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Current Affairs: 09/10.10.2021

Shipping Minister Sarbanand Sonowal launches 'MyPortApp' for digital monitoring of port operations



The **Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shri Sarbanand Sonowal** has launched a mobile application called **MyPortApp**, to promote transparency and easy access of port related information. The App will provide all details regarding port in India and also monitor operations virtually. The Minister Sarbanand Sonowal launched the app on

October 08, 2021 from Kolkata during his 2-day visit to West Bengal where he also inaugurated, launched and dedicated to Nation several projects worth Rs 352 crore.

IFSCA launches Global FinTech Hackathon Series 'I-Sprint'21'



The **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** has launched the global FinTech Hackathon Series '**I-Sprint'21'** on October 07, 2021. The first Sprint of the series is "**Sprint01: BankTech**", which focuses on **FinTechs for the Banking sector**. Sprint01: BankTech is organised jointly

by **IFSCA and GIFT city** in collaboration with **NITI Aayog**. The Partners to the Hackathon are ICICI Bank, HSBC Bank, iCreate, Zone Startups and Invest-India. The hackathon will be conducted virtually and is open for all eligible FinTechs from across the Globe. The Prize money for this hackathon is **Rs 24 lakh**

Maharashtra Government launches 'Mission Kavach Kundal'

The state government of **Maharashtra** has launched a special Covid-19 vaccination drive named as **Mission Kavach Kundal**, with the target of inoculating **15 lakh people everyday**. The week long drive has been organised from October 08 to October 14, 2021. The drive is in line with Centre's target of reaching 100 crore vaccination mark till 15 October 2021.

India and Croatia enters into agreement for academic research and competency building in traditional medicine systems

The Embassy of India at Zagreb, organised the **first International Conference on Yoga and Ayurveda in Croatia** from October 03 to 05, 2021, with the support of the **Ministry of AYUSH**. The conference was held to present the scientifically validated benefits and mechanisms of Yoga and Ayurveda practices, promote its application and proper validation in society to ensure the optimal development and propagation of AYUSH systems of health care. The six-member Indian delegation was led by Special Secretary Ayush Shri Pramod Kumar Pathak. As a part of this conference India and Croatia signed a Memorandum of Understanding for academic collaboration in India's traditional medicine systems, especially in the field of Ayurveda.

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- This will promote academic research, clinical and educational activities, medical education, training, and competency building.
- The MoU was signed between All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Ayush and Kvarner Health Tourism Cluster, Croatia.

RBI keeps Repo rate unchanged at 4%



The **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** of the Reserve Bank of India has announced that the policy repo rate under the **liquidity adjustment facility (LAF)** will be kept unchanged at 4.0 per cent.

- As a result, the remaining **rates** are also unchanged and are mentioned below:

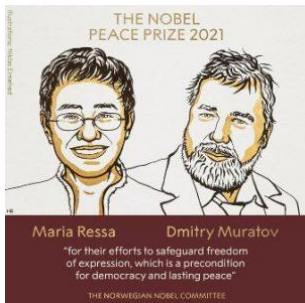
1. Reverse Repo Rate- 3.35%
2. Marginal Standing Facility Rate- 4.25%
3. Bank Rate- 4.25%
4. CRR- 4.00%
5. SLR- 18.00%

The MPC also decided to continue with the **accommodative stance**. RBI has retained the projection for real **GDP growth at 9.5 per cent in 2021-22**. The decisions were announced at the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) held between October 6-8, 2021. The next MPC meet will be held between December 6 to 8, 2021

Fitch cuts India's GDP in FY22 to 8.7% and 10% in FY23

The **Fitch Ratings** has revised downwards, India's economic growth projections to **8.7 percent** in the current financial year **2021-22**. Earlier this was projected at 10 percent. For the financial year **FY23 (2022-23)** the gross domestic product (GDP) growth for India is estimated at **10 percent**, as compared to its earlier estimates of 8.5 percent. The ratings agency has retained India's sovereign rating at **BBB- with the negative outlook**.

Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov wins 2021 Nobel Peace Prize



The 2021 Nobel Peace Prize have been conferred jointly upon Filipino-American journalist **Maria Ressa** and Russian journalist **Dmitry Muratov**. The duo have been honoured **“for their efforts to safeguard freedom of expression, which is a precondition for democracy and lasting peace”**. Maria Angelita Ressa is a Filipino-American journalist and author, the co-founder and CEO of Rappler, a Philippine online news website. Dmitry Andreyevich Muratov is a Russian journalist and editor-in-chief of the Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta.

India Ranks 90th in Q4 Henley Passport Index 2021; Japan & Singapore Tops

India has been ranked at 90th position among 116 countries, on the Henley Passport Index, released for Q4 of 2021 on October 07, 2021. The index lists the world's most travel-

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friendly passports. India's position has dropped by six places, compared to last year (2020), during the same period, when it was placed at 84th

spot.

- *The Henley Passport Index ranks the passports of countries according to the number of destinations their holders can visit without a prior visa.*
- *The rankings are based on the analysis of data provided by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).*

Japan and Singapore shares the top position in the latest index, with their passports holders allowed to travel visa-free to 192 countries. In India, its passport holders are allowed to travel visa-free to 58 countries. India shares its rank with Tajikistan and Burkina Faso. Afghanistan has world's least powerful passports, with visa-free score of 26.

Anshu Malik becomes first Indian Woman to claim World Championships Silver



At the **2021 World Wrestling Championships**, Indian wrestler **Anshu Malik** created history as she became the first Indian women finalist at the World Championship, and also the first female player from India to claim a silver medal. The 19-year old Anshu settled for a silver medal after losing to 2016

Olympic champion Helen Lousie Maroulis of United States in **57kg freestyle bout**. Till date, Indian women wrestlers Alka Tomar (2006) Geeta Phogat (2012), Babita Phogat (2012), Pooja Dhanda (2018) and Vinesh Phogat (2019) have been able to win a bronze each. Wrestler Sushil Kumar (2010) is the lone wrestler from India to win World Championship till date.

Besides this, **Sarita Mor** claimed her maiden medal by winning bronze in 59kg category at the 2021 World Wrestling Championships being held at **Oslo, Norway from October 02 to 10, 2021**.

World Post Day: 09 October



World Post Day is celebrated each year on **October 9** globally. Theme of 2021 World Post Day is "**Innovate to recover**." The purpose of World Post Day is to create awareness of the role of the postal sector in everyday lives and businesses' of the people and its contribution to the social and economic development of countries. October 9 was chosen as

it marks the anniversary of the **Universal Postal Union (UPU)**, which was created in 1874 in Switzerland. The first World Post Day was celebrated in 1969.

World Migratory Bird Day 2021: 09 October (Second Saturday of October)



Every year, the **World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD)** is officially celebrated twice in a year since it started in 2006. Firstly it is held on **Second Saturday of May** and again on **Second Saturday of October**. In 2021, the WMBDD falls on **May 08**,

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2021 and October 09, 2021.



The day is observed to spread awareness for the need to conserve migratory birds and their habitats. The theme for 2021 WMBD is **“Sing, Fly, Soar – Like a Bird!”** The day is organized by a collaborative partnership among two UN treaties namely the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and the Colorado-based non-profit organization, Environment for the Americas (EFTA).

Chhattisgarh gets its fourth Tiger Reserve



The combined areas of the **Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary in Chhattisgarh** has been declared as a **Tiger Reserve** by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** on October 05, 2021. This is the fourth Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh, after the Udanti-Sitanadi, Achanakmar, and Indravati Reserves. The proposal to declare the above as a Tiger Reserve was approved by NTCA’s 11th Technical Committee under **Section 38V(1) of The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**. Tamor Pingla is located in Surajpur district, while Guru Ghasidas National Park is in Koriya district.

Adani Group takes over operational control of Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport Guwahati



The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has handed over the operational control of the **Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport in Guwahati** to **Adani Group** on October 08, 2021. This means that the operations, management and development responsibilities of the airport will now be in the hands of the Adani Group. It must be noted that in 2018, the Central Government had listed group of six airports for privatisation of its operations, management and development (OMD) for a period of 50 years. These airports included Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Mangalore, Jaipur, Thiruvananthapuram and Guwahati. The Adani Group had emerged as the successful bidder for all these six airports.

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia inaugurates greenfield Sindhudurg airport in Maharashtra under UDAN scheme



The Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, virtually inaugurated the greenfield **Sindhudurg airport in Maharashtra** recently, under the **RCS-UDAN (Regional Connectivity Scheme – Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik) scheme** of the Government of India. The minister also flagged off the first flight from the airport, taking off from **Sindhudurg to Mumbai**. Sindhudurg Airport (also known as Chipi Airport) is in Sindhudurg District of Maharashtra.

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• With this, **381 routes and 61 airports** including 5 heliports and 2 Water Aerodromes have become operationalized under the UDAN scheme.

India officially joins High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People



India officially joined the **High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People** on October 07, 2021. HAC is a group of more than 70 countries encouraging the adoption of

the global goal to protect at least 30 percent of the world's land and ocean by 2030 (30×30 target). **India is the first country from BRICS** bloc (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) to join the HAC. The High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People is co-chaired by Costa Rica and France and by the United Kingdom as Ocean co-chair.

RBI announces the Theme for Fourth Cohort under Regulatory Sandbox as 'Prevention and Mitigation of Financial Frauds'



The **Reserve Bank of India** has announced the **theme for Fourth Cohort under Regulatory Sandbox**. The theme is **"Prevention and Mitigation of Financial Frauds"**. Before this, RBI has already launched three cohorts under Regulatory Sandbox.

RBI projects India's GDP growth for FY23 at 7.8%



The **Reserve Bank of India** in its Monetary Policy Report – October 2021, has projected **India's GDP growth rate for 2022-23 (FY23) at 7.8%**. RBI released the Monetary Policy Report on a half-yearly basis. It must be noted that for 2021-22 RBI has projected India's GDP growth at 9.5% in the MPC meet of October 2021.

India and Denmark exchanges MoUs/Agreements during the visit of Danish PM Mette Frederiksen

- The Prime Minister of Denmark Mette Frederiksen is on three days visit to India from October 9 to 11, 2021, to further strengthen and enhance the close and friendly ties between the two countries.
- On October 09, 2021, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a bilateral meeting with Danish PM**, following which **four MoUs** were signed which aimed at boosting cooperation in green technologies and management of natural resources.

6th India-UK joint military exercise 'AJEYA WARRIOR' begins in Uttarakhand



The **6th edition of the annual Joint Military Exercise AJEYA WARRIOR**, between India and United Kingdom kick-started on October 08, 2021 at **Chaubatia, in the Indian state of Uttarakhand**. The two-week military exercise will culminate on October 20, 2021. The exercise will further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation between the armies of the two countries and

develop interoperability and sharing of expertise.

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National Postal Day: 10 October

- In India, the **National Postal Day** is celebrated annually on **10 October**, as an extension of World Post Day, which is celebrated on 9 October.
- National Post Day aims to commemorate the role played by the Indian postal department for the past 150 years, which was founded in 1854 by Lord Dalhousie.



World Mental Health Day: 10 October

- **World Mental Health Day** is observed every year on **10 October** globally for global mental health education, awareness and advocacy against social stigma.
- It was first celebrated in 1992 at the initiative of the World Federation for Mental Health, a global mental health organization.
- The theme for World Mental Health Day 2021 is '**Mental health in an unequal world**'.



World Day Against the Death Penalty : 10 October

- The **World Day Against the Death Penalty** is observed every year on **10 October**.

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• It is a day to advocate for the abolition of the death penalty and to raise awareness of the conditions and the circumstances which affect prisoners with death sentences.

- The day was first organised by the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty in 2003.
- 2021 marks the **19th** World Day Against the Death Penalty.
- The theme for 2021 is **“Women Sentenced to Death: An Invisible Reality.”**

