

TNPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS OCTOBER 1 - 12

The E Way Bill

The E Way bill system is being implemented by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). It is an Electronic Way bill for movement of goods to be generated on the eWay Bill Portal. AGST registered person cannot transport goods more than Rs.50,000 without an e way bill. Finance Secretary Dr Ajay Bhushan Pandey has recently stated that more than 5.74 crore e-way bills have been generated in the month of September 2020 which is seen as a sign of revival of business activities in the country.

The Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI)

The Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI) survey is conducted by the nation's think tank NITIAayog, by its Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office. The survey aims to evaluate the performance of different Ministries / Departments in implementing Central Sector Schemes (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). Department of Fertilizers has been ranked 2nd among 65 departments under the Data Governance Quality Index survey. headed by G Subramonia Iyer, to run the bank. Earlier, the shareholders voted out the bank's MD and CEO Sunil Gurbaxani.

International Day of Non-Violence

October 2 is observed as the International Day of Non-Violence every year by the United Nations, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The UN General Assembly in a resolution on 15 June 2007 declared this day. The objective of this day is to spread the message of non-violence through education and public awareness. Gandhi is known across the world for his non-violence movement 'Satyagraha'.

Madhabi Puri Buch,

Madhabi Puri Buch is the first woman Whole-time member (WTM) of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). She is also the first from the private sector to be appointed a SEBI Board member. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has recently approved the extension of her appointment as WTM for one year beginning October 4, 2020.

'Shaurya'

India has successfully test fired its indigenously developed nuclear capable hypersonic missile 'Shaurya'. The surface-to-surface tactical missile, with a strike range of around 1,000 km, has been test fired from a test range in Odisha. 'Shaurya' is the land variant of India's K-15 missile and is capable of carrying payloads of 200 kg to 1000 kg.

The 'World Day for Farmed Animals'

The 'World Day for Farmed Animals' is celebrated on October 2, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The Day is being observed since 1983 by various

international organisations including 'World Animal Protection and Asia for Animals coalition'. In this year, a campaign of 'Pledge to #FastAgainstSlaughter' was held.

Aerial Seeding

The Indian Navy along with Greater Vishakhapatnam Municipal Corporation had undertaken Aerial Seeding in Vishakhapatnam. This initiative is aimed to increase green cover in and around Vishakhapatnam. Over 6.25 tonnes of seed balls were air dropped in five locations from the Naval helicopters.

fourth World Conference on Women

The fourth World Conference on Women was convened by the United Nations during in September 1995 in Beijing, China. The 25th anniversary of the fourth World Conference on Women was recently organised. Union Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani participated in the conference. She highlighted about the initiatives undertaken in India including the National Nutrition Mission.

P-8A long range Maritime Patrol Aircraft

A United States Navy P-8A long range Maritime Patrol Aircraft landed at Port Blair in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. This is seen as a significant incident as this is the first time a U.S. P-8 aircraft landed at Port Blair for refuelling under the bilateral logistics support agreement. The agreement is called the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA).

Operation My Saheli

"Operation My Saheli" has been launched by the South Eastern Railway, to boost the safety of women passengers during their entire train journey. The operation protects women from originating point to destination. In a pilot mode, the operation has been introduced in three trains namely trains Howrah-Yeshvantpur Durgam Special, Howrah-Ahmedabad Special and Howrah-Mumbai special trains.

Nigeria is celebrating its 60th Independence

Nigeria is celebrating its 60th Independence Day on Oct 1, 2020. Nigeria gained independence from the imperial Britain on October 1, 1960 and a representative of Queen Elizabeth II handed over Nigeria's constitution to the country's new Prime Minister -Abubakar Tafawa Balewa. The African country became a republic three years later.

Economic Explosive Limited (EEL),

The Defence ministry has signed a Rs 400 crore-contract with Economic Explosive Limited (EEL), for the supply of ten lakh hand grenades. Earlier, similar products were either imported or made by the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB). The new grenades called multi-mode hand grenades (MMHG), have been designed by the Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory of DRDO.

Gandhi Filmotsav'

The Films Division has organized 'Gandhi Filmotsav', as a part of the final event of two years celebration of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th Birth Anniversary. The week-long online film festival was streamed on its Website and YouTube Channel. The birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi is celebrated on October 2 across the world. The birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri is also celebrated on the same day.

Arjun

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test fired an indigenously developed laser-guided anti-tank guided missile (ATGM). The missile was test fired from the third-generation main battle tank, Arjun from a range at Ahmednagar, Maharashtra. The ATGM has been developed with a capability to launch from multiple platforms.

Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV)

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit on October 2. The summit is a global virtual summit of overseas and resident Indian Researchers and Academicians. It is to be organised from October 2 to October 31. The summit creates a single platform for Science and Technology (S&T) related discussions.

Devyani Uttam Khobragade

Indian Foreign Service officer Devyani Uttam Khobragade has been appointed as India's next ambassador to Cambodia. This has been announced by the Ministry of External Affairs. Ms Khobragade is a 1999-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, currently serving as a joint secretary in the External Affairs Ministry. She has served in Indian missions in Berlin, Islamabad, Rome and New York.

'Antisera' for prevention and treatment of COVID-19

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has developed highly purified 'Antisera' for prevention and treatment of COVID-19. ICMR along with Hyderabad-based Biological E. Limited have developed highly purified antisera, which was raised in animals, for prophylaxis and treatment of COVID-19. This was previously used in medical science to treat many viral and bacterial infections.

the Swachh Bharat Diwas 2020

On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, the Swachh Bharat Diwas 2020 was celebrated which included the distribution of Swachh Bharat Puraskar. In the Swachh Sundar Samudayik Shauchalaya (SSSS) campaign organized from 1st Nov 2019 to 30th April 2020, Gujarat state has been conferred with the first prize. Tirunelveli (Tamil Nadu) won the best district award.

“Time Use Survey in India

The National Statistical Office (NSO) conducted the first of its kind “Time Use Survey in India” during the period from January to December 2019. The result of the survey has been released recently in the form of a report. The survey measures the time spent on paid activities, care activities, unpaid activities, etc. NSO conducted the survey covering 1,38,799 households in both urban and rural areas.

The United States has committed \$1.9 million to support vulnerable people in India

The United States has committed \$1.9 million to support vulnerable people in India including those involved in informal sector workers. This financial assistance from US Agency for International Development (USAID) is provided by the American people to partners in India. This will support the Revive alliance, to address challenges caused by unemployment & income gaps faced by workers.

“Decade of Healthy Ageing

The World Health Organization has designated 2020–2030 as the “Decade of Healthy Ageing”. International Day of Older Persons is observed on Oct. 1 every year. United Nations designated this day to focus on the well-being and special needs of the elderly people. The UN theme of the International Day of Older Persons 2020 is “Pandemics: Do They Change How We Address Age and Ageing?”.

India’s largest handicraft and organic products marketplace named “Tribes India e-Marketplace”.

Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda is to launch India’s largest handicraft and organic products marketplace named “Tribes India e-Marketplace”. This marketplace will be launched on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. This initiative of TRIFED will showcase the produce and handicrafts of tribal enterprises from all parts of the country. The Minister will also launch Pakur Honey, gathered by Santhal Tribals from Pakur, Jharkhand.

Google has planned to pay publishers globally for their news over the next three years

Google has planned to pay publishers globally for their news over the next three years. The CEO of Google, Sundar Pichai said the new product called Google News Showcase will be launched first in Germany. It will be unveiled in Belgium, India, the Netherlands and other countries. Google will pay publishers to create high-quality content for the news feature.

world’s first mining robot

China is expected to send the world’s first mining robot into space by November 2020 through a private Beijing company, Origin Space. The mining robot named as an ‘Asteroid mining robot’ will be a part of the preliminary assessment to

identify and extract valuable resources. The spacecraft NEO-1 will be launched onboard a Chinese Long March rocket.

The Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM)

The Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM) has been launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment under the Venture Capital Fund for SCs. The mission has been launched with an aim to promote innovation and entrepreneurship among Scheduled Caste students studying in higher educational institutions.

“Sahyog Evam Uphar Yojna”,

The state Government of Rajasthan has decided to give 30% of the new Public Distribution System(PDS) shops to women. The decision has been taken by the Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, to empower the women in the state. The state has also approved an additional budget of Rs.11 crore to “Sahyog Evam Uphar Yojna”, where financial assistance is provided to needy families for daughter's marriage.

“ICGS Kanaklata Barua”

A Fast Patrol Vessel named “ICGS Kanaklata Barua” has been commissioned into the Indian Coast Guard. The ship is built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE) and is the fifth and last in a series of FPVs built by the company. The ship has been named after a teen age freedom fighter of Assam who was shot dead during the Quit India Movement. Related Questions

human space mission Gaganyaan

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has proposed to launch its Venus mission by the year 2025. French space agency CNES would also participate in the mission. Presently, the two nations are working closely on ISRO's human space mission Gaganyaan that aims to send 3 Indians to space by 2022.

The new logo signifies SAI's journey of transformation

The Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has unveiled a new logo of Sports Authority of India (SAI). The new logo signifies SAI's journey of transformation from identifying grassroot level talent to creating sporting excellence in India. SAI was established in 1982 and has been an epicentre for sports in India.

‘Decarbonization and Energy Transition Agenda’

NITI Aayog and the Embassy of the Netherlands, New Delhi recently signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) on ‘Decarbonization and Energy Transition Agenda’. Under this partnership, NITI Aayog and the Dutch Embassy aim to create innovative technological solutions to accommodate cleaner energy. It also aims to lower the net carbon footprint, to promote bio-energy technologies among others.

BrahMos.

India has successfully test fired a new version of the surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile BrahMos. The missile with a number of indigenously developed sub-systems including a booster was flight-tested from the integrated test range at Balasore in Odisha. It has an extended range of about 400 km from the earlier 290 km range.

Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah,

Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah, also known as Sheikh Nawaf has been sworn in as the Emir (Head) of Kuwait. The previous ruler Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah has recently died in the United States at the age of 91. Sheikh Sabah ruled the country for more than 14 years and the new Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf is 83 years old.

Citizen Diplomacy Award”.

India’s Sehgal Foundation has emerged as a co-runner up of the USA’s “Citizen Diplomacy Award”. The institution has been selected for its human rights and women empowerment work in rural India. The Department of States – Bureau of Global Public Affairs of USA, launched the Citizen Diplomacy Award in 2017 to recognize significant contributions by citizens and organizations to deepen USA’s foreign policy around the world.

Kolar Gold Fields (KGF) in Karnataka.

Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) has commenced the exploration of the Kolar Gold Fields (KGF) in Karnataka. MECL is a Mini Ratna PSU under the Ministry of Mines. This mining activity is expected to help resolve Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) issue over exploration of the gold field, which is pending for past 16 years.

The National Institute of Nutrition (NIN)

The National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) under the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has revised the ideal weight for adult Indian men from 60 kg to 65 kg. Similarly, the NIN has revised the ideal weight for adult Indian women from 50 kg to 55 kg. The definition of Indian adult also stands revised from 20–39 years to 19–39 years.

iDEX4Fauji

iDEX4Fauji is an initiative launched by the Ministry of Defence to identify innovations created by Indian Armed Forces personnel. The initiative has been launched to reward innovations identified by members of the Armed Forces and will boost innovative ideas from soldiers/ field formations. The Minister also launched Defence India Startup Challenge–4.

Line of Credit (LoC)

A 'High Level Monitoring Committee' is proposed to be set up by India and Bangladesh to review projects implemented with Line of Credit (LoC) provided by India. The decision was made at the 6th Joint Consultative Commission meeting between the two countries held in a virtual mode. The High-Level Monitoring Committee would be headed by Secretary, Economic Relations Division of Bangladesh and High Commissioner of India in Bangladesh.

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA),

Union Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan has launched the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Technologies for Rural Development. The technologies have been launched under a joint initiative of CSIR, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD) and Vijnana Bharti (VIBHA). The technologies include improved beehive, dehumidified drier and agricultural waste-based biodegradable plates.

Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U)

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is celebrating the sixth anniversary of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U). To commemorate the event, the Ministry is organising a webinar titled 'Swachhata Ke 6 Saal, Bemisaal'. The Ministry said that 4,327 urban local bodies have been declared open defecation-free (ODF) so far.

empower the small and medium enterprises (SMEs)

Leading stock exchange, the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) announced that it has signed a pact with private sector bank Yes Bank to empower the small and medium enterprises (SMEs). As per the BSE, the agreement aims to empower SMEs listed on the platform, through awareness and knowledge-sharing programmes, for export promotion and banking and financial solutions. The bank will also offer customised services and products to the listed SMEs.

Cat Que'

As per the recent cautionary message from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a new virus named 'Cat Que' emerged in China. This virus comes from Culex mosquitoes and pigs in China and Vietnam. As per ICMR, India also provides breeding climate to this species of Culex mosquitoes. This is published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research (IJMR).

Amnesty International

Human rights group Amnesty International has announced that it is halting all its ongoing campaign and research work in India. The Group said that the Government has frozen the bank accounts for speaking out about rights violations. Amnesty had earlier highlighted rights violations that occurred in Jammu and Kashmir and riots in Delhi.

enhanced borrowing facility

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the enhanced borrowing facility provided to banks by six more months. The facility to borrow under MSF scheme to meet liquidity shortage till March 31, 2021. Earlier in the March, the RBI had increased the limit from 2 per cent to 3 per cent of their net demand and time liabilities.

India's 1st multi-wavelength astronomical observatory named 'ASTROSAT'

India's 1st multi-wavelength astronomical observatory named 'ASTROSAT' has recently completed five years of imaging objects in space. The satellite was launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in 2015. It has successfully carried out over 1000 observations of 800 unique celestial sources. A discovery of a galaxy located at a distance of about 10 billion light-years from Earth has been made using it.

SDG Special Humanitarian Action Award

Famous Actor Sonu Sood has been conferred with "SDG Special Humanitarian Action Award" by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The award has been conferred upon him for his selfless assistance rendered to migrants, stranded students abroad and bring them back to India. He also opened his hotel in Mumbai for health care workers of nearby hospitals.

"Digital Suraksha Group Insurance".

Flipkart and Bajaj Allianz have collaborated to offer "Digital Suraksha Group Insurance". The insurance product is aimed at customers who wish to cover themselves against financial losses incurred due to cyber-attacks, cyber frauds, or other such activities on online platforms. This insurance covers for direct financial loss due to online frauds up to the sum insured.

72,000 assault rifles from the United States of America

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) headed by the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved capital acquisition proposals in Defence sector worth Rs.229 crore. The proposals include acquisition of 72,000 assault rifles from the United States of America. These proposals include material acquisitions from both Indian and foreign players and is aligned with Atma Nirbhar Policy of Self Reliance.

Fulfilment Centre in Tamil Nadu.

Major e-commerce giant Amazon has launched its new Fulfilment Centre in Tamil Nadu. This is aimed to strengthening the firm's network in the state. This facility is expected to offer significant employment opportunities in Tamil Nadu and give a boost to the Economy. The facility has a 7 lakh cubic feet of storage space and can accommodate lakhs of products, appliances and furniture.

Leading Power Sector organisation, NTPC Ltd has recently signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Power.

Under the MoU, the key targets were fixed for the year 2020–21, which include 340 BU of electricity generation, 15 MMT of coal production under excellent category. It also includes other financial parameters including Capex and Revenue from operations.

The G20 Leaders' Summit

The G20 Leaders' Summit will be organised virtually on November 21–22 by Saudi Arabia, as per the country's recent announcement. It also said that the Summit will focus on addressing vulnerabilities resulting from the COVID–19 pandemic. G20 had contributed over \$21 billion for the vaccine production and distribution. The bloc also launched a debt suspension initiative for least developed countries.

The first cargo vessel from India to Maldives,

The first cargo vessel from India to Maldives, named MCP Linzhas reached the northern Maldivian town of Kulhudhufushi. This is the first voyage of the direct Cargo Ferry Service between India and the Maldives and it was jointly launched on September 21. This is also the first ferry service in the Indian Ocean region operated by the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI).

'Branded Royal'

A rare species of butterfly named the 'Branded Royal', was recently spotted in the Nilgiris, along the slopes of Kotagiri. The butterfly was previously documented in the Nilgiris in the year 1888 by G.F. Hampson. There is only one such record about the butterfly in Tamil Nadu. The Branded Royal (*Tajuria melastigma*) is a species of lycaenid.

Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) – 2020 in New Delhi. The first Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) was promulgated in the year 2002 and has since been revised periodically to provide impetus to the growing domestic industry and achieve enhanced self reliance in defence manufacturing. Defence Minister had approved constitution of Main Review Committee under Chairmanship of DG (Acquisition) Apurva Chandra in Aug–2019 for preparation of DAP–2020. DAP 2020 will be applicable with effect from 01st October 2020.

'Health in India'

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has released the report of a survey titled 'Health in India'. The report is based on information collected through NSS Schedule 25.0 (Household Social Consumption: Health). As per the report, the Zoroastrian community is the most susceptible to ailments.

SAATH

The Ministry of Tourism has launched the SAATHI application, along with the Quality Council of India, on the occasion of World Tourism Industry. The application is expected to assist the hospitality industry, in maintaining the safety standards and operations, which would develop confidence among staff. A film named 'Pathik' on Incredible India Tourist Facilitators Certification Programme (IITFC) was also launched.

Inntot Technologies, based at Kochi (Kerala)

Inntot Technologies, based at Kochi (Kerala), has bagged a major honour at the ICT Startups Awards 2020, for its outstanding work in the field of digital broadcast receivers through innovation. The company is backed by Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM). The event was conducted by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) in association with the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Ericson.

Jal Jeevan Mission.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated six mega development projects in Uttarakhand under the Namami Gange Mission. A first of its kind Museum named 'Ganga Avalokan' on the River Ganga at Haridwar, was also inaugurated. The Prime Minister also released a book titled "Rowing Down the Ganges" and a new logo for the Jal Jeevan Mission.

first virtual summit with his counterpart of Denmark, Mette Frederiksen.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended a first virtual summit with his counterpart of Denmark, Mette Frederiksen. As per the joint statement, the new 'Green Strategic Partnership' will be based on existing Joint Commission for Cooperation for cooperation in various fields including politics, energy, environment and education.

International Sign Languages Day'

'International Sign Languages Day' is celebrated on September 23. In India, it was celebrated by Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), an autonomous body under Social Justice and Empowerment virtually. United Nations has declared 23rd September as International Sign Language Day. The theme of this year is 'Sign Languages are for everyone' with a view to enhancing awareness about Sign language and expanding its reach to everyone.

World Maritime Day

Each year on 24th September, World Maritime Day is celebrated by International Maritime Organization in order to mark the contribution of international maritime industries towards the economy of the world especially shipping. The theme for this year is “Sustainable shipping for a sustainable planet”.

The Gunda and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Bill

The Gunda and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Bill was passed by Gujarat Legislative Assembly on September 24, 2020. The Bill seeks to strictly deal with anti-social elements and hardened criminals, prescribing jail terms ranging from seven to 10 years and it also empowers the police to seek 30-day remand instead of 15 days while a charge sheet can be filed within 90 days instead of the present provision of 60 days.

National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP)

The Government of India, Ministry of Textiles is implementing National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) for development of Block Level clusters across the country including Andhra Pradesh & Telangana States. The Block Level clusters are sanctioned on the basis of the viable proposals received from States Government.

National Nutrition Surveys

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare conducts National Nutrition Surveys in order to keep the check on the nutritional status of children through periodically conducting surveys. Recently, a Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS) (2016–2018) has captured the data on nutritional status of school going children.

Labour code bill

The Rajya Sabha in its sitting today passed three labour codes namely, Industrial Relations Code, 2020 (ii) Code on Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code, 2020 and (iii) Social Security Code, 2020.

‘Eklavya Model Residential Schools’ (EMRSs)

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been implementing a separate Central Sector Scheme ‘Eklavya Model Residential Schools’ (EMRSs) from 2019–20 with the prime objective to provide quality upper primary, secondary and senior secondary level education to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students to enable them to access the best opportunities in education and to bring them at par with the general population.

U–Rise’

The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath has launched a unified portal called ‘U–Rise’, to provide career counselling to students. The portal aims to provide assistance to students in getting vocational and technical education. It also comprises e–content, e–library, and online courses, which can be accessed by students in the interior areas of the state.

Operation Durachari’

Uttar Pradesh is soon going to launch ‘Operation Durachari’ to check crime against women and to put posters of habitual offenders in cases of sex–related crimes on road crossing in Uttar Pradesh.

Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) is a strategic forum organised between the United States, Japan, Australia and India. Recently, the QUAD consultation of the four member countries was held virtually to discuss regional issues of common interest. The last Ministerial engagement was held in September 2019. The Senior officials reaffirmed their commitment for an inclusive Indo–Pacific region.

virtual summit between PM Narendra Modi and Sri Lankan Prime Minister

The first ever virtual summit between PM Narendra Modi and Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa was recently held. India announced a grant of USD 15 million for the promotion of Buddhist ties with Sri Lanka. India also affirmed to expand Defence partnership with the island country, to stabilise security in the Indian Ocean.

standards for safety evaluation of hydrogen fuel cell–based vehicles.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued a notification comprising standards for safety evaluation of hydrogen fuel cell–based vehicles. The Ministry has amended the Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989 to specify the standards for the vehicles being propelled by Hydrogen Fuel cells. These standards are said to be at par with the available international standards.

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), which functions under MSME Ministry, has appointed Sunil Sethi as its advisor. He is the Chairman of the Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) and will advise the Commission on latest design interventions in the readymade garments segment. He would also focus on promotion of Khadi in India and abroad.

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)

The foundation Day of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) has been celebrated as 'Kaushal Se Kal Badhenge'. Ministry of Rural Development organised the event on the occasion of Antyodaya Diwas, to commemorate the 6th foundation of the DDU-GKY scheme.

S P Balasubrahmanyam

Veteran playback singer S P Balasubrahmanyam has recently passed away at the age of 74, after being contracted by the novel coronavirus. The legendary singer held Guinness World Record for highest number of songs by a singer. He had won six National Awards during 1979 to 1996 and won two civilian awards, Padma Shri in 2001, Padma Bhushan in 2011.

The Government of Kerala has decided to provide food kits

The Government of Kerala has decided to provide food kits to 1,000 transgender persons in the state. Kerala became the first state in the country to provide food kits to transgender during the 1st phase of lockdown in March 2020. The state government has now sanctioned food kits amounting Rs.700 each to 1000 transgender persons.

D-SIIs are insurance companies

Insurance regulator IRDAI has identified Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), General Insurance Corporation (GIC) and New India Assurance (NIA) as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SII). D-SIIs are insurance companies of such large size and market importance, whose failure would cause a distress in domestic financial system. D-SIIs would be subjected to higher level of regulatory supervision.

pact with USA on "Non-Interference"

Russian President Vladimir Putin has proposed for a pact with the USA "Non-Interference" in each other's domestic affairs. The pact is proposed weeks before the Presidential elections in USA. Western Nations have been accusing Russia for using its hackers and trolls to influence the outcome of elections in other countries. Also, US intelligence has stated that Russia is trying to manipulate election results in favour of Donald Trump.

United Nation Interagency Task Force Award

On 2020 Sep.24, Kerala won the United Nation Interagency Task Force Award for its outstanding performance in controlling non-communicable diseases related Sustainable Development Goals. Kerala is one among the seven ministries of health from all over the world to receive the award. The other programmes of the state such as Cancer Treatment Programme, Lung Disease Programme and Paralysis Control Programme were also considered for the award.

Ministerial Roundtable Dialogue on Biodiversity Beyond 2020

The 'Ministerial Roundtable Dialogue on Biodiversity Beyond 2020: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth' has been virtually hosted by China. Union Environment Minister of India Prakash Javadekar has attended the Ministerial Roundtable Dialogue. This was conducted one week before the upcoming United Nation Summit on Biodiversity. It also aims to exchange views on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Prithvi-II

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has recently test-fired Prithvi-II, the surface-to-surface missile. This exercise has been undertaken as a part of User trial by the Indian Army, from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur base in Odisha. The missile was randomly chosen from the production stock by the Army and was monitored by DRDO Scientists.

International Commission of Jurists'

'International Commission of Jurists' is an international human right non-governmental organization, headquartered at Geneva, Switzerland. ICJ was recently in news as it has announced that the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020 passed by the Indian Parliament was incompatible with international law. It also opined that the provisions of the bill would impose arbitrary obstacles in human rights promotion.

Gopalkrishna Gandhi

Gopalkrishna Gandhi, former West Bengal Governor has been appointed as a life trustee of India International Centre, New Delhi. He is set to fill the vacancy created by the death of Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan. Gopalkrishna Gandhi is a retired diplomat and is the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi. He served as the Governor of West Bengal from 2004 till 2009.

World Pharmacists Day

Every year, the World Pharmacists Day is celebrated on September 25. This day is observed by International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) and the decision to observe this date was made during the council meet of FIP in 2009 at Istanbul. The aim of this day is to encourage activities that promote the role of the pharmacist in improving health. The theme for this year is "Transforming global health".

Yoga Break

Activities regarding the "Yoga Break" protocol of Ministry of AYUSH have been resumed, after it was suspended due to COVID-19. This 5-minute protocol is intended to introduce yoga to people at work and help them to take a break from the work schedule. This protocol was developed by Ministry of AYUSH in association with Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY).

Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU).

The Reserve Bank of India has given in-principle approval to Vakrangee for setting up Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU). The approval has been granted as per the provisions contained in Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007. Vakrangee can now handle payment and aggregation of payment services relating to bills under BBPS.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB)

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced that it has approved two loans for urban sector projects in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. The bank has approved a USD 300 million loan to improve water supply and sanitation infrastructure in the towns of Rajasthan and a USD 270 million loan for Madhya Pradesh Urban Services Improvement Project.

