

## CURRENT AFFAIRS= 16-10-2020

### Centre to borrow Rs 1.1 Lakh Crore to meet shortfall of GST Compensation

The central government has announced that it will borrow **Rs. 1.1 lakh crore** under

**The ₹1.1 lakh crore question**

- 21 States had agreed to borrow from market to meet GST shortfalls
- Now, Centre will borrow and lend to States
- This may help lower borrowing costs for States with higher deficits

Won't raise fiscal deficit or general government debt, says Finance Ministry

the **special GST window** to meet the revenue shortfall on account of implementing the Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation. Under the Special Window, the estimated shortfall of Rs. 1.1 lakh cr (assuming all States join) will be borrowed by Government in appropriate **tranches**. The borrowed amount will be passed on to the States as a **back-to-back loan** and it will be in lieu of **GST Compensation Cess releases**.

### Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal launches 'KAPILA' Campaign on IP Literacy and Awareness; 15-23 October to be celebrated as Intellectual Property Literacy Week

The Union Education Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has virtually launched the campaign 'KAPILA', which stands for **Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness** campaign on 15th October 2020.

The day was launched in honour of 89th birth anniversary celebration of former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.

Through the campaign, the government will spread the awareness through educational programs about the importance of patenting an invention, to lead India towards self-reliance.

In order to promote awareness in the field, the Ministry has decided to celebrate the week from **15 to 23 October** as '**Intellectual Property Literacy Week**'.

Various awareness programs will be organised to create awareness about the system and the importance of the process of applying for a patent.

### Supreme Court appoints Former Justice M B Lokur as one-man panel to prevent stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana and UP



The Supreme Court has appointed **Justice (retired) Madan B Lokur**, a former judge of the apex court, as a **one-man monitoring committee to prevent stubble burning in the states of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh**, which is the main source of pollution in Delhi-national capital



region (NCR).

The new committee will monitor the stubble burning and take preventive steps. It will get assistance from chief secretaries of all states as well as National Cadet Corps (NCC), National Service Scheme and Bharat Scouts.

The panel shall submit its report on stubble burning within 15 days to the apex court.

## PM Modi releases commemorative coin to mark 75th anniversary of FAO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually released a **commemorative coin of Rs. 75 denomination** on 16th October 2020, to mark the 75th Anniversary of **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** (Headquarter -Rome, Italy).



The FAO was founded on **16 October 1945**.

16 October is therefore celebrated as the **World Food Day (WFD)**, throughout the world.

As a part of the WFD occasion, PM Modi also dedicated 17 new biofortified varieties

of 8 crops to the nation.



## India & France re-elected as President and Co-President of International Solar Alliance (ISA)

**India and France** have been re-elected as the **President and the Co-President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)** respectively for a term of two years on 14 October 2020.

This decision was taken during the Third

Assembly of the ISA, held virtually from 14 to 16 October 2020.

India's Power and New and Renewable Energy Minister, RK Singh will represent as the President of the ISA Assembly.

Barbara Pompili, the Minister for Ecological Transition from France will be the Co-President of the Assembly.

Four new Vice-Presidents have also been selected to represent the four regions of ISA. They are:

1. Representatives of Fiji & Nauru – Asia Pacific Region;
2. Representatives of Mauritius & Niger – Africa Region;
3. Representatives of UK & Netherlands – Europe and others Region,
4. Representatives of Cuba and Guyana – Latin America and Caribbean Region



## India to hand over its kilo-class submarine INS Sindhuvir to Myanmar for training purpose

As per the information delivered by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), India has decided to hand over **INS Sindhuvir**, a **Kilo class submarine to the Myanmar Navy** by the end of 2020.

This initiative has been launched under the vision SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region), to guarantee security for all maritime partners and is also in line with India's commitment to build capacities and self-reliance in all its neighbouring countries.

The Indian Navy had bought the INS Sindhuvir, a Soviet-origin Kilo-class submarine, from Russia in 1980s and has operated it since 1988.

It is currently being modernized by the **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) in Vizag**, after which its service life will be extended by 10-15 years. It will then serve the Myanmar Navy till the 2030s.

The INS Sindhuvir will be used by the Myanmar Navy for training purposes. It will also be the first-ever submarine for the Myanmar Navy, which is looking at acquiring its own submarine fleet in the coming years.

## NTPC's CMD Gurdeep Singh gets term extension till July 2025

- The Government has extended the tenure of **Gurdeep Singh** as the **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of state run **NTPC Ltd.** till **31 July 2025**.
- His extended term will start from 4 February 2021 till 31 July 2025 which is the date of his superannuation.
- He was appointed as the CMD of NTPC in February 2016.



## Jnanpith Awardee Malayalam poet Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri passes away at 93

The eminent **Malayalam poet Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri**, who was conferred with the **55th Jnanpith award in June 2020**, has passed away due to age related ailments. He was 93-years-old.

The popular Kerala-based writer was often referred to as Akkitham and is the sixth Keralite to be conferred with the

prestigious Jnanpith literary award.

Apart from this, he was also honoured with Padmashri in 2017.

His work includes over 45 works of poems, plays and short stories.



## ‘Nightingale of Gujarat’, Kaumudi Munshi, passes away at 93



Legendary Gujarati singer **Kaumudi Munshi**, who is known to make ‘Sugam Sangeet’ popular among masses, has passed away due to COVID-19.

She was 93.

Munshi was famously known as the ‘**Nightingale of Gujarat**’.

Apart from this, she had also sang in several Bhojpuri songs.

## International Day for the Eradication of Poverty: October 17



The **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty** is observed every year on **17 October** throughout the world.

The day aims to raise awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution around the world, particularly in developing countries.

2020 Theme: **Acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all**’.

The first International Day for the Eradication of Poverty was held in Paris, France in 1987.

It was officially recognized by UN General Assembly in December 1992.

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