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OCTOBER – 2020

COVID – 19 NEWS

3D Atomic Map of Novel Coronavirus Replication Mechanism	In the coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2 is an enzyme called the main protease , which drives its replication once it infects the human cell. For the first time, scientists have completed a 3D map that reveals the location of every atom in the molecule of this enzyme.
ANTISERA	Biological E, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research, has developed highly purified antisera that can be used in prevention and treatment of COVID-19.
AZD7442	Swedish-British drug giant AstraZeneca said it was moving an antibody combination developed for Covid-19 treatment into late-stage human trials.
Muslin fabric	Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has launched two-layered "Happy Diwali" printed face masks made of pure Muslin fabric , a high quality and ultra-fine cotton fabric handmade by traditional Khadi artisans of West Bengal.
United Against CORONA-Express through Art: global art competition	A six year old Bangladeshi boy Anzar Mustaeen Ali won a special prize of USD 1000 for his artwork in the global art competition organised by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR).
COVIRAP	Indian Council of Medical Research has approved a new low-cost Covid-19 diagnostic method named COVIRAP , developed by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur.
TOCILIZUMAB	A recent study suggests that the drug tocilizumab may not prevent mortality in Covid-19 patients.
Monoclonal Antibodies for Covid-19	The International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) and Serum Institute of India (SII), Pune announced an agreement with Merck, a science and technology company, to develop SARS-CoV-2 neutralising monoclonal antibodies (mAbs), which will be used to address the Covid-19 pandemic.
Work From Home And Air Pollution	Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit (ECIU) said that the some areas in the UK could experience greater levels of air pollution due to large numbers of people working from home due to the pandemic this winter season.



TAMIL NADU

- 1) **ISRO Chairman Kailasavadivoo Sivan** awarded the **2020 Allan D. Emil Memorial Award** given by International Astronautical Congress (IAC)
- 2) The Central government has nominated **VM Katoch**, President of JIPMER in Puducherry, as the **President of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)** to be established in Thoppur in the district.
- 3) CM Edappadi K. Palaniswami has launched the '**Namadhu-Arasu**' portal. This portal is created with help of the **National e-Governance Division**, Government of India.
- 4) CM Edappadi K. Palaniswami unveiled a **Jallikattu statue (portraying a bull and a tamer)** in Kamaraj Nagar in **Viralimalai**
- 5) CM Edappadi K. Palaniswami has launched the **“One Nation One Ration card”** in the Tamil Nadu
- 6) CM Edappadi K. Palaniswami has launched **the new solid waste management system for Chennai**
- 7) **Fortified rice scheme** is being implemented in **Tiruchirapalli** from October 1 for all ration card holders in the district. **Rice is fortified with iron, folic acid and Vitamin B12 to make it nutritious**
- 8) **Tamil Nadu** ranked 1st place in the Blood donation
- 9) The **restoration process of seagrasses** has been taken up by Tamil Nadu government in the **Gulf of Mannar**.
- 10) **Governor Banwarilal Purohit** gave the assent an order **to provide 7.5 percent reservation in medical colleges**



NATIONAL

- 1) Union Health Minister said that the aim of the government is to make India **Trans Fat free by 2022**, a year ahead of target set by World Health Organization
- 2) **Meri Saheli: Indian Railways** has launched “Meri Saheli” initiative **to provide safety and security to lady passengers travelling by trains for their entire journey from starting station to destination station.**
- 3) **Child Care Leave:** The Union Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions said that the **male employees of the government** are also **now entitled to Child Care Leave.**
- 4) The **Gujarat High Court** has become the **first Court to live stream judicial proceedings on YouTube channel.**
- 5) **Punjab** became the **first State in the country to formally reject the Central government’s three Farm Acts** by passing three Bills to negate the Union laws.
- 6) **Uttar Pradesh government** has secured the **first rank in central government's the PM Atmanirbhar Nidhi Scheme (SVANidhi Scheme)** by approving the highest number of loans under the scheme in the country.
- 7) The Prime Minister Narendra Modi **launched the world's longest temple ropeway project at Girnar in Junagadh, Gujarat**
- 8) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has launched the ‘**Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM)**’ under Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (SCs) with a view **to promoting innovation and enterprise among SC students studying in higher educational institutions.**
- 9) The Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated various projects **under Integrated Development of Kevadia in Gujarat.** He inaugurated **Arogya Van and Arogya Kutir.** He also inaugurated the **Ekta Mall, and Children Nutrition Park.**
- 10) The Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged-off of the **“Ekta Cruise Service to the Statue of Unity”**
- 11) The Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **Sardar Patel Zoological Park and Geodesic Aviary Dome in Kevadia, Gujarat.**



- 12) **India's 1st Seaplane Project:** The seaplane services in Gujarat, connecting **Sabarmati River in Ahmedabad to the Statue of Unity in Kevadia in Narmada district**, inaugurated on October 31, the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- 13) The Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation the World's longest Highway tunnel **"Atal Tunnel"**
- 14) **Chemicals and Fertilizers Ministry** has revised the **Production Linked Incentive Schemes** for promoting domestic manufacturing of bulk drugs and medical devices.
- 15) India's 1st ever **multi-modal logistic park** to be set up in **Assam**
- 16) **Goa** has become the 1st **Har Ghar Jal State** in the country by **providing tap water connection to every rural household**.
- 17) **Indian Oil** has started a common number **(7718955555)** 24x7 for the customers for **Indane LPG refill booking** across the country for customer convenience.
- 18) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, CCEA approved **Mechanism for procurement of ethanol** by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies under **Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme**.
- 19) The Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the **construction of 66 MW Dhaulasidh Hydro Project** at Hamirpur, **Himachal Pradesh**.
- 20) **Amendment Related to Land in Jammu and Kashmir:** The Centre notified that the **'Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of Central Laws) Third Order, 2020'**, which states that **any Indian citizen can now buy land in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)** without being a domicile.
- 21) **National Productivity Council (NPC)** has been granted accreditation conforming to ISO 17020:2012 by National Accreditation Board for Certification Body (NABCB), Quality Council of India (QCI) for undertaking inspection and audit work in the area of Food Safety Audit and Scientific Storage of Agricultural Products.
- 22) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved **the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP)** Phase II & Phase III with the financial assistance of the World Bank (WB) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).



- 23) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved that **100% of the food-grains and 20% of the sugar shall be mandatorily packed in diversified jute bags.**
- 24) **Uttar Pradesh** government has launched a **6-month long women empowerment campaign 'Mission Shakti'** to raise awareness and tackle crime against women in the state.
- 25) Union Education Minister launched the '**KAPILA**' (**Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness**) campaign
- 26) CSIR and KPIT successfully ran trials of **India's first Hydrogen Fuel Cell (HFC) prototype car** running on an indigenously developed fuel cell stack at CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory, Pune.
- 27) Union Minister for Science & Technology inaugurated the **"DBT-BIRAC Clean Tech Demo Park"** at Barapullah drain site in Sarai Kale Khan, New Delhi.
- 28) The National Institute of Oceanography will carry out the **translocation of 18 coral colonies from the coast of Mumbai** for the Mumbai Coastal Road Project.
- 29) The central government has extended the **Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Scheme** to **Arunachal Pradesh**, with effect from 1st November, 2020.
- 30) The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has declared that the environmental clearance (EC) granted to the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project in Telangana.
- 31) The **Rajasthan government** has decided to **build temporary shelters for migratory birds** near the Sambhar Lake (near Jaipur) before 2020's winter season.



INTERNATIONAL

- 1) **Japan** to Achieve **Zero Carbon Emissions By 2050**
- 2) **India and the United States** signed the **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)**.
- 3) **Sudan** became the third Arab nation in recently to normalise relations with Israel, days after the US removed it from its State Sponsor of Terrorism list.
- 4) **Chinese foreign ministry** said that the **not to recognize Hong Kong BNO passports** as valid travel documents.
- 5) The **Russian President** has proposed extending by one year the **New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) between the USA and Russia** expiring in February 2021.
- 6) The **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** decided to keep **Pakistan on its "grey list"**, saying that the country has failed to act on six key mandates. The FATF urged Pakistan to complete an internationally agreed action plan by February 2021.
- 7) Indian Ministry of Earth Sciences dedicated **Flash Flood Guidance services**, first of its kind for South Asian countries namely India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.
- 8) **Australia has agreed to join the Malabar Exercise** on India's request. The exercise is scheduled to be held in November 2020.
- 9) **Bahrain and Israel** are signing a joint communique on the **establishment of diplomatic, peaceful and friendly relations**
- 10) **Pakistan** has been re-elected to the **United Nations Human Rights Council despite opposition from activist groups over its abysmal human rights records.**



ECONOMICS

- 1) Global energy majors have called on the **Government of India to bring natural gas under the GST regime** at the India energy Forum
- 2) **Reserve Bank of India** will conduct its **first-ever Open Market Operation (OMO)** purchase of State Developments Loans (SDLs)
- 3) **European Forest Institute (EFI)** published the **10-point Action Plan** for a Circular Bioeconomy of Wellbeing.
- 4) The World Bank Group and the World Trade Organization (WTO) jointly published a report titled **“Women and Trade: The Role of Trade in Promoting Women’s Equality”**

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

SUMMITS / CONFERENCES	PURPOSE / THEME / OUTCOME	PLACE / By
2nd India - Central Asia Dialogue	Foreign Ministers of India, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as well as First Deputy Foreign Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic participated in the meeting.	
3rd INDIA - US 2+2 MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE	Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement between the Ministry of Defence, Government of India and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Department of Defence of United States of America.	
National Conference on Vigilance and Anti-Corruption	THEME: “Vigilant India, Prosperous India”	
India Energy Forum	India is an important player in the global Oil and gas sector being the 3rd largest consumer of crude oil and the 4th largest LNG importer.	By NITI Aayog and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
Vaishvik Vaigyanik Summit Bhartiya (VAIBHAV)	The aim of the summit is to bring out a comprehensive roadmap leveraging the expertise and knowledge of global Indian researchers for addressing emerging challenges for universal development.	Inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Global Virtual Summit on Artificial Intelligence (AI), RAISE 2020	RAISE 2020 is a first of its-kind, global meeting of minds on Artificial Intelligence to drive India's vision for social transformation through responsible AI.	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and NITI Aayog
UN Biodiversity Summit	THEME: "Urgent action on biodiversity for sustainable development."	

SCHEMES / YOJANAS

SCHEMES / YOJANAS	PURPOSE / Why in News?	MINISTRY / CABINET / STATE
Kisan Suryodaya Yojana	Providing 16 hours of power supply to farmers (5 AM to 9 PM).	Gujarat
AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR	To assist cooperatives to play an important role in creation of healthcare infrastructure in the country.	Union Minister for Agriculture
Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana	For the promotion of art and culture in the country.	Ministry of Culture
Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna	To provide a one-time cure opportunity for Haemoglobinopathies like Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Disease for patients who have a matched family donor.	Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare
Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana	electric pottery wheels distributed to 100 potter families	Maharashtra
Ghar Tak Fibre scheme	Aims to connect all 45,945 villages of Bihar with high-speed optical fibre internet by 31 st March 2021	Bihar

DEFENCE & SPACE

DEFENCE & SPACE	PURPOSE	COUNTRY / STATE / ORGANIZATION
ISRO's Venus mission	ISRO is all set to launch its Venus Mission in 2025 along with participation from French Space Agency CNES (The National Centre for Space Studies).	
Integrated Theatre Command	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ As part of defence reforms after the appointment of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), the government is working on the formation of integrated theatre commands. ✓ An integrated theatre command is one that enables the pooling of resources of all three services under a single commander, towards securing a particular geographical area. 	
INS Kavaratti	Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) stealth inducted in the Indian Navy	Indian Navy
RUDRAM	India's first indigenous anti-radiation missile , Rudram, developed for the Indian Air Force, was successfully flight-tested from a Sukhoi-30 MKI jet	
BRAHMOS	The supersonic cruise missile was successfully test fired from Indian Navy's indigenously-built stealth destroyer INS Chennai	
Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM)	The indigenously developed laser-guided version of the Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) was successfully test fired	DRDO
Stand-off Anti-tank (SANT) Missile	India successfully test-fired the Stand-off Anti-tank (SANT) Missile. The missile is said to have a range of between 15 and 20km	DRDO
Shaurya Missile	A successful trial of the nuclear capable Shaurya missile was conducted	DRDO
ASTEROID BENNU	Spacecraft touched asteroid Bennu, from where it is meant to collect samples of dust and pebbles and deliver them back to Earth in 2023	NASA's OSIRIS-REx
Supersonic Missile	Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART)	



Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART)	has been successfully flight tested	
ICGS Kanaklata Barua	A Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) named ICGS Kanaklata Barua was commissioned in the Indian Coast Guard	

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NEW DISCOVERIES	PURPOSE	PLACE / BY
SERB - POWER (Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research)	To mitigate gender disparity in science and engineering research in various S&T programs. Designed exclusively for women scientists.	Government of India
Facial recognition system	Enable students to download their digital academic documents of classes 10, 12.	Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)
TUBARIAL SALIVARY GLANDS	The newly discovered glands are about 1.5 inches (3.9 centimeters) in length on average and are located over a piece of cartilage called the torus tubarius.	Scientists in the Netherlands
MACS-6478	A new wheat variety MACS-6478 is helping farmers in a village in Maharashtra to double their yield.	Scientists from Agharkar Research Institute
Superconductivity at Room Temperature	Researchers have created a material that is superconducting at room temperature, however, it only works at a pressure of 267 Gigapascals (GPa) , which is equivalent to about three-quarters of pressure at the centre of Earth (360 GPa)	



ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

SPECIES / ENVIRONMENT	TYPE / PURPOSE	PLACE / BY
Two New Ramsar Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Kabartal Wetland (Bihar) and Asan Conservation Reserve (Uttarakhand) ✓ The total number of Ramsar sites in India is 39 	
Indus Suture Zone (ISZ)	The suture zone of the Himalayas or the Indus Suture Zone (ISZ) in the Ladakh region where Indian and Asian Plates are joined has been found to be tectonically active	Himalayas
AENIGMACHANNA GOLLUM	A 100 million-year-old fish has been discovered in Kerala which is named after the dark and conflicted character of JRR Tolkien's epic saga movie 'Lord of the Rings' .	Kerala
Lost River Of Thar Desert	Researchers have found the evidence of a "lost" river that ran through the central Thar Desert, near Bikaner , as early as 172 thousand years ago, and may have been a life-line to human populations enabling them to inhabit the region.	Rajasthan
YELLOW DUST	North Korean authorities have urged citizens to remain indoors to avoid contact with a mysterious cloud of 'yellow dust' blowing in from China , which they have warned could bring Covid-19 with it.	North Korea
asafoetida (Heeng) cultivation	CSIR-IHBT makes history by introducing asafoetida (Heeng) cultivation in Indian Himalayan region .	CSIR-IHBT
Furry puss caterpillar	The highly venomous caterpillar	USA
Brahma Kamal Flower	The rare Brahma Kamal, the only flower known to bloom after sunset and just once a year, has been spotted in the higher reaches of the Himalayas	Uttarakhand
Pipeworts (Eriocaulon)	2 new species of Pipeworts discovered	Western Ghats
Pakur Honey	100% natural honey which is Multi Floral and Forest Fresh	Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda

Zombie Fire	The fire regimes in the Arctic are changing rapidly, with 'zombie fires' becoming more frequent in addition to fires occurring in the once-frozen tundra.	In Tundra Region
Ursus arctos isabellinus	Recently, a study conducted by scientists of the Zoological Survey of India on the Himalayan brown bear (<i>Ursus arctos isabellinus</i>) has predicted a significant reduction in suitable habitat and biological corridors of the Himalayan brown bear due to climate change.	Zoological Survey of India
Chinese pink dolphins	Chinese pink dolphins are making a comeback in the Pearl River Estuary (b/w Hong Kong & China).	
Madhuca diplostemon tree	adhuca diplostemon tree has been rediscovered after a gap of more than 180 years from a sacred grove in Kollam district, Kerala.	Kerala
Xoo infection	Scientists from the Centre for Plant Molecular Biology (CPMB) have uncovered the mechanism by which a bacterium called Xoo interacts with rice plants and causes disease.	
Fishing Cat	Fishing Cat as ambassador of Chilika Lake, Odisha	Chilika Development Authority
Aquaponics	Aquaponics is a combination of aquaculture, which is growing fish and other aquatic animals , and hydroponics	Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)

REPORTS / INDICES

INDEX	PURPOSE / RELEASED BY	INDIA's / TN's RANKING	TOP RANKING
Global Hunger Index 2020	International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)	94	China



MILITARY EXERCISES

SLINEX-20	Annual Indian Navy & Sri Lanka Navy bilateral maritime exercise
EXERCISE SURAKSHA KAVACH	a Joint Anti-Terrorist Exercise for both Indian Army and Maharashtra Police
Exercise Bongosagar	Indian Navy & Bangladesh Navy

CYCLONE

Typhoon Molave	Vietnam
Hurricane Delta	USA

APPS & PORTALS

“Secure Application for Internet (SAI) App	Indian Army has developed a simple and secure messaging application named the “Secure Application for Internet (SAI)”.
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APPOINTMENTS & PERSONS IN NEWS

PERSONS	POSITION / DESIGNATION
M. Rajeshwar Rao	RBI Deputy Governor
Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha	new Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of India



NEWLY APPOINTED PRESIDENT / PRIME MINISTER

Jacinda Ardern	Prime Minister of New Zealand
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AWARDS

AWARD	PERSON / Organization
Dr. Tulsi Das Chugh Award-2020	Dr Satish Mishra
Kerala	UN Award for Performance in Non-Communicable Diseases

The NOBEL PRIZE 2020		
Field	Laureates	Contributions
Physics	Roger Penrose	for the discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity
	Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez	for the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy
Chemistry	Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna	for the development of a method for genome editing
Physiology or Medicine	Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton and Charles M. Rice	for the discovery of Hepatitis C virus
Literature	Louise Glück	for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal
Nobel Peace Prize	World Food Programme (WFP)	for its efforts to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict.
The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences	Paul R. Milgrom and Robert B. Wilson	for improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats

COMMITTEE's

Harish Kumar Committee	Election Commission of India (ECI) has constituted a committee comprising Harish Kumar and Umesh Sinha, +to examine the issues concerning expenditure limit for a candidate.
Ravi Chopra Committee	Alleged violations of the court orders in the execution of the Chardham road project, a 900 km, ₹12,000 crore enterprises to connect pilgrimage spots in Uttarakhand.

IMPORTANT DAYS

DAYS	EVENTS	THEMES/ SIGNIFICANCE
October 1	World Postcard Day	The first ever World Postcard Day was celebrated
	International Day of Older Persons	
October 2	International Day of Non-Violence	The Day is observed on 2 October, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence.
October 5	World Habitat Day	THEME: "Housing For All — A Better Urban Future"
October 7	World Cotton Day	
October 9	World Post Day	
October 10	World Migratory Bird Day	THEME: "Birds Connect Our World"
	World Mental Health Day	
October 11	International Day of the Girl Child	THEME: "My voice, our equal future"
October 12	World Arthritis Day	THEME: "Time2Work"
October 15	Global Handwashing Day	THEME: "Hand Hygiene for All"
	International Day of Rural Women	THEME: "Building rural women's resilience in the wake of COVID-19"



October 16	World Food Day	THEME: "Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together"
October 17	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	THEME: "Acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all"
October 20	World Osteoporosis Day	THEME: "THAT'S OSTEOPOROSIS"
	World Statistics Day	THEME: "Connecting the world with data we can trust"
October 21	Police Commemoration Day	
October 23	International Snow Leopard Day	
October 24	World Polio Day	THEME: "A win against polio is a win for global health"
	World Development Information Day	THEME: "Information and Communications Technologies — New Solutions to Development Challenges"
	United Nations Day	
October 27	World Day for Audiovisual Heritage	THEME: "Your Window to the World"
October 31	National Unity Day	The day is also observed as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas across the country in paying tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary

- ✓ **Vigilance Awareness Week:** 27th October to 2nd November 2020
- ✓ **Wild Life Week:** 1st October to 8th October 2020
- ✓ **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched Decade of Healthy Ageing (2020-2030) on International Day for Older Persons (1st October).**