















Weekly Current Affairs: 24th to 31st October 2020

IMPORTANT DATES

United Nations Day is observed on 24 October

October 24 has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948. The United Nations officially came into being after the signatory documents which includes the five permanent members of the Security Council. The year 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the United Nations and its founding Charter.

World Development Information Day is observed on 24 October

The General Assembly in 1972 established World Development Information Day to draw the attention of the world to development problems. Hence October 24 is marked as World Development Information Day.

World Polio Day is observed on 24 October

World Polio Day is celebrated on October 24th. World Polio Day was established by Rotary International to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk, who led the first team to develop a vaccine against poliomyelitis. The theme for 2020 is "A win against polio is a win for global health."

Vigilance Awareness Week from 27 October to 2 November

The Central Vigilance Commission observes the Vigilance Awareness Week from 27 October to 2 November, 2020. This is observed every year during the week in which the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (31 October) falls. This awareness week campaign affirms our commitment to promotion of integrity and probity in public life through citizen participation. Theme 2020: Satark Bharat, Samriddh Bharat (Vigilant India, Prosperous India).

World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is observed on October 27

The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage takes place every 27 October. This commemorative day was chosen by UNESCO in 2005 to raise awareness of the significance and preservation risks of recorded sound and audiovisual documents. This year the theme of the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is "Your Window to the World".

World Thrift Day is observed on October 31

World Thrift Day is celebrated on October 31 every year. It was a day "devoted to the promotion of savings all over the world". It is a worldwide celebration well supported by savings and responsible















retail banks, schools, women's associations, sports bodies, cultural organizations and professional agencies etc.

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day is observed on October 31

The Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or the National Unity Day that is celebrated on October 31 in India. The day is the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. During the time of India's independence, Patel played a key role in convincing several princely states to align with the Indian Union.

STATE NEWS

Jammu and Kashmir's grievance system integrated with Centres portal

In a significant effort to strengthen the governance mechanism and to ensure prompt action in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the online grievance system of the UT has been integrated with the central grievance portal. The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in the Union Ministry of Personnel has collaborated with the J&K administration on this.

War memorial of 1962 braveheart, Sub Joginder Singh inaugurated at Bum La

Under the patronage of Arunachal Government and with efforts of Pema Khandu, Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, a War Memorial has been constructed at Bum La, where Sub Joginder Singh, 1st Battalion the Sikh Regt made the supreme sacrifice.

Mysuru in Karnataka organised Jamboo Savari elephant procession

Mysuru in Karnataka organised the Jamboo Savari elephant procession on the tenth and concluding day of Dussehra.

Administrator of UT Chandigarh launches App for online monitoring of rescue, reporting, release of wildlife in Chandigarh

The Governor of Punjab & the Administrator of UT Chandigarh V.P. Singh Badnore launched the Mobile Based Application (App) for online monitoring of rescue, reporting and release of the wildlife in Chandigarh. This Mobile App works on all Android supporting smartphones. Through this App, timely dissemination of information to the concerned authorities is possible for injured and distressed wild animals.

Young Advocates Welfare Fund launched in Tamil Nadu

In Tamil Nadu, the Young Advocates Welfare Fund has been launched. It provides a monthly financial assistance of three thousand rupees each for two years to the lawyers who just come out of















law colleges. Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswamy handed over the assistance to nine young lawyers at a function in Chennai today as a mark of launching it throughout the state.

UP govt secures first rank in disbursing loans under PM Swanidhi Scheme

Uttar Pradesh government has secured the first rank in central government's one of the most ambitious schemes - the PM Atmanirbhar Nidhi Scheme (SVANidhi Scheme) by approving the highest number of loans under the scheme in the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will distribute loans to around 3 lakh beneficiaries and will interact with a few of them tomorrow via video conferencing. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will also be present on the occasion.

India's First Sand Dune Park To Come Up In Goa With The Support Of World Bank

Goa, the beach state is all set to have India's first sand dune park. The World Bank accepted the proposal of the Biodiversity Board of the state and has sanctioned a sum of Rs 3 crore for the project. Sand dunes are geological deposits formed by the action of wind. As part of the efforts, bridges will be constructed using eco-friendly materials to reduce the chances of the sand dune vegetation being walked over

Telangana CM launches 'Dharani' Portal for land & property registrations

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao launched 'Dharani' Portal for land and property registrations at Mudu Chinatalapalli village of Medchal-Malkajgiri district. The website has been launched with all the details of properties of the citizens. The property details which are not uploaded on the portal will be treated as illegal and will not be allowed for further registrations or mutation. The portal has been part of the recent revenue reforms taken up by the state government.

Kolkata International Film Festival rescheduled to January 2021

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the internationally acclaimed Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF) has been rescheduled to January 2021 by West Bengal Government.

Delhi CM launches 'Green Delhi' App to increase citizen participation in fight against pollution

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched the 'Green Delhi' App to increase citizen participation in Delhi's fight against pollution and ensure timely action against pollution sources in the city. 'Green Delhi' App is available on the android version. Through this app, people can register their complaints regarding the pollution. The complaint will automatically reach the concerned department and it will take time bound action on the complaint.

PM Modi inaugurates Jungle Safari project at Statue of Unity in Gujarat

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Jungle Safari project at the Statue of Unity near Kevadia in Narmada district of Gujarat. The project known as Sardar Patel Zoological Park has been completed in a record time. This state-of-art Zoological Park project is spread over 375 acre of land and built at seven different levels. It will house over 1100 birds and 100 different species of animals from across the globe.















Andhra bans online gaming, betting

Andhra Pradesh has banned online gaming, online betting and gambling, and has urged the Centre to direct all internet service providers to block access to 132 websites and apps, including Paytm First Game, Mobile Premier League and Adda52, that are providing such services in the state. The list, however, does not include Dream11, the main sponsor of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020, which also provides online gaming and gives chance to its users to win cashbacks.

Delhi govt approves over ₹40 crore to give insurance to lawyers

The Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi government on Friday approved more than ₹40 crore to provide medical insurance of ₹5 lakh and term insurance of ₹10 lakh to lawyers, who are residents of the national capital, according to Law Minister Kailash Gahlot.

FIP organises virtual version of Delhi Book Fair this year

The Federation of Indian Publishers (FIP) has organised a virtual version of Delhi Book Fair this year in light of the Corona pandemic. The organisers said that arranging the book fair online was a challenging task but expressed satisfaction that the virtual module of the Delhi book fair 2020 has opened up new and future avenues of marketing books.

145th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel celebrated as 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' in Himachal Pradesh

In Himachal Pradesh, 145th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was celebrated as 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' at the historic Ridge Maidan in Shimla. Chief Minister Jairam Thakur garlanded a portrait of Sardar Patel at the Ridge. He also administered the oath of national unity pledge to the gathering. An impressive march past was also taken out by the State Police on this occasion.

Kerala becomes best governed state

According to the Public Affairs Index-2020 released by the Public Affairs Centre in Bengaluru, Kerala was pronounced the best governed state in India while Uttar Pradesh ended at the bottom in the large states category. Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Bihar were at the bottom of the ranking, scoring negative points in the category.

India's first 'Tyre Park' to come up in West Bengal

West Bengal will soon feature "India's first" 'Tyre Park', where artworks made from scrap and defective parts will be on display. The Tyre Park, which will come up at Esplanade area, would have a small cafe where people can sit, relax and enjoy the craftsmanship made from tyres. The date of launch of the Tyre Park will be announced shortly.















NATIONAL AFFAIRS

NIT-Trichy gets two fellowships under PM's Research Fellows Scheme

National Institute of Technology (NIT) Trichy has been awarded two fellowships under the Prime Minister's Research Fellows' (PMRF) Scheme. The fellowships have been awarded to Mr.Sundaramahalingam of the Department of Chemical Engineering and Ms. Merlin Mary N J of the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering. According to this scheme the scholar is eligible to get an initial fellowship of Rs.70,000/- per month for the first two years, which will be raised to 80,000 per month in phases.

Indian Railways launches Freight Business Development Portal to boost freight business

The Indian Railways launched a Freight Business Development Portal amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic to boost the freight business. As per a statement, the aim of the new portal is to motivate new customers to transport goods through railways and provide better facilities to existing customers. The portal, which has been specially designed and developed on the principle of 'Customer First', shows the complete timetable of all goods trains, routes, distance from one station to another and freight fares.

Northern Command celebrates 74th Infantry Day

74th Infantry Day was celebrated by Northern Command on 27 October with traditional wreath laying ceremony at the Dhruva Shahid Smarak in Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir

India hosts 19th Meeting of SCO Ministers of Foreign Economy & Foreign Trade

India hosted the 19th Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Ministers of Foreign Economy and Foreign Trade. In his opening remarks, Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal said the current crisis due to Covid-19 is a clarion call to the SCO countries to leverage the economic strength and explore partnerships that enhance trade and investment in the region. The virtual meeting was attended by the Secretary General of SCO and Ministers from, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Arjun Munda launches two Centers of Excellence for Tribal Welfare

Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda launched two Centers of Excellence for Tribal Welfare. These centers were launched in collaboration between the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Art of Living through video conference.

Indian Railways launches 'Operation Meri Saheli' for security of women while travelling

In a move to provide focused action on security of women passengers, Indian Railways on Thursday launched "Meri Saheli" initiative across all zones for the entire journey from starting station to destination station. The women passengers will be briefed about all precautions to be taken during















the journey and be told to dial 182 in case they face or see any problem in the coach. The RPF team collects only the seat numbers of the ladies and conveys them to stoppages en-route.

Cabinet approves MoU between India, Cambodia on cooperation in health sector

The Union Cabinet approved the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Cambodia on cooperation in the field of health and medicine. The MoU will encourage cooperation between the two countries through joint initiatives and technology development in the health sector.

India retains 34th rank in Nation Brand Index

India retained its 34th position among 50 nations in the Nation Brand Index (NBI) 2020, conducted by market research firm Ipsos in collaboration with Simon Anholt, an authority on national image. The US, which held NBI's top spot on seven occasions, dropped four positions from the sixth place in 2019 to the 10th this year and China, which had remained stable at 23rd over the past four years, fell 12 spots to the 35th this year, below India.

Indian Army develops messaging application 'Secure Application for Internet'

Indian Army has developed a simple messaging application named the Secure Application for Internet (SAI). The application supports end to end secure voice, text and video calling services for Android platforms over the internet. The model is similar to commercially available messaging applications like Whatsapp, Telegram, SAMVAD and GIMS and utilises end to end encryption messaging protocol.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates 'Arogya Van' in Narmada's Kevadia

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Arogya Van' in Narmada's Kevadia. The Prime Minister also took a tour of 'Arogya Van' after inaugurating it. The park has hundreds of medicinal plants and herbs and also provides information about their usage and importance.

KVIC launches 'Happy Diwali' printed face masks

Keeping in view the Diwali festival, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has launched a Limited Edition of two-layered "Happy Diwali" printed face masks made of pure Muslin fabric. It is a high quality and ultra-fine cotton fabric handmade by traditional Khadi artisans of West Bengal. The Diwali Muslin face masks are priced nominally at 75 rupees a piece and are available for sale through the Khadi outlets in Delhi and online through KVIC's e-portal www.khadiindia.gov.in.

PM Modi launches 1st-ever seaplane services from Statue of Unity to Sabarmati

India now has its first-ever seaplane services in Gujarat. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a seaplane service between the Statue of Unity near Kevadiya in Gujarat's Narmada district and Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad. The Prime Minister inaugurated the service by boarding the twin-engine plane from pond-3 close to Sardar Sarovar Dam.















INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Japan to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2050

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga has said that the country will achieve zero carbon emissions by 2050. As per Japan's current energy plan, 56 percent of its energy requirements come from fossil fuels.

Bangladesh govt. orders 'no mask, no service' policy

The Bangladesh government has decided that no service will be provided to people who don't wear masks. The cabinet meeting Chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina decided that no one will be allowed to enter offices without the mask. It decided that all offices must install notice boards saying 'no mask, no service' in order to control the spread of COVID 19 virus in the country.

India, Mexico to further work on strengthening 'Privileged Partnership'

The 8th India-Mexico Joint Commission Meeting was held through Video-Conference. The Meeting was co-chaired by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and his Mexican counterpart Marcelo Ebrard. Taking stock of the bilateral relations, both sides appreciated the progress made in the bilateral trade and commercial relations between India and Mexico in recent years. The two sides agreed that given their respective economic strengths, growing regional and global profile, India and Mexico will further work on strengthening their 'Privileged Partnership'.

BANKING & FINANCE

Mastercard Partners with Atlantis to Expand Digital First Program in India

Mastercard in partnership with Atlantis announced the expansion of the Digital First Program in India. The Digital First Program aims to reignite users' relationships with more meaningful experiences. Users will be able to use their cards/accounts for digital transactions within minutes of application, enabled by a fully digital online application and issuance process, including video KYC (in collaboration with Signzy). Cardholders will no longer need to wait to receive a physical card to begin using their cards for online shopping or at physical stores.

SBI partners with edX to offer Massive Open Online Courses

In a bid to develop skill sets of career-oriented individuals in the competitive world, the country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) today announced that it has entered into a strategic















partnership with global non-profit education platform, edX. "As part of this association, SBI will be offering its Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) on the edX platform from November 2020 onwards

Reserve Bank bars payment system operators from launching new QR codes

The Reserve Bank barred Payment System Operators (PSOs) from launching any new proprietary QR code for payment transactions. Currently, there are two interoperable QR codes — UPI QR and Bharat QR.

RBI imposes ₹1 cr penalty on Jio Payments Bank over re-appointment of MD & CEO

Reserve Bank of India imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1 crore on Reliance Jio Payments Bank Limited for non-compliance with RBI directions on timely submission of application in the case of re-appointment of Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) under Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (the Act).

RBI launches surveys on consumer confidence, inflation expectations

The Reserve Bank has launched the latest round of surveys to capture consumer confidence and inflation expectations of households, which are useful inputs for its monetary policy. The consumer confidence survey seeks qualitative responses from households regarding their sentiments on the general economic situation. The studies will be conducted by a Mumbai-based agency on behalf of the RBI through face-to-face as well as telephonic modes.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

BPCL ties up with Fino Payments Bank for recharging truck drivers' fleet cards

The association between BPCL and Fino Payments Bank, the drivers would now be able to get the fleet cards recharged by paying equivalent cash at the bank's point. The digitised cash in the form of prepaid fleet cards would allow truck drivers to make payment for fuel at BPCL outlets.

India Post, US Postal Service sign agreement for electronic exchange of customs data

Department of Posts and United States Postal Service, USPS have entered into an agreement for electronic exchange of customs data related to postal shipments exchanged between the two countries. The agreement will make it possible to transmit and receive electronic data of international















postal items prior to their physical arrival at the destination and would enable customs clearance of postal items in advance in line with the evolving global postal framework.

BSE inks MoU with ICCI to support SMEs, start-ups in listing

Stock exchange BSE has signed an agreement with Inventivepreneur Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ICCI) to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups, and promote their listing on the exchange. Through this association, ICCI will offer assistance in evaluating SMEs and start-ups for listing on BSE SME board.

NTPC ties up with JBIC for ₹3,500 crore loan

NTPC Ltd signed an agreement with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) on Wednesday for a loan of ₹3,500 crore. The loan proceeds shall be utilized by India's largest power producer for funding its capex for Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD) and renewable energy projects.

Biocon ranked among top five biotech employers globally

Biocon Ltd said on Friday it has been ranked among the top five global biotech employers for 2020 on the U.S-based 'Science' magazine's annual 'Science Careers Top 20 Employers' list. The top five global players in this year's list are Regeneron, Alnylam, Incyte, Syngenta and Biocon.

Yamaha partners with Amazon India to sell apparels, accessories online

Good news for motorcycle riders in India as Yamaha Motor India announced it has tied up with Amazon India to sell its range of apparels and accessories online. This is for the first time in India that the company would sell its apparels and accessories online.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports appoints Bimal Julka as Chairman

FIFS India's first and only self-regulatory industry body for fantasy sports, announced the appointment of Bimal Julka as its Chairman. In his new role, Julka will work closely with all the stakeholders to further strengthen the operating standards of the Indian fantasy sports industry. Julka is taking over from John Loffhagen, who served as the Chairman of FIFS for over three years.

Ghanshyam Jha takes oath as Chairman of J&K State Water Resources Regulatory Authority

In Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Secretary, B V R Subrahmanyam administered the oath of office of the Chairman of J&K State Water Resources Regulatory Authority (SWRRA) to Ghanshyam Jha. Ghanshyam Jha has earlier served as the Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC), and has vast experience in the field.















Cognizant appoints Rajesh Nambiar as India CMD

Cognizant Technology Solutions Corp. has appointed Rajesh Nambiar as the chairman and managing director of India and a member of its executive committee, effective 9 November. Cognizant has been scouting for a new chief to head its India operations ever since Ramkumar Ramamoorthy left the company on 17 July after spending 23 years in the company.

SBI nominee director on Yes Bank board resigns

Yes Bank said that Swaminathan Janakiraman, the nominee director appointed by State Bank of India, has resigned with effect from October 28, 2020. In his letter, Swaminathan Janakiraman conveyed that the State Bank of India will shortly nominate a replacement in his place.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NATO plans to set up new space center in Germany

The NATO alliance is to build a headquarters for space operations at its air base in Ramstein in Germany, to counter a rising Russian and Chinese threat. The new center is to be a central point of contact to support NATO missions with communication and satellite images. It will also be a place to exchange information on potential threats to satellites. Currently, at least 40 percent of NATO's communications are via satellite.

ISRO-NASA satellite NISAR scheduled to be launched by 2022

The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite is expected to be launched by 2022, according to a joint statement issued after a strategic dialogue between India and the US. The two sides also expressed the intent to continue the India-US Space Dialogue as well as discussions on areas of potential space defense cooperation.

Google plans to launch VPN service for consumers

Alphabet Inc's Google plans to launch a VPN service for consumers, which would be available with certain subscription plans for its Google One cloud storage services. Google said the VPN service will roll out in the U.S. in the coming weeks through the Google One app for Android users.















OBITUARY

Gujarati film superstar & actor-turned-politician Naresh Kanodia passes away

Gujarati film superstar and actor-turned-politician Naresh Kanodia passed away this morning. He was 77. Kanodia represented Karjan Assembly seat from 2002 to 2007. He worked in more than 100 Gujarati films.

Veteran Gujarati Singer Mahesh Kanodia passes away

Veteran Gujarati film musician, singer and former Lok Sabha MP from Patan constituency Mahesh Kanodia has passed away following prolonged illness. He was awarded for Best Music for the Gujarati films Jigar ane Ami, Tanariri, Jog Sanjog and Laju Lakhan.

Samsung chairman Lee Kun-hee passes away

Samsung Electronics chairman, Lee Kun-hee has passed away. He was 78. During his lifetime, Samsung Electronics also became one of the world's biggest tech firms. He was the richest person in South Korea.

Former Gujarat CM Keshubhai Patel passes away

Former Gujarat Chief Minister Keshubhai Patel passed away. He was 92. His health had deteriorated recently after recovering from Covid-19 last month. Keshubhai Patel had served as the Chief Minister of Gujarat in 1995 and again from 1998 to 2001. He was a member of the legislative assembly for six times.

Former James Bond actor Sean Connery passed away

Former James Bond actor Sean Connery has died aged 90. The legendary British actor starred in seven Bond films. Connery won an Oscar for supporting actor for his turn as a tough Irish cop in Brian De Palma's 1987 'The Untouchables'.

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