jewar airport



- **Uttar Pradesh government** signed the **concessionaire agreement** with **Zurich Airport** to begin the development of **Jewar Airport**.
- In November last year, Zurich Airport International AG had won the bid for building the greenfield airport set to come up in Greater Noida's Jewar.
- The agreement grants Zurich Airport the license to design, build and operate Noida International Airport for a period of 40 years.

About Uttar Pradesh

- Governor: Anandiben Patel
- Capital: Lucknow
- Chief minister: Yogi Adityanath

CII-IGBC partners with Naredco to advance green building movement



- The Confederation of Indian Industry's **Indian Green Building Council (CII-IGBC)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the **National Real Estate Development Council (Naredco)** to accelerate the country's green buildings movement.
- The new partnership will enable networking, capacity building, and sharing of information between the two premier councils and facilitate India's growth as a global leader in green buildings environment.

- Niranjan Hiranandani, President, Naredco, stated CII– IGBC has been at the forefront of facilitating green buildings that encompasses every sector. He emphasised the need for introducing green aspects in affordable housing and slum rehabilitation with a focus on structural aspects.
- IGBC will seek support of the Naredco members in all its local chapters and work closely with stakeholders.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

World Trade Organisation To Appoint First Female Head



- The **World Trade Organisation** is poised to be **run by a woman for the first time in its history** as its members select **South Korea's Yoo Myung-hee** and **Nigeria's Okonjo-Iweala** as the **final two candidates to become its next attorney-general**.
- **Yoo is South Korea's trade minister** and is credited with furthering the nation's trade networks by establishing bilateral accords with the US, UK and China during her 25 years of experience in government.
- **Okonjo-Iweala** has served two terms as **Nigeria's finance minister** and has also been its **foreign minister**. In addition, she has also been the number two at the World Bank.

About WTO

- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- Leader: Roberto Azevêdo

Jordan: Bishr Al-Khasawneh named new premier



- King Abdullah II of **Jordan** appointed **Bishr Al-Khasawneh** to form a **new government**, succeeding the government of **Omar Al-Razzaz**.
- A veteran diplomat, Al-Khasawneh will be the country's **13th premier**.
- Jordan's King Abdullah accepted the resignation of the country's outgoing premier Omar Al-Razzaz, but asked him to stay on in a caretaker capacity until a new prime minister is designated and a new Cabinet is formed.

About Jordan

- Capital: Amman
- Currency: Jordanian dinar

Kyrgyzstan: Sadyr Zhaparov Appointed Acting Pm, After Prime Minister Boronov Stepped Down



- **Kyrgyzstan's Prime Minister Kubatbek Boronov** and Dastan Jumabekov, the speaker of the country's parliament, presented their resignation letters after the Central Electoral Commission annulled.
- Member of the parliament **Myktybek Abdyldaev** was elected as **speaker of the parliament** and opposition leader **Sadyr Zhaparov became the acting prime minister**.

About Kyrgyzstan

- President: Sooronbay Jeenbekov
- Capital: Bishkek
- Currency: Kyrgyzstani som

Uday Shankar steps down as Star & Disney India chairman



- **Uday Shankar** will step down as president, The Walt Disney Company APAC and chairman, Star & Disney India, effective as of December 31, 2020, Rebecca Campbell, chairman of Disney's Direct-to-Consumer and International segment, announced.
- Shankar served as The Walt Disney Company APAC chief and Star & Disney India chairman since February 2019. Previously, he was president of 21st Century Fox for Asia and the chairman & CEO of Star India.
- Star has also made strides in disrupting the country's digital landscape, with the launch of Hotstar. It is now India's largest over-the-top (OTT) platform and has operations in the US, Canada and the UK.
- He had previously served as CEO and editor of Star News, the first 24-hour news channel in India. He was also the editor and news director at TV Today Group, and spearheaded the launch of Aaj Tak in 2000 and Headlines Today in 2003.

Myntra names Bhuvan Bam as its first digital brand ambassador



- Myntra has announced YouTube sensation Bhuvan Bam as its first digital brand ambassador to further engage with the brand's fashion-forward, and tech-savvy customers, starting this festive season. As part of this strategic association, Myntra and Bam will co-ideate and create content that effectively communicates the brand's uber proposition in an innovative, highly-relatable, and entertaining manner that goes beyond the traditional forms of communication.

- Bam's journey to stardom perfectly exemplifies the rise of a new kind of 'digital' celebrity that represents the interests of contemporary consumers. The inclusion of fashion and lifestyle conversation in his relatable yet creative content will accelerate Myntra's efforts of tapping into the fashion-centric audiences and beyond.
- Bam is India's first-ever digital star who has pioneered as an ambassador in online fashion space with Myntra. His engaging social media presence, high resonance with the people will help Myntra strike a chord with his strong fan base cutting across demographics.

Piyush Goyal gets additional charge of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ministry



- Railway Minister Piyush Goyal was given **additional charge** of the **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution ministry**, a portfolio held by the late Lok Janshakti Party leader Ram Vilas Paswan.
- A Rashtrapati Bhavan communique stated President Ram Nath Kovind, on the advice of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, directed that Goyal be assigned the ministry in addition to his existing portfolios.
- Paswan, one of India's most prominent Dalit leaders and eight-time Lok Sabha MP died at the age of 74. He was part of several BJP-led NDA and Congress-led UPA governments.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: AWARDS AND HONORS

Nobel Prize in Literature 2020 awarded to American poet Louise Glück



- The **Nobel Prize in Literature for 2020** is awarded to the **American poet Louise Glück** "for her **unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal**".
- Prof. Glück won the Pulitzer Prize in 1993 for her collection "The Wild Iris" and the National Book Award for her latest collection, "Faithful and Virtuous Night", in 2014.
- She is the fourth woman to win the Nobel Literature Prize in the past decade — after Olga Tokarczuk, Svetlana Alexievich and Alice Munro.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: RANKING

Forbes India Rich List 2020: Mukesh Ambani remains wealthiest Indian for 13th consecutive year



- **Forbes** has released this year's list of the **top 100 richest Indians**. **Mukesh Ambani** remains the **wealthiest Indian for the 13th year in a row**, adding \$37.3 billion to his net worth.
- It has also noted the entry of Pune-based Serum Institute of India, which is the world's largest vaccine producer by the number of doses produced, in top 10.

Here is the list of India's top 10 richest persons

- Mukesh Ambani (88.7 billion dollar)
- Gautam Adani (25.2 billion dollar)
- Shiv Nadar (20.4 billion dollar)
- Rafhakishan Damani (15.4 billion dollar)
- Hinduja brothers (12.8 billion dollar)
- Cyrus Poonawalla (11.5 billion dollar)
- Pallonji Mistry (11.4 billion dollar)
- Uday Kotak (11.3 billion dollar)
- Godrej Family (11 billion dollar)
- Lakshmi Mittal (10.3 billion dollar)

CURRENT AFFAIRS: OBITUARY

Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan passes away



- **Ram Vilas Paswan, Union minister of consumer affairs, food and public distribution**, passed away.
- He recently underwent heart surgery in a Delhi hospital.
- Paswan has served as a Union minister under several prime ministers and his party has been a member of all national coalitions.

Former CBI chief Ashwani Kumar passes away



- **Ashwani Kumar, a former chief of the Central Bureau of Investigation**, has **passed away** after committing suicide.

- Kumar served as **DGP** for the state between 2006 and 2008 before being appointed director of the CBI for a two-year period.
- He also served as **Governor of Nagaland** between 2013 and 2014; in that period he was briefly also **Governor of Manipur**.

Mexican Nobel Laureate Mario Molina Passes Away



- **Mexican scientist Mario Molina**, who became his **country's first winner** of the **Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1995** for his work on the threat to the **ozone layer from chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)**, passed away.
- In 2008, he was appointed a scientific adviser to US President Barack Obama.

DAILY CA 8th OCT

- Ganga River Dolphin Day- 5th oct
- Indian Air Force celebrates its 88th Anniversary – 8th oct
- Govt launches online startup discovery platform 'Startup India Showcase'
- Union Cabinet approves signing of Memorandum of cooperation in field of cyber-security between India & Japan
- PM Modi launches 'Jan Andolan' campaign for COVID-19 Appropriate Behaviour
- Smriti Irani launches first ever Brand & Logo for Indian Cotton on 2nd World Cotton Day
- NITI Aayog, MNRE and Invest India hold symposium on solar PV manufacturing
- HDFC Bank partners with Apollo Hospitals for holistic healthcare solution
- Interest subvention on MSME loans extended till end of March 2021: RBI
- Chqbook launches India's first 'Financial Control Center' on mobile to empower 60 million small business owners
- Abu Dhabi Investment Authority invests Rs 5,512.5 crore in Reliance Retail for 1.2 % stake
- Infosys to acquire Blue Acorn iCi
- Assam CM launches Kisan Rath Mobile App to facilitate sale of agriculture products
- NDDB, Ladakh in pact to conduct survey for promotion of dairying
- FLO, the women wing of FICCI signs MoU with NSDC for empowering women through skill training
- M Rajeshwar Rao named new Deputy Governor of RBI
- Dinesh Khara appointed as SBI Chairman for 3 years
- Jammu & Kashmir Bank extends CMD Chibber's term by six months
- Ajinkya Rahane signed as brand ambassador of Hudle
- Ubon ropes in Rana Daggubati as brand ambassador
- Govt appoints J Venkatramu as MD, CEO of India Post Payments Bank
- Nobel Prize 2020 in Chemistry awarded to two scientists for work in genome editing
- Sarah Hall becomes first writer to win BBC short story prize twice
- IIT Guwahati Startup Sahara Develops mobile App For Offline To Online Biz Services

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- ICG Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Vigraha' Launched to Enhance Coastal Security
- Russia reports successful test launch of hypersonic missile
- TNPL spinner MP Rajesh passes away
- Veteran Marathi actor Avinash Kharshikar passes away

DAILY CA 9th OCT

- World Sight Day-second Thursday of October
- Union Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot inaugurates virtual “International conference on Mental Health: Looking Beyond COVID 19”
- Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' virtually inaugurates Gyan Circle Ventures
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