

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS 1ST TO 7TH OCTOBER 2019

NATIONAL NEWS

Railway to launch Pilot Project to introduce Industry 4.0

- The pilot project has been launched by the **Ministry of Railways and the Department of Science and Technology in partnership with IIT Kanpur.**
- The department of Science and Technology has recently launched '**Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (ICPS)**' to enhance research and development work in this field.

'Consumer App' Launched by MCAFPD

- **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution** launched 'Consumer App': A one stop solution for consumer grievance redressal'.
- Consumers get **information about 42 Sectors** including e-commerce, Banking, Insurance, Consumer Durables, Electronic Products, etc.

Delhi-Katra Vande Bharat Express

- The train operation aims the **speedy development of the Jammu and Kashmir** region and make it par with the other states.
- This will also improve **connectivity along with spiritual tourism** of devotees to Vaishno Devi.

India and Mauritius jointly launched Projects

- The grant (total \$353 million) was awarded by the Government of India to Mauritius in March **2017.**
- In 2017, India provided a **Special Economic Package of \$353 million** for the execution of five projects in Mauritius, of which the Metro Express project and the ENT hospital are the part.

'Sarbat Da Bhala Express'

- Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal requested to rename the train on the occasion of the **550th Parkash Purb** i.e. the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.
- In **Sultanpur Lodhi** only, Guru Nanak Ji spent 14 years of his life and taught that all communities are one.

Financial assistance for the State of Karnataka and Bihar

- Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah has approved the advance release of **Rs.400 crore and Rs.1200 crore to the State of Bihar and Karnataka** respectively, from **National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).**
- During the South West Monsoon 2019, **13 States have been affected** from unprecedented floods/landslide.

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eDant Seva Website & Mobile Application

- The first ever **oral health awareness website and mobile application** are launched by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in collaboration with the Union Health Ministry.
- The 'e-DantSeva' digital platform will contain the information about the **National Oral Health Programme, list of dental colleges and facility etc.**

Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at West Jalefa, Tripura

- The Tripura government submitted a proposal in June this year, to the **Ministry of Industries and Commerce** for the setting of an agro-based SEZ at **Jalefa**.
- An estimated investment of around **Rs. 1550 crore** will be made in setting up **first-ever SEZ**.

Youth Co:Lab jointly launched by NITI Aayog and UNDP

- The **Youth Co: Lab** is launched with the aim of **accelerating social entrepreneurship and innovation in young India and promote youth leadership**.
- The Youth Co:Lab will give a chance to the young entrepreneurs and innovators, to connect with **governments, investors, mentors, incubators etc.** who will help equip them with entrepreneurial skills.

Vayoshreshtha Samman-2019

- It is a scheme of awards gradually upgraded to the status of **National Awards** and is instituted by the **Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry**.
- **International Day of Older Persons was observed on 1st October** and these awards are presented as a part of it.

50th International Film Festival of India 2019

- The **Golden Jubilee edition of the festival** will showcase 200 best films from 76 countries, 26 feature films and 15 non-feature films in the Indian Panorama section.
- **Information and Broadcasting Ministry** said that for the **first time**, films with audio deion will be screened for the visually impaired.

BANKING

RBI cuts Repo Rate by 25 Basis Points

- The cut has been made to **5.15% from 5.40% earlier**, while the **reverse repo rate has been adjusted to 4.90% and bank rate at 5.40 %**.
- RBI has **revised the GDP outlook from 6.9% in previous Monetary Policy committee meet in August to 6.1% for 2019-20**.

Swiss Bank Shared Financial Info with India

- **Switzerland Federal Tax Administration (FTA)** has exchanges information on financial accounts with 75 countries, about their nationals within the **AEOI (Automatic Exchange of Information) framework**.
- The AEOI implementation is reviewed by the **Global Forum of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development**.

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Bharat-22 Exchange Traded Fund (ETF)

- The amount raised through Bharat-22 would help the government meet its disinvestment target of **Rs 1.05 lakh crore for the current financial year**.
- State Bank of India (SBI), Indian Bank and Bank of Baroda** are the only three public sector banks that figure in Bharat-22 index.

INDEX AND RANKING

World Digital Competitiveness Rankings

- The **largest jump** was registered by **Indonesia and China** i.e. from 62nd to 56th and 30th to 22nd respectively.
- The **Index ranks 63 nations** and measures their capacity to adopt digital technologies as a key driver for economic transformation in government, business, and society.

School Education Quality Index (SEI)

- The index provides States and UTs with a platform to identify their strengths and weaknesses and aims to bring an **'outcomes' focus to education policy**.
- This is the **1st edition of SEI** which foster the spirit of competitive and cooperative federalism and consists of 30 critical indicators.

Swacch Bharat cleanliness Assessment 2019

- The **North Western Railways headquartered at Jaipur** has maintained top rank consecutively for the second year.
- Jaipur Junction and Gandhinagar Jaipur stations** have made the facility to treat single use plastic, and bottle crushing machines have been planted at the station.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

| Award | Awardee |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Saraswati Samman Award | Telegu poet K Siva Reddy |

IMPORTANT DAYS

| Date | Day | Theme |
|--|---|-------|
| 2 nd October 2019 | Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and Former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri | -- |
| 2 nd October To 13 th October 2019 | Paryatan Parv 2019 | -- |
| 7 th October To 11 th October 2019 | World Cotton Day | -- |

MOU'S SIGNED

Bilateral talks between India and Bangladesh

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- A total of **seven agreements** were signed between India and Bangladesh in several areas including education, health, defence, trade and connectivity, development cooperation etc.
- She was the **chief guest at the 33rd India Economic Summit** which was organised by the **World Economic Forum** in New Delhi on 3rd October 2019.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2019 – 20

- The **maximum limit** of subscribed shall be **4 KG for individual and HUF** each and **20 Kg for trusts and similar entities per fiscal** (April-March) notified by the Government from time to time.
- In case of **joint holding**, the **investment limit of 4 KG** will be applied to the **first applicant only**.

PM-ASMI to integrate Existing Schemes to fight against Maternal Mortality

- The Scheme **aims** to bring down maternal and infant death to zero by providing quality medical service to them in public healthcare.
- Through **PM-ASMI both infrastructure and quality of service** will be improved with taking care of dignity of women.

Assam Launched free Medicines Scheme for tea garden Workers

- The Free Drug scheme will provide medicines including **142 essential drugs, 47 surgical items, 45 consumables/linens and 6 numbers of disinfectants** free of cost to 651 tea garden hospitals in the State garden.
- 20 crores will be allotted each year on this scheme. This scheme is similar to already available scheme **Mobile Medical Unit (MMU)** which was operational in 442 tea garden and has a wage compensation of Rs12,000 which given in four instalments to pregnant women working tea garden.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

BRAHMOS Supersonic Cruise Missile Successfully Test-Fired

- BRAHMOS is a medium range, supersonic cruise missile, made with a joint venture of **DRDO, India and Russian Federation's NPO Mashinostroyeniya**.
- The name BrahMos is formed from combining the names of two rivers, the **Brahmaputra of India and the Moskva of Russia**.

SPORTS

Sumit Nagpal won the title of ATP Challenger Tournament

- Sumit Nagpal clinched the men's singles title of **ATP Challenger Tournament**, held on 30th September 2019.
- He defeated **Facundo Bognis** by straight-sets 6-4, 6-2 in an hour and 37 minutes.

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCE

India International Cooperative Trade Fair

- The **first ever India International Cooperative Trade Fair** is aimed at enhancing rural and farm prosperity (doubling farmers income by 2022) by promoting cooperative to cooperative trade within India and abroad.
- This will be **India's first and the largest international cooperatives trade fair**.

