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## Current Affairs: 20.10.2021

### 4th General Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA) Begins



The **Fourth General Assembly** of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** has been organised virtually between October 18 and 21, 2021. The Assembly will be presided over by **President of the ISA Assembly RK Singh**, who is also the Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy.

The key initiatives that will be deliberated at the Fourth General Assembly of the ISA includes:

1. Operationalisation of the **OSOWOG (One Sun One World One Grid)** initiative, the \$1-trillion Solar Investment Roadmap for 2030
2. Approval for a Blended Financial Risk Mitigation Facility
3. Strategic plan of the ISA for the next five years
4. Country Partnership Framework
5. Strategy for Private Sector Engagement
6. Viability Gap Financing scheme to facilitate affordable finance for solar energy projects across ISA's membership
7. Discuss partnership with Global Energy Alliance (GEA) to scale up technical and financial support to LDCs and SIDS

**J&K sign MoU with Dubai Govt for real estate development, industrial parks and more.** The **Jammu and Kashmir** administration has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of **Dubai** for rapid development and growth in the Union Territory. Under the MoU, the government of Dubai will help in development of **real estate sector, industrial parks, IT towers, multipurpose towers, logistics, medical college, super specialty hospital** and various more business enterprises in Jammu and Kashmir. The development will help the Union Territory to reach new heights in Industrialization and sustainable growth.

**Home Minister Amit Shah flags off 'Modi Van'** The Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** flagged off "**Five Mobile Medical Vans**" dubbed as **Modi Van** on October 19, 2021 in **Kaushambi district of Uttar Pradesh**. These vans have been launched under the '**Seva Hi Sangathan**' programme of **BJP** to commemorate Prime Minister Narendra Modi completing 20 years as the Head of Government. The Five Mobile Medical Vans will operate in **five Assembly Constituencies in Kaushambi**. These vans will work under the aegis of Kaushambi Vikas Parishad run by BJP's National Secretary Vinod Sonkar.

### WHO releases Global TB Report 2021

The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has released its annual **Global tuberculosis (TB) report** for the year 2021, on October 14, 2021. The annual report provides a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of the TB epidemic, including progress in prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the disease, at global, regional and country levels.

### Key findings of 2021 Global TB Report

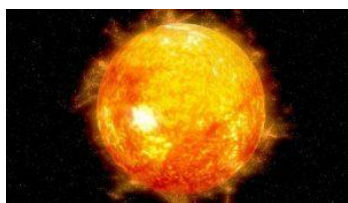
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• Number of people dying from TB increased in 2020, as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- India is among the top 30 countries with the highest TB burden.
- Very few people were diagnosed, treated or provided with TB preventive treatment in 2020 compared with 2019, (7.1 million in 2019 while only 5.8 million in 2020)
- Overall spending on essential TB services went down.
- India (41%) placed on list of countries that contributed highest in reduction in TB notifications between 2019 and 2020. Indonesia (14 per cent), the Philippines (12 per cent) and China (8 per cent).
- Report noted that around 4.1 million people suffer from TB, but the disease is either not diagnosed or their status has not been reported to national authorities. This is up from 2.9 million in 2019.
- TB is the second deadliest infectious killer after COVID-19. New cases of TB are attributable to undernutrition, HIV infection, alcohol use disorders, smoking and diabetes.
- TB is caused by the bacteria **Mycobacterium tuberculosis**.

## China successfully launches its first solar exploration satellite 'Xihe'



**China** has launched its first **solar exploration satellite** into space to study the violent and sudden physical processes behind solar flares. The 550 kg (121-pound) satellite named as **Xihe (Name of Sun God in Chinese mythology)** was launched from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in northern Shanxi Province aboard a Long March-2D rocket. Meanwhile, ten small satellites and a commercial

meteorological detection constellation experimental satellite were also sent to the space along with Xihe satellite. Besides, the launch was the 391st flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.

## India ranks 40th in 2021 Mercer CFS Global Pension Index survey; Top- Iceland

**India** has been ranked at **40th position** out of 43 countries in the **2021 Mercer CFS Global Pension Index survey**. **Iceland has topped** this ranking with an index value of 84.2. India had an overall index value of 43.3. **Thailand had the lowest** overall index value at 40.6.

In 2020, India was ranked at 34th position out of 39 pension systems.

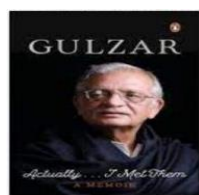


## Indian Fencer Bhavani Devi wins Charlellville National Competition in France

Indian Fencer **Bhavani Devi** has won the **Charlellville National Competition in France** in the individual **women's sabre event**. Bhavani Devi is currently ranked 50th in the world and is the top-ranked fencer

from India.

## Gulzar pens book titled "Actually... I Met Them: A Memoir"



Legendary Indian poet-lyricist-director **Gulzar** has come out with his new book title **"Actually... I Met Them: A Memoir"**. In a memoir published by the publishing group Penguin Random House India. In this book, Gulzar has shared many interesting unknown facts about legends like Kishore Kumar, Bimal Roy, Ritwik Ghatak, Hrishikesh Mukherjee and Mahasweta Devi, among others.

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## International Chef's Day: 20 October



The **International Chefs Day** is observed every year on **20 October**. The day aims to celebrate and honour the noble profession and educate people around the world about eating healthy.

It is also the day for experienced chefs to pass on their knowledge and culinary skills to the next generation with a sense of pride and commitment. Theme of International Chefs Day 2021 campaign is **Healthy Food for the Future**. International Chefs Day was created by **Dr. Bill Gallagher**, a renowned chef and the former president of the **World Association of Chefs Societies** (World Chefs), in **2004**.

## World Osteoporosis Day: 20 October

The **World Osteoporosis Day (WOD)** is observed annually on **October 20**. The day aims to raise global awareness of the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis and metabolic bone disease. WOD is organized by the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF), by launch of a year-long campaign with a specific theme. In 2021 the Global WOD Campaign theme is **“Serve Up Bone Strength”**.