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भारत सरकार

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PIB SUMMARY

OCTOBER 2020

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PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT

- President of India, Ram Nath Kovind directed to assign the charge of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution to Cabinet Minister Piyush Goyal, in addition to his existing portfolios.
- Ram Nath Kovind accepted letter of credence presented by the envoys of Switzerland, Malta and Botswana through video conferencing. Those who presented their credentials were:
 - Ralf Heckner, Ambassador of Switzerland
 - Reuben Gauci, High Commissioner of Malta
 - Gilbert Shimane Mangole, High Commissioner of Botswana
- President Ram Nath Kovind paid homage to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary on October 31.

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Sea-plane Service connecting Statue of Unity in Kevadia with Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad and the Water Aerodrome at Kevadia. Along with this, PM also inaugurated the Seaplane Service from Sabarmati Riverfront to Kevadia and the Water Aerodrome in Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad.
- PM Modi has unveiled the **website of Statue of Unity** in all the official UN languages and launched the **Kevadia App**, at the Unity Glow Garden. Along with this, PM Modi also inaugurated the dynamic lighting for the Sardar Sarovar Dam.
- Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the **Sardar Vallabhai Patel Zoological Park and Geodesic Aviary Dome** in Kevadia on October 30. He also laid the foundation Stone for 4 new projects and dedicated 17 projects under Integrated Development of Kevadia to the nation. He also flagged off **Ekta Cruise Service** to the Statue of Unity.
- PM inaugurated Arogya Van and Arogya Kutir, Ekta Mall, and Children Nutrition Park at Kevadia in Gujarat.

AROGYA VAN & AROGYA KUTIR

- Arogya Van, which is spread over an area of 17 acre, has 5 lakh plants of 380 different species. Arogya Kutir has a traditional treatment facility named **Santhigiri wellness centre** for providing healthcare based on Ayurveda, Siddha, Yoga and Panchakarma.

EKTA MALL

- Ekta Mall is spread over 35000 sq ft and displays a wide range of handicrafts and traditional items from all over the country. The mall also consists of 20 Emporia each of which represents a specific state in India. The mall is built in just 110 days.

CHILDREN NUTRITION PARK & MIRROR MAZE

- Spread over an area of 35000 sq ft, this is the world's first ever technology driven nutrition park. A Nutri Train also runs across the park that takes children to various exciting theme based stations namely 'Phalshaka Griham', 'Annapoorna', 'Payonagari', 'Swastha Bharatam' and 'Poshan Puran'. This will help to raise nutritional awareness through various activities like 5D Virtual reality theatre, Mirror Maze, and augmented reality games.
- PM Modi inaugurated the **National Conference on Vigilance and Anti-Corruption** through video conferencing. The theme of the conference was सतर्क भारत, समृद्ध भारत (Meaning- Vigilant India, Prosperous India). The conference was organised by the Central Bureau of Investigation.
- **4th India Energy Forum CERAWEEK** was inaugurated by PM Modi through video conference. The theme of this edition was "India's Energy Future in a world of Change".
- PM Modi inaugurated three key projects in Gujarat- **Kisan Suryodaya Yojana; Paediatric Heart Hospital and Ropeway at Girnar**.
 - I. Kisan Suryodaya Yojana is aimed at providing 16 hours of power supply to farmers.
 - II. Paediatric Heart Hospital that has been inaugurated is attached with U.N Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre. PM also launched a Mobile App for tele-cardiology at the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital in Ahmedabad.
 - III. With the inauguration of Girnar Ropeway, a distance of 2.3 kms will now be covered in 7.5 minutes only.
- On the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), commemorative coins of Rs 75 denomination were released by Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi.
- Autobiography of Dr. Balasaheb Vikhe Patil was launched by PM Modi. The autobiography is titled 'Deh Vechwa Karani'.
- PM Modi released a commemorative coin of Rs. 100 denomination on the Birth Centenary of Rajmata Vijaya Raje Scindia.
- Modi launched the physical distribution of property cards under **SVAMITVA scheme** through video conferencing. SVAMITVA is a Central Sector Scheme which aims to give the 'record of rights' to village household owners in rural areas and issue them Property Cards. The scheme was launched by PM on National Panchayati Raj Day held on April 24 2020.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the '**Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020 (RAISE 2020)**' on October 5. The summit was organised by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and NITI Aayog. The meeting was held to exchange ideas on using AI for social transformation, inclusion and empowerment in different sectors.
- PM Modi dedicated the World's longest Highway tunnel – **Atal Tunnel** to the nation. This tunnel, which is 9.02 Km long, connects Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley throughout the year. The Atal tunnel also reduces the road distance between Manali and Leh by 46 Kms and the time taken by about 4 to 5 hours.
- Prime Minister Modi inaugurated global summit- **Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV)** on October 2. It was a global summit of overseas and resident Indian Researchers and Academicians. The aim of the summit was to bring Indian origin experts in academic institutes and R&D organizations across the world and resident counterparts on a single platform to discuss strengthening of academic and S&T base in India.

CABINET

- The Cabinet approved to extend the Market Intervention Scheme for procurement of apples in Jammu and Kashmir for 2020-21. This procurement will be done by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. (NAFED) through state designated agency.
- Cabinet approved a Rs. 520 crore special package for UT of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the implementation of the **STARS Project (Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States)**. The total cost of the project is Rs 5718 crore with a financial support of US \$ 500 million (approximately Rs. 3700 crore) from World Bank.

MOUS APPROVED BY CABINET OR RECENTLY SIGNED MOUS

Signed Between	Approved/Signed on	MOU Signed for
India and Japan	Approved on October 29	For cooperation in the field of Information and Communication Technologies.
India and Cambodia	Approved on October 29	For cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine
India and Nigeria	Approved on October 21	For Cooperation in the Exploration and uses of outer space for peaceful purposes
Institute of Chartered Accounts of India (ICAI) and CPA PNG (Certified Practising Accountants, Papua New Guinea)	Approved on October 21	For working together in capacity to build and strengthen the Accounting, Audit Knowledge and Financial base in Papua New Guinea.
India and Australia	Approved on October 14	For collaboration in research and development, capacity building, and making impact for sustainable groundwater

		management.
India and Japan	Approved on October 7	MoC in the field of cyber security

CABINET COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (CCEA)

- CCEA has approved the demerger of Nagarnar Steel Plant (NSP) from National Minerals Development Corporation (NMDC) Ltd. and its strategic disinvestment.
- CCEA chaired by PM Modi has approved 'Natural Gas Marketing Reforms'. The aim is to determine standard procedure to discover market price of gas to be sold in the market by gas producers and permit the Affiliates to participate in bidding process for sale of gas.

AYUSH

- Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated the Regional Raw Drug Repository (RRDR) at New Delhi's All India Institute of Ayurveda. This is the second RRDR in the series of repositories proposed by National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) under Ministry of AYUSH.
- Union Minister of State for AYUSH, Shripad Yesso Naik felicitated the Corona Warriors of Corlim (Tiswadi), Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium Covid Care Centre, Primary Health Centre, and Calangute Residency Covid Care Centre.
- '**Ayurveda for Covid-19**' will be the main theme of 5th Ayurveda Day which is celebrated on November 13 every year since 2016.
- New Delhi's All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Amity University with an aim to promote research work in Ayurvedic Sciences.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

- Union Minister of State for Agriculture Parshottam Rupala launched AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR Fund of Rs. 10,000 crore. This fund has been launched for the creation of healthcare infrastructure by cooperatives.
- Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister of State for Agriculture, inaugurated '4th India Agricultural Outlook Forum 2020' webinar in Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.

MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

- Prasar Bharati and Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) signed a MoU for promoting and broadcasting new agriculture technology and innovations.
- S Aparna has assumed charge as Secretary in the Department of Pharmaceuticals Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India. She is an IAS officer of Gujarat cadre of 1988-batch.

MINISTRY OF COAL

- Coal Ministry has launched a website for research endeavors in coal sector. It will promote research and knowledge in the sector.
- India hosted the 5th Joint Working Group (JWG) on Coal between India and Indonesia on 5th November 2020 through Video conferencing.

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

- The 19th Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Ministers was hosted by India virtually.
- National StartUps Award 2020 results declared by Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal.
- First ever Virtual India International Jewelry Show was held on October 12, 2020.
- The 5th Mexico-India Bilateral High Level Group (BHLG) meeting on Trade, Investment and Cooperation was held through video conference on 9 October 2020.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

- India Post observed National Postal Week from 9th to 15th October, starting with World Post Day which is celebrated each year on 9th October.
- Goa Postal Division released a Special cover & Special cancellation on “180th Year of Establishment of Postal Services in Goa” on the occasion of World Post Day.
- India Post Mumbai launched Stamped Mask on Philately Day (October 13).
- India Post and United States Postal Service (USPS) signed an agreement for Electronic Exchange of Customs Data related to postal shipments exchanged between the two countries. The agreement will facilitate ‘ease of exports’ for small and large exporters through postal channels.

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

- Prahlad Singh Patel, Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (Independent Charge) launched “Life in Miniature” project virtually. This project is an association between New Delhi's National Museum and Google Arts & Culture.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

- 95th Military Nursing Day was celebrated on October 1, 2020.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh chaired the Ambassadors’ Round-table Virtual Conference on Aero India 2021.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested new generation indigenously developed **Anti-Radiation Missile (RUDRAM)**. The missile was launched from SU-30 MKI fighter aircraft and flight tested on a radiation target situated on Wheeler Island (off the coast of Odisha).

- Indian Army and Maharashtra Police conducted a Joint Anti-Terrorist Exercise- **Suraksha Kavach** at Lullanagar Pune.
- Indian and Sri Lankan Navy conducted Maritime Exercise **SLINEX-20** off Trincomalee, Sri Lanka.
- **INS Kavaratti** commissioned into Indian Navy by General Manoj Mukund Naravane.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh dedicated BRO Road to the Nation in East Sikkim. It is the alternate alignment of 19.85 Km of the NH 310 from 0.00 km to 19.35 km.
- Indian Army launched a secure messaging application -Secure Application for Internet (SAI).

MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EAST REGION

- Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (I/C) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), released a Coffee Table Book which is titled 'Discovering the Heritage of Assam' and is published by Penguin. The book has a foreword by legendary Bollywood Actor Amitabh Bachchan.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

- Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' inaugurated the DST-IEST Solar PV Hub at IEST, Shibpur through video conferencing.
- Indian Sign Language Research and Training Center-ISLRTC and NCERT signed a historic MOU to convert educational material in Sign Language so that it is easily understood by Deaf children. The MOU was signed on the 60th foundation day of NCERT in the virtual presence of Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal and Social Justice and Empowerment Minister, Thaawarchand Gehlot.
- Minister of Education Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' inaugurated Gyan Circle Ventures. It is a Technology Business Incubator (TBI) of IIIT, Sri City, Andhra Pradesh funded by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- Union Minister for Education inaugurated the Vivekananda Lecture Theatre Complex at MNIT, Jaipur. It is one of the largest lecture theatre complexes in entire Asia having 48 classrooms with a seating capacity of 6792 students.
- On the occasion of 89th birth anniversary of former President Late Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam; Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched the 'KAPILA' Kalam Program through video conferencing. KAPILA has been launched for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness campaign.
- Innovation & Incubation Center and Sports Complex has been inaugurated by Minister of Education at Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur.
- Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan and Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' laid down the foundation stone of the main campus and transit campus of IIT Palakkad. The transit campus of the institute is named as Nila Campus.
- Education Minister dedicated the permanent campus of Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar to the nation.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

- Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, announced measures of Rs 73,000 crore for reviving consumer spending.

- The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a loan agreement of \$270 million for developing water supply and integrated storm water and sewage management infrastructure in Madhya Pradesh along with strengthening urban local bodies (ULBs) for better services.
- G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting was attended by the Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The meeting was held to discuss the present economic outlook and response of G20 nations towards COVID-19.
- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) crossed the mark of Rs 5 lakh crore Assets Under Management (AUM). The joint contributions of subscribers of National Pension System (NPS) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) have contributed to reach this mark.
- Nirmala Sitharaman virtually attended the Plenary Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) of IMF.
- Nirmala Sitharaman virtually attended 102nd meeting of the World Bank Development Committee Plenary.
- The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a loan agreement of \$177 million for upgrading 450 kms of state highways and major district roads in Maharashtra.
- Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman led the Indian Delegation in the 10th Round of Ministerial UK-India Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) virtually.

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & DAIRYING

- Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog started a “Kamdhenu Deepawali Abhiyan” across the nation for promoting extensive use of cow-dung/ Panchgavya products in Diwali 2020.

MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

- First Mega Food Park of Kerala was inaugurated in Palakkad. It is the 20th Mega Food Park of the country. It was inaugurated by the Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan.
- India - International Food & Agri Week was organised from October 16 to 22. This Agri week was inaugurated by Narendra Singh Tomar who is the Minister for Rural Development, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Panchayati Raj and Food Processing Industries.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

- Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Harsh Vardhan launched Decade of Healthy Ageing (2020-2030) on the occasion of International Day for Older Persons which is celebrated on October 1 every year.
- Dr Harsh Vardhan and UP CM Yogi Adityanath virtually inaugurated the Super Speciality Block (SSB) in the Motilal Nehru Medical College, Prayagraj. The facility has a capacity of 220 beds and has been dedicated as a COVID-19 hospital to the country.
- Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Dr Harsh Vardhan and Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Aswini Kumar Choubey virtually inaugurated Super Speciality Block (SSB) at

Shyam Shah Government Medical College, Rewa. The facility has been built with an investment of 150 crore under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) and has 200 beds.

- Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Harsh Vardhan virtually chaired the 21th meeting of the high-level Group of Ministers (GoM) on COVID-19.
- The 2nd phase of “Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna” was launched by the Union Minister Harsh Vardhan. The Yojana is for the underprivileged Thalassemic patients.
- Dr Harsh Vardhan chaired the ‘World Food Day’ event on October 16 organised by FSSAI. The theme of the event was Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together.

MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN AFFAIRS

- Application Programming Interface (API) integration between the PM SVANidhi Portal and the State Bank of India (SBI) portal was launched by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Durga Shanker Mishra. This API integration will ease the continuous flow of data between both the two portals.
- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) joined hands with online food ordering and delivery platform Swiggy in order to onboard street food vendors on its e-commerce platform.

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

- Goa has become the first state to provide 100 percent functional household tap connections in rural areas which is approximately 2.30 households of rural areas. With this, Goa has become the first "Har Ghar Jal" state.
- Jal Shakti Ministry celebrated Swachh Bharat Diwas, 2020 on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT

- IAS officer Apurva Chandra became the new Secretary of Ministry of Labour & Employment. Before assuming this position, Apurva was Special DG of Defence Acquisition at Ministry of Defence.

MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS

- Indian Oil started a common booking number for Indane LPG refill- 7718955555.
- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, India and the Ministry of Energy of the Russian Federation organised the first-ever India-Russia webinar.
- India have been re-elected as President of International Solar Alliance (ISA) while France has been elected as the Co- President in the 3rd assembly of the Alliance.

MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

- Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi laid down the foundation of a new Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in the state of Jharkhand at Pakur.

MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE

- India hosted the 7th summit of Justice Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). Minister of Communication and Electronics & Information Technology, Law & Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad hosted the summit.

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

- Indian Railways launched the “Meri Saheli” initiative. This initiative has been launched for women safety across all zones during their travel through trains. Under the initiative, lady passengers are informed about all safety precautions during the journey and to call 182 in case of any problem.
- Railway Minister inaugurated the Phoolbagan Metro station of East-West Metro along with flagging-off the first train of the station.

MINISTRY OF POWER

- National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. has entered into a foreign currency loan agreement with Japanese Government under Japan Bank for International Co-operation (JBIC)’s GREEN initiative. The loan agreement is for approximately USD 482 million (JPY 50 billion or Rs. 3,582 crore).
- Director of Operations at POWERGRID, Seema Gupta has won GOLD Stevie Award at 17th annual Stevie Awards for Women in Business.

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

- Road Transport & Highways Minister, Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation of 16 National Highways projects at Andhra Pradesh; 9 National Highway projects in Tripura and 9 NH projects in Kerala.
- The foundation stone of India's first Multi-modal Logistic Park in Assam was laid by Nitin Gadkari. The park situated in Jogighopa will provide rail, water and air connectivity to the people.
- The 1st blasting for Zozila Tunnel situated in Jammu & Kashmir was started by the MSME and Road Transport & Highways Minister, Nitin Gadkari.
- Nitin Gadkari dedicated a Road-Over-Bridge on NH 45-A in Puducherry to the nation.

NITI AAYOG

- Quality Council of India and NITI Aayog launched the ‘National Program and Project Management Policy Framework’ (NPMPPF) for bringing reform in how infrastructure projects are implemented.

- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Invest India and NITI Aayog organised a symposium “India PV Edge-2020” on solar PV manufacturing with an aim of informing global PV industry about the opportunities in India.

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

- Sports Minister Kiren Rijju and Actor Vidyut Jammwal flagged off ‘Fit India Walkathon’ in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer. This 200-km long Walkathon was organised by Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

- IIT Kanpur, TRIFED and MFP Federation of Chhattisgarh e-launched an initiative named “Tech for Tribals”. The aim of the initiative is the development of tribal along with entrepreneurship development.
- TRIFED Warriors team won 3 awards at National Awards for Excellence – PSU. Two awards were won by the TRIFED MD Pravir Krishna in CEO of the Year and Visionary Leadership categories while third award was won collectively by Investment in Start-Ups Category.

MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

- Country's first Brand & Logo for Indian Cotton was virtually launched by Textiles and Women & Child Development Minister Smriti Zubin Irani. This logo and brand was launched on the second World Cotton Day which is observed on October 7.

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

- Social Justice & Empowerment Minister, Thaawarchand Gehlot virtually inaugurated the International conference on Mental Health: Looking beyond COVID-19. This conference was co-chaired by the Director of Australia-India Institute, Craig Jeffrey.

MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Leather Sector Skill Council (LSSC) launched an android app named SCALE India for assurance of quality under Skill India Mission. The app was launched by Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey.

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- Science & Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the “DBT-BIRAC Clean Tech Demo Park” at New Delhi's Barapullah drain site. This park will create awareness about the clean technology solution for waste management.

- India became the '**Vice-Chair**' of OECD's Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) Working Group.
- Harsh Vardhan launched COVID-19 clinical trials website "CUREd". The website will provide information about various clinical trials related to CSIR partnered COVID-19.
- CSIR-CDRI, Lucknow Scientist **Dr Saman Habib** has been chosen as the fellow member of New Delhi's Indian National Science Academy.
- CSIR-CDRI, Lucknow Scientist **Dr Satish Mishra** became the winner of the Dr Tulsi Das Chugh Award for the year 2020. He has been awarded for his research work on the life cycle of Malaria parasite.
- Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandi Ben Patel released the world's first scientoon book named "**Bye Bye Corona**". The book has been written by CSIR-CDRI, Lucknow Scientist Pradeep Srivastava.

