

## Current Affairs: 27-30.10.2021

### Mohd Azharuddin unveils world's largest cricket bat in Hyderabad

The President of Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) and former India captain **Mohd Azharuddin** inaugurated the **world's biggest cricket bat** on October 23, 2021 in Hyderabad, on the eve of the India-Pakistan ICC Men's T20 World Cup. The bat has been certified by the **Guinness Book of World Records** as the biggest cricket bat in the world. The unique bat has been designed by **Pernod Ricard India (P) Ltd** and has been fabricated by BSL Events.

It is made of **poplar wood**. The bat measures **56.10 feet long** and weighs nine tonnes or 9000 kg..

Currently the bat is placed for display on Tank Bund in Hyderabad till November 16, 2021, after which it shall be shifted at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium at Uppal for display.

### India's first Radio over Internet Protocol system for Major Ports inaugurated at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata



The **Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (SPM) in Kolkata** has become the first Major Indian Port to get a **Radio over Internet Protocol (ROIP) System**. The ROIP was inaugurated by Vinit Kumar, Chairman of SPM, on October 25, 2021.

ROIP system is a long range marine communication solution, to aid specially during storms and inclement weather..

Using ROIP mode of communication, the vessels at Sandheads can be directly communicated via Radio, from Kolkata.

The solution shall cover the entire Hugli river Estuary from Kolkata to Sandheads, and will have base stations at 4 Locations: Kolkata, Hugli point, Haldia and Sagar Pilot Station.

### India's first state-owned Wildlife DNA testing facility unveiled in Nagpur

India's **first state government-owned Wildlife DNA analysis laboratory** has been inaugurated at **Regional Forensic Science Laboratory (RFSL) in Nagpur, Maharashtra**.

Currently there are **two central government-owned Wildlife DNA laboratory**. These are located at **Dehradun and Hyderabad**.

The new facility will enable the authorities in Maharashtra to promptly get DNA reports of animals hit by man-wildlife conflict or menaces such as poaching, which until now, were sent to laboratories in Hyderabad or Dehradun for testing and authorities had to wait for months to get the report.

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## Culture Minister G.K Reddy launches Amrit Mahotsav Podcast

The **Union Minister for Culture and Tourism, Shri. G.K Reddy** launched the **Amrit Mahotsav Podcast**, as a part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebration by the ministry. The Amrit Mahotsav Podcast series (Zara Yaad Karo Qurbani) is a tribute to the Indian National Army (persons and movements), which significantly contributed to India's freedom struggle, some of which have remained untold and not found a place in the conventional storyline.

## India-UK conducts maiden Tri-Service exercise 'Konkan Shakti 2021'

The Armed Forces of **India and the United Kingdom (UK)** are undertaking the sea phase of the maiden **Tri-Service exercise 'Konkan Shakti 2021'** off the Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea from October 24 to 27, 2021.

The harbour phase of the seven-day exercise was held in Mumbai from October 21 to 23, 2021.

The exercise Konkan Shakti 2021 aims at further strengthening the co-operation between the two countries.

## FM Nirmala Sitharaman virtually attends 6th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of AIIB

The **Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman** participated in the **6th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** through video conference from New Delhi on October 26, 2021. The theme of the Annual Meeting of AIIB was **"Investing Today and Transforming Tomorrow"**.

This year the meeting was jointly organized by AIIB in collaboration with the **Government of United Arab Emirates (UAE)**.

The basic objective of the annual meet is to take key decisions on important matters relating to AIIB, and its future vision.

The Finance Minister of India shared her thoughts on the theme "COVID-19 Crisis and Post-COVID Support", during the Governor's Roundtable Discussion.

## India and ADB inks \$4.5 million project readiness financing loan to support urban mobility in Mizoram

The Government of India and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** have signed a **\$4.5 million** project readiness financing (PRF) loan on October 26, 2021, for the proposed Aizawl Sustainable Urban Transport Project.

The project will support preparation and design activities to improve **urban mobility in Aizawl**, the capital city of the northeastern state of Mizoram.

## Disarmament Week 2021: October 24 to 30

The **Disarmament Week** begins every year on **October 24**, the anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, and continue till **October 30**. The annual observance seeks to promote the awareness and understanding of issues of disarmament in several countries and their cross-cutting importance..

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The week long celebration aims to reduce the use of weapons, specifically nuclear weapons, to bring peace in the society.

The observance of disarmament week was initiated by the United Nations. It was first suggested in the Final Document of the UN General Assembly's special session on disarmament in 1978.

## Vigilance Awareness Week 2021 : October 26 to November 01

The **Vigilance Awareness Week 2021** has been organised by the **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)** from **26 October to 01 November, 2021**. The annual event is celebrated during the week in which the **birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** falls, which is held on October 31.

Theme 2021: '**Independent India @75: Self Reliance with Integrity**'

The week long celebration aims to promote integrity, transparency and accountability amongst public servants and create awareness about existence, causes and gravity of corruption and the threat posed by it to the society as a whole.

## World Day for Audiovisual Heritage: 27 October

The **World Day for Audiovisual Heritage** is held every year on **27 October, 2021**. Theme: "**Your Window to the World**". The day was chosen by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) in 2005 to raise awareness of the significance and preservation risks of recorded sound and audiovisual documents.

## PM Modi addresses 16th East Asia Summit virtually

Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the **16th East Asia Summit (EAS)** through video conference on October 27, 2021, during which he re-affirmed India's focus on a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific and the principle of ASEAN Centrality in the region. The 16th EAS was hosted under the Chairmanship of **Brunei**. This was the **7th East Asia Summit for Prime Minister Modi**.

The Summit ended with the adoption of **three Statements** by EAS leaders, which includes, Mental Health, Economic recovery through Tourism and Sustainable Recovery. Established in **2005**, the East Asia Summit is the premier leader-led forum in the Asia-Pacific region to deal with issues relating to security and defence for the strategic, geopolitical and economic evolution of East Asia.

The members of EAS includes 10 ASEAN member states, and India, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the United States and Russia.

## Centre to set up two container-based mobile hospitals with 100 beds in Delhi and Chennai

The Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has announced that up **two container-based mobile hospitals** with all healthcare facilities is planned to be set up under the PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission.

The hospital will be **first of its kind in Asia**. The unique feature of the hospitals will be that they can be rushed to any place, by rail or air to address a health emergency.

The two hospitals will be placed in **Delhi and Chennai**.

They would have 100 beds each and each hospital unit would have 33 containers for emergency medical care.



## India becomes world's first large electricity market to implement Green Day Ahead Market exclusively for renewable energy

The Union Minister of Power & New and Renewable Energy, Shri R K Singh, launched a new market segment, **“Green Day Ahead Market (GDAM)”** on October 25, 2021.

This makes India as the only large electricity market in the world to implement a GDAM exclusively for renewable energy.

The new initiative will open the renewable energy sector to enable anyone to set up the capacity and sell it to distribution companies and industries.

Meanwhile, the electricity generation and distribution companies will be able to buy or sell renewable energy through open access.

GDAM will provide competitive price signals and offer an opportunity to the market participants to trade in green energy in the most transparent, flexible and efficient manner.

## India successfully test-fires surface-to-surface ballistic missile Agni-5

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) carried successful test-firing of **surface-to-surface ballistic missile Agni-5** on October 27, 2021 from **APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha**. Agni-5 is a nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), which uses a three-stage solid-fuelled engine.

The missile can strike targets at ranges up to 5,000 km with a very high degree of accuracy

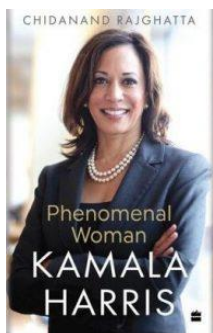
## ADB and India sign \$251 million loan for Integrated Urban Flood Management in Chennai

The **Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB)** have signed **\$251-million loan** for climate-resilient, integrated urban flood protection and management in the **Chennai–Kosasthalaiyar** basin to strengthen the resilience of Chennai city to floods.

Building disaster-resilient infrastructure will help residents of Chennai–Kosasthalaiyar basin to cope with intensifying rainfall, a higher sea level rise, and a storm surge caused by cyclones, and protect lives, economy, and the environment.

## Biography titled “Kamala Harris: Phenomenal Woman” written by Chidanand Rajghatta released

US-based Indian journalist and author **Chidanand Rajghatta** has come out with the biography of US Vice President Kamala Harris titled **“Kamala Harris: Phenomenal Woman”**.



The biography has been published by HarperCollins Publishers India. The new book focus on the life and times of Kamala Harris and celebrate her Asian and Jamaican heritage, with special focus on her India connect, and her journey as a woman of colour coming to occupy one of the highest offices in the USA.

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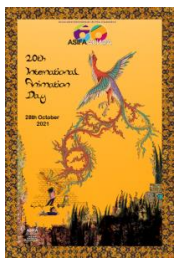
## Indian Army Celebrates 75th Infantry Day in 2021

Every year, **October 27** is celebrated as **Infantry Day** by the Indian Army across the country, to honour the supreme sacrifice of the gallant soldiers in fighting the Pakistani invaders, in Jammu and Kashmir, in 1947.

October 27, 2021 marks the **75th Infantry Day** on October 27, 2021.

Infantry Day is celebrated as a remembrance of the first military event of independent India, when the First Battalion of the Sikh Regiment of Indian Army fought battle to accomplish victory over the first attack on the Indian soil by the Pakistan Army and Lashkar invader on October 27, 1947, in the Kashmir valley, who tried to grab J&K.

## International Animation Day: 28 October



The **International Animation Day** is observed every year on **October 28** to celebrate the art of animation and also recognise the artists, scientists and technicians behind animation.

The day was created in 2002 by **ASIFA, an International Animated Film Association, a member of UNESCO.**

2021 marks the **20th International Animation Day.**

## Karnataka tops State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2020

**Karnataka** state has topped the **State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2020.** Rajasthan is on second rank followed by Haryana on third.

State Energy Efficiency Index is released by **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE).**

Last year i.e in SEEI 2019 ranking, Rajasthan was on top.

## NITI Aayog Releases Report on 'Health Insurance for India's Missing Middle'

**NITI Aayog** has released a comprehensive report titled **"Health Insurance for India's Missing Middle"**, on October 29, 2021. The report highlights the gaps in the health insurance coverage across the country and offers solutions to address the situation.

The report has a Foreword by NITI Aayog Member Dr V.K. Paul. The report has stated that 30% of the Indian population are devoid of health insurance, and has termed them as the "missing middle"

## Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launches 6th edition of National Formulary of India (NFI)

The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya launched the **6th edition of National Formulary of India (NFI)** on October 28, 2021.

NFI is published by **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC).**

The main purpose of NFI is to promote rational use of medicines in the country and proves to be beneficial for Clinicians and Healthcare professionals while prescribing the medicines to the patients.

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## Maharashtra becomes first state launch its own Wildlife Action Plan

Maharashtra has become the first state in the country to release its own **Wildlife Action plan (2021-30)**. The new plan will be a guiding document to frame an action plan for wildlife conservation over the next 10 years. The Wildlife Action plan (2021-30) recognises concerns about climate change impacts on wildlife, coastal ecosystems, marine biodiversity, flora and fauna.

## Facebook Inc. Rebrands Corporate name as 'Meta'

Mark Zuckerberg-owned **Facebook Inc** has changed the corporate name of the world's largest social media platform to "Meta" to "reflect its emphasis on building the metaverse vision". However, the names of the flagship social network will remain the same. With the change in the name, **'Meta Platforms, Inc.** will henceforth be called as the parent organisation of Facebook and its subsidiaries (Instagram, Messenger, Whatsapp, Oculus, Workplace, etc.)

The term "Meta" is taken from a Greek word which means "beyond" and reflects the futuristic motive.

## Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar addresses National Conference on 'International Year of Fruits and Vegetables'

The Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare **Shri Narendra Singh Tomar** addressed a National Conference on "**International Year of Fruits and Vegetables**" on October 29, 2021.

The conference was organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare in collaboration with the **United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**.

It was held to commemorate **2021** as the **International Year of Fruits and Vegetables**, as declared by United Nations Organization.

The theme for International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021 is "**Awareness about the nutritional benefits of fruits and vegetables for balanced and healthy diet and life style.**"

## Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurates 14th Urban Mobility Conference 2021

The **14th edition of Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference 2021** was held through video-conferencing on October 29, 2021.

The conference was inaugurated by Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs & Petroleum and Natural Gas **Shri Hardeep S. Puri** from New Delhi.

The theme of the day long Conference "**Mobility for All**".

It was held under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Objective: provide an opportunity to decision makers and delegates to interact with professionals, experts, academia, industry, civil society, technology, services providers and other stake holders in Urban Transport, both domestic and international, to develop their urban transport along a sustainable path, as well as discuss key issues relevant to the sector and suggest measures to address them.



## SC forms 3-member independent expert committee to probe Pegasus snooping; Head- RV Raveendran

The Supreme Court has set up a **three-member independent expert committee** to investigate into allegations of using **Israeli spyware 'Pegasus'** for surveillance of Indian citizens

The expert committee will be led by former SC judge RV Raveendran

Other two member of the committee are Alok Joshi and Dr Sundeep Oberoi.

The expert committee will supervise the functioning of the technical committee, which is formed to look into the truth or falsity of the allegations of snooping on journalists, activists, politicians, etc, using the Israeli Pegasus spyware.

The members of the technical committee are: Dr Naveen Kumar Chaudhary, Dr Prabakaran P, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, and Dr Ashwin Anil Gumaste

## Government approves reappointment of Shaktikanta Das as Governor of RBI for three-year term

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the reappointment of Shaktikanta Das as the Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a further period of **three years** with effect from **December 10, 2021**.

Mr. Das assumed the charge as the 25th governor of RBI on December 12, 2018 for three years.

Before his appointment at RBI, Das served as a member of the 15th Finance Commission.

Mr. Das is a 1980 batch Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officer from Tamil Nadu cadre.

## Netherlands all-rounder Ryan ten Doeschate announces retirement from international cricket

**Netherlands all-rounder Ryan ten Doeschate** has announced his retirement from **international cricket** on October 28, 2021. The 41-year-old has played in 33 ODIs and 24 T20s for the Netherlands.