

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS OF OCTOBER 2020**

### **Persons**

The new Chief Information Commissioner, appointed to succeed Shri Bimal Julka from 31 Oct 2020 – **Shri Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha**

The new CEO and MD of HDFC Bank who has taken over following the retirement of Shri Aditya Puri – **Sashidhar Jagdeeshan**

The former Chief Minister of Gujarat who passed away on 29.10.2020 – **Shri Keshubhai Patel**

The first Indian to win Academy Award (for her costume design in film Gandhi (1982)) and National Award for Costume Design for films Lekin and Lagaan, who passed away on 15.10.2020 – **Bhanu Athaiya**

The renowned Malayalam poet, recipient of Jnanpith Award (2019), Padma Shri (2017) and Sahitya Akademi Award (1971), who passed away on 15.10.2020 – **Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri**

The renowned Kuchipudi dancer, recipient of Padma Shri (2001) and Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1991), who passed away on 14.10.2020 – **Sobha Naidu**

The Union Minister who has been given the additional charge of Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Administration following the death of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan – **Shri Piyush Goyal**

### **Defence**

The indigenously developed air to surface missile (anti-tank version of HeliNa) successfully test-fired off Odisha coast is named – **SANT (Stand-off Anti-Tank)**

The eighth edition of annual bilateral maritime exercise to be held by the Navies of India and Sri Lanka off Trincomalee, Sri Lanka from 19 to 21.10.2020 is named – **SLINEX-20**

The second edition of Indian Navy (IN) – Bangladesh Navy (BN) Bilateral exercise to be held in Northern Bay of Bengal on 03 October 2020 is named – **Exercise Bongosagar**

The country which has test-fired Tsirkon hypersonic missile having a speed of Mach 8 (8 times the speed of sound) – **Russia**

The first indigenous anti-radiation missile developed by DRDO for Indian Air Force (IAF) and successfully flight tested (from Su-30MKI aircraft) onto a radiation target located on Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha is named – **RUDRAM**

## Places

The Indian state which has become the first in the country to fix MSP (Minimum Support Price) for vegetables – **Kerala**

The European nation which has become the 190th member of the International Monetary Fund – **Andorra**

The state in which the first seedling of asafoetida was planted by CSIR-IHBT (asafoetida was not grown in India till now, but imported from Iran, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan) – **Himachal Pradesh**

The conservation site in Uttarakhand which has become the state's first Ramsar site, making it a Wetland of International Importance – **Asan Conservation Reserve**

The Indian state which has become the first Har Ghar Jal state in the country by providing tap water connection to every rural household – **Goa**

## Observances and Themes

The theme of Vigilance Awareness Week observed by Govt of India from 27.10.2020 to 02.11.2020 – **Vigilant India, Prosperous India (सतर्क भारत, समरिद्ध भारत)**

The theme of World Statistics Day observed on 20 October, once in every five years since 2010 – **Connecting the world with the data we can trust**

The theme of World Students Day 2020 observed on 15 October 2020 to mark the birth anniversary of Shri APJ Abdul Kalam – **Learning for people, planet, prosperity and peace**

The theme of World Standards Day (also known as International Standards Day) observed on 14 October 2020 – **Protecting the planet with standards**

## Miscellaneous

The initiative launched by Indian Railways for focused action on security of women across all zones with an objective to provide safety and security to lady passengers travelling by trains for their entire journey from starting station to destination station is named – **Meri Saheli**

The South Korean company which has topped the list of Forbes World's Best Employer – **Samsung**

The company which has been selected by NASA to build the first cellular network on moon – **Nokia**

The low-cost (Rs. 500) COVID-19 diagnostic procedure developed by IIT Kharagpur and certified by ICMR is named – **COVIRAP**

The name given to India's premium cotton in the world cotton trade on the occasion of 2nd World Cotton Day (07 Oct 2020) – **Kasturi**

The mega virtual summit on artificial intelligence hosted by India from Oct 5 to 9 and inaugurated by the PM Shri Narendra Modi is named – **RAISE 2020**

The international organisation which has halted its operations in India after its bank accounts were frozen for breaking rules on foreign funding laws – **Amnesty International**

### Nobel Prizes 2020

#	Field	Winners	Contribution
1.	Medicine	Harvey J. Alter	for the discovery of Hepatitis C virus.
		Michael Houghton	
		Charles M. Rice	
2.	Chemistry	Emmanuelle Charpentier	for the development of a method for genome editing.
		Jennifer A. Doudna	
3.	Physics	Roger Penrose	for the discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity.
		Reinhold Genzel	for the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy
		Andrea Ghez	
4.	Peace	World Food Programme	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.
5.	Economic Sciences	Paul R. Milgrom	for improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats.
		Robert B. Wilson	
6.	Literature	Louise Glück	for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal

### National Postal Week

From: 09.10.2020 to 15.10.2020

- 09.10.2020: World Post Day
- 10.10.2020: Banking Day
- 12.10.2020: Postal Life Insurance Day
- 13.10.2020: Philately Day
- 14.10.2020: Business Development Day
- 15.10.2020: Mail Day

## Atal Tunnel

Inaugurated by: PM Shri Narendra Modi on 03 Oct 2020

### Features

1. Length of the tunnel is 9.02 kms
2. It is the longest highway tunnel in the world
3. It connects Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley throughout the year. Earlier the valley was cut-off for 6 months due to snowfall.
4. It is built in the Pir Panjal mountains at a height of 3000 meters.
5. The tunnel reduces the road distance by 46 Kms between Manali and Leh and the time by about 4 to 5 hours.
6. It was earlier named Rohtang tunnel

## Shri Ram Vilas Paswan

Born: 05.07.1946 Passed away: 08.10.2020

1. Founder of Lok Janshakti Party
2. Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution from 2014 to 2020
3. Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers (2004-2009)
4. Union Minister of Mines (2001-2002)
5. Union Minister of Communications and Technology (1999-2001)
6. Union Minister of Railways (1996-1998)
7. Union Minister of Labour and Welfare (1989-90)

## Global Hunger Index 2020

Position of India and its neighbouring countries

Rank	Country
64.	Sri Lanka
73.	Nepal
75.	Bangladesh
88.	Pakistan
94.	India
99.	Afghanistan

## Important Days of October

**International Day of Older Persons:** 01 October

Designated by : United Nations General Assembly

First Observed in: 1991

Theme: Pandemics: Do They Change How We Address Age and Ageing

**International Day of Non-Violence:** 02 October

Designated by : United Nations General Assembly

First Observed in: 2007

<b>World Teachers' Day:</b> 05 October Established by : UNESCO Theme: Teachers: Leading in crisis, reimagining the future First Observed in: 1994
<b>World Habitat Day:</b> 1st Monday of October (05 October) Designated by: United Nations General Assembly First observed: 1986 Theme: Housing For All — A Better Urban Future
<b>World Post Day:</b> 09 October Designated by : Universal Postal Union First Observed in: 1969
<b>World Sight Day:</b> 08 October (2nd Thursday of October) Designated by : International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness Theme: Hope in Sight First Observed in: 2000
<b>World Mental Health Day:</b> 10 October Designated by : World Health Organisation Theme: Mental Health for All First Observed in: 1992
<b>International Day of the Girl Child:</b> 11 October Designated by : United Nations General Assembly Theme: My voice, our equal future First Observed in: 2012
<b>International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction:</b> 13 October Designated by : United Nations General Assembly Theme: Disaster Risk Governance First Observed in: 1989
<b>International Day of Rural Women:</b> 15 October Designated by : United Nations General Assembly Theme: Building rural women's resilience in the wake of COVID-19 First Observed in: 2008
<b>World Food Day:</b> 16 October Designated by : Food and Agricultural Organisation Theme: Grow, Nourish, Sustain, Together: Our Actions are our Future First Observed in: 1980
<b>International Day for Eradication of Poverty:</b> 17 October Designated by : United Nations General Assembly Theme: Acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all First Observed in: 1993
<b>World Development Information Day:</b> 24 October Designated by : United Nations General Assembly First Observed in: 1972

**United Nations Day: 24 October**

The day marks the coming into effect of the UN Charter (the founding document of UNO) in 1945.

This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN day concert was prerecorded and screened in the GA Hall on Thursday, 22 October 2020.

The concert was sponsored by the Mission of Italy under the theme "Reimagine, Rebalance, Restart: recovering together for our shared humanity".

**World Day for Audiovisual Heritage: 27 October**

Designated by : UNESCO

Theme: Your window to the world

First Observed in: 2005

**World Cities Day: 31 October**

Designated by : UN General Assembly

Theme: Valuing Our Communities and Cities

First Observed in: 2014

**French Open 2020**

Title	Winner	Runner-up
Men's Singles	Rafael Nadal (Spain)	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
Women's Singles	Iga Swiatek (Poland)	Sofia Kenin (USA)
Men's Doubles	Kevin Krawietz and Andreas Mies (Germany)	Mate Pavic (Croatia) and Bruno Soares (Brazil)
Women's Doubles	Timea Babos (Hungary) and Kristina Mladenovic (France)	Alexa Guarachi (Chile) and Desirae Krawczyk (USA)

**Swachh Bharat Awards 2020**

Campaign: **Swachh Sundar Samudayik Shauchalaya**

- Gujarat (Best State)
- Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu (Best District)
- Khachrod, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh (Best block)
- Chinnaur, Salem, Tamil Nadu (Best Gram Panchayat)

Campaign: **Samudayik Shauchalaya Abhiyan**

- Uttar Pradesh (Best State (Garib Kalyan Rojgar Yojana))
- Gujarat (Best State non-GKRA)
- Prayagraj (Best district (GKRA))
- Bareilly (Best district (Non-GKRA))
- Borigaon, Bongaigaon, Assam (Best Gram Panchayat)

Campaign: **Gandagi se Mukh Bharat**

- Telangana and Haryana (Best States)

- Moga, Punjab (Best district)

### **Abbreviations in News**

RAISE: Responsible AI for Social Empowerment

SMART: Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo

SVAMITVA: Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas

### **Books in News**

Battle of Belonging by **Shashi Tharoor**

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