

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS 8TH TO 14TH OCTOBER 2019

NATIONAL NEWS

National e-Assessment Centre (NeAC)

- **The National e-Assessment Centre (NeAC)** is launched for better taxpayer service and promotion of ease of doing business.
- NeAC, an **Income tax department**, will avoid **face-to-face interaction between taxpayers and tax officials** and shall impart greater efficiency, transparency and accountability in the assessment process.

Innovation Learning Programme, DHRUV

- The programme is **started at the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** and will **conclude on 24th of this month at IIT, Delhi**.
- Under the DHRUV programme, **60 talented students will be chosen from Science, Mathematics and Performing Arts** and they will be mentored in the centre of excellence for 14 days so that they can reach their full potential.

Disaster Warning Device Launched by the Government

- GEMINI stands for **Gagan Enabled Mariner's Instrument for Navigation and Information**.
- The device is developed by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (**INCOIS**) which is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), and Airports Authority of India (**AAI**).

Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship Programme

- The programme is designed under the **Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP)** which is World Bank loan assisted project for skill development.
- The **MGNF programme** will provide the students an in-built component of on-ground practical experience with the district administration.

'Garbage Cafe' in Chhattisgarh's Ambikapur

- The collected plastic waste will be sold at **Solid-Liquid Resources Management Centre** which will then be turned into granules and will then be used in the construction of roads in the city.
- **Ambikapur** is the **first dustbin-free city of Chattisgarh** and was ranked as the **2nd cleanest city in the country in Swachhata rankings**.

SARAS Aajeevika Mela

- The SARAS initiative is undertaken by the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**, Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).
- The marketing arm of the Ministry, **Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART)** is administering the Mela.

Mobile App, "mHariyali" Launched

- The mobile app, "mHariyali" has been launched for 'Environment Protection in Government Colonies'.
- "Haryali Mahotsav", a mass plantation drive was launched in San Martin Park, Chanakyapuri on 28th July 2019 by Secretary HUA in which approx 500 plants were planted.

10th Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav

- Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav is the **flagship and premier festival of Ministry of Culture**, launched in the **year 2015**.
- The **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme** was launched on 31st October, 2016 with the aim to promote engagement and enhance mutual understanding amongst the people of different States/UTs for securing a strong cultural bond.

BANKING

Govt. announced 5% DA for Central Employees

- The Union cabinet has also decided to relax the date for mandatory requirement of Aadhaar seeding for release of benefits under **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PMKSN)** till 30th November 2019.
- The scheme provides income support of **Rs 6,000 per year to landholding families** and the amount is released in 4 instalments of Rs 2000 each.

Bangladesh becomes 2nd Fastest Growing Economy

- The World Bank released the report '**South Asia Economic Focus, Making (De) Centralization Work**' on 13th October 2019.
- The report shows that the GDP growth rate of Bangladesh is projected to be **7.2% for the FY 2019 and 7.3% for FY 2020**.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

| Award | Awardee |
|---|---|
| Asia Environmental Enforcement Award | Ramesh Pandey |
| Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine 2019 | Scientists William G Kaelin, Gregg L Semenza and Jr Peter J Ratcliffe |
| Nobel Prize for Physics 2019 | Scientists Michel Mayor, James Peebles and Didier Queloz |
| Nobel Prize in Literature 2019 | Austrian author Peter Handke |
| Nobel Prize for Chemistry 2019 | Scientists Stanley Whittingham, John Goodenough and Akira Yoshino |

IMPORTANT DAYS

| Date | Day | Theme |
|------------------|----------------|-------|
| 9th October 2019 | World Post Day | -- |

MOU'S SIGNED

GeM signs MOU with Union Bank of India

- The MoU will offer **paperless, cashless and transparent payment and procurement system** for government entities on the GeM portal.
- GeM has already signed MoU with **14 Public Sector and private banks** to enable online integration for payments and various banking services.

MoUs signed between India and Sierra Leone

- Vice President, M. Venkaiah Naidu on his visit to Sierra Leone has signed 6 agreements with **Mr Julius Maada Bio**, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone.
- India was among the first countries to contribute to the **UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL)** with the deployment of the 4000 strong Indian Military contingents.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan, SUMAN launched

- Under the **SUMAN scheme**, pregnant women, mothers up to 6 months after delivery, and all sick newborns will be able to **avail free healthcare benefits**.
- In order to end all preventable maternal and newborn deaths, the initiative aims to provide quality health service at **no cost for denial of services** for every woman and newborn visiting the public health facility.

DEFENCE

India received its 1st Rafale Fighter Jets

- India had signed an agreement **worth Rs 59,000 crore with France in September 2016** for the procurement of **36 Rafale fighter jets**.
- This was the formal handover ceremony and the **1st batch of 4 Rafale jets will fly in India by May 2020** and the other sets are expected to arrive by **September 2022**.

2nd Edition of Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT)

- **BNS Ali Haider**, **BNS Shadinota** from Bangladesh and **INS Ranvijay** (a guided-missile destroyer) and **INS Kuthar** (an indigenously built missile Corvette) from India will participate in the exercise.
- In the current edition, mutual cooperation whilst patrolling near the **International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL)** will be practised.

DHARMA GUARDIAN – 2019

- **DHARMA GUARDIAN-2019, Joint Military Exercise** between **India and Japan** is scheduled to be conducted at Vairengte, Mizoram from 19th October to 2nd November 2019.
- 25 soldiers from each country would be teamed for the **Indian Army and Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces (JGSDF)**, to participate in the exercise.

President's Colours to the Army Aviation Corps

- The president awarded the **Colours** during the ceremony at the **Combat Army Aviation Training School**.

- **President's Colours** is an acknowledgement of the meritorious service rendered by the Army Aviation Corps over the years.

SPORTS

Surender Singh creates three World Records

- The **World Powerlifting Championship** is being held in **Berlin, Germany**.
- Under the superb guidance of International Coach Dronacharya Bhupender Dhawan, Three-time World Champion **Mukesh Singh** added another gold only to be known as **4-time World Champion**.

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

9th RCEP Intersessional Ministerial Meeting

- Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal is to attend the **9th RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership) Intersessional Ministerial Meeting**.
- RCEP was commenced in **2013** with the **objective** is to achieve mutually beneficial economic partnership agreement among the ASEAN member states and ASEAN's FTA partners.

2nd India-China Informal Summit

- The **70th anniversary of the establishment of India-China relations in 2020** will be fully utilized to deepen exchanges at all levels including between their respective legislatures, political parties, cultural and youth organizations and militaries.
- Both the countries agreed to establish sister-state relations between **Tamil Nadu and Fujian Province** which is the link of the age-old commercial and people-to-people contacts between the countries.

2019 First Global DXB Challenge

- The **2019 First Global DXB Challenge** is a large gathering for creative young minds in the fields of robotics and artificial intelligence.
- The competition is organised by the **Dubai Future Foundation** and the **theme is 'Ocean Opportunities'**.