



## CURRENT AFFAIRS 20th October 2021

### National News

#### 1. PM Modi inaugurates Kushinagar International Airport in Uttar Pradesh



- The Prime Minister inaugurated the Kushinagar International Airport in Uttar Pradesh today.
- On the Occasion, Mr.Modi said that the holy land of Kushinagar is now connected with the world.
- He said that India is committed to develop the regions related to Buddhism and is working continuously to provide better connectivity to these holy places.
- Under the UDAN scheme, approval to over 900 routes has been provided and on more than 350 of these routes, the air service has become operational.
- Mr.Modi said that over 50 airports which were not operational earlier have started functioning.
- After this launch, he will participate in an event at Mahaparinirvana Temple, marking Abhidhamma Day.
- Abhidhamma Day symbolises the end of three-month rainy retreat called “Varshavaas or Vassa”. This rainy retreat is observed by the Buddhist Monks. During this period, monks stay at one place in vihara & monastery for offering prayer.

## 2. Earth Sciences Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launches Air Quality Early Warning System



- Earth Sciences Minister Dr Jitendra Singh has launched Air Quality Early Warning System on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav week.
- Speaking on the occasion, Dr Singh said that the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology has developed a new Decision Support System and extended the ability of the existing air quality early warning system to have decision-making capability for air quality management.
- A dedicated website has been created to deliver quantitative information about the contribution of emissions from Delhi and the surrounding 19 districts to the air quality in Delhi.

### 3. HM Amit Shah flags off Modi Van under 'Seva Hi Sangathan' programme



- In order to celebrate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 20 years as an elected representative, which he did earlier this month, Union Home Minister Amit Shah is going to flag off 'Modi Van' on Tuesday under the BJP's 'Seva hi Sangathan' programme.
- Modi Vans are vehicles that have a 32-inch TV and a high-speed internet service. These vans will be operated to broadcast PM Modi's monthly radio address 'Mann Ki Baat'.
- BJP has also set up a control office for the vans.
- Apart from that, speeches and public rallies of BJP leaders will be presented in the vans.
- People can also register for disability, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, and widow pension.

## International News

### 4. Ecuador: Emergency declared over crime wave



- **President of Ecuador, Guillermo Lasso, announced a 60-day state of emergency on October 19, 2021 because of rise in violent drug crimes.**
- **The announcement was made on the eve of a visit by US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken.**
- **Both the leaders are set to discuss questions of defence, security, and trade.**
- **With the announcement of state of emergency, soldiers in riot gear reached to reinforce authorities following the protest by street merchants.**
- **Spanish is the official language of Ecuador. It is spoken by majority of the population.**

## 5. Gita Gopinath will leave IMF



- Chief Economist and Director of the Research Department of International Monetary Fund (IMF), Gita Gopinath, will leave her job in January 2022.
- She will return to the prestigious Harvard University, after leaving the job.
- The Indian-American economist had joined the IMF in January 2019, as the Chief Economist.
- When she joined IMF, she was working as John Zwaanstra Professor of International Studies and Economics at Harvard University.
- She is the first-ever woman Chief Economist of the IMF

## 6. Alibaba launches new server chip based on advanced 5-nanometer tech



- Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. have launched a new server chip on the basis of advanced 5-nanometer technology.
- This marks a milestone in light of semiconductor self-sufficiency of China.
- The newest chip was launched on the basis of micro-architecture provided by SoftBank Group Corporation, it is owned Arm Ltd.
- Alibaba has customized the server chips is consistent with the ongoing efforts of boosting the computing capabilities with better performance and improved energy efficiency.
- Chips will be used to support current and future businesses in the Alibaba Group ecosystem

## 7. China launched 1st Solar Exploration Satellite



- China has successfully launched its 1st solar exploration satellite into space from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in northern Shanxi Province aboard a Long March-2D rocket.
- The satellite was named as 'Xihe' (Xihe is the goddess of the sun who created the calendar in ancient Chinese mythology), also known as the Chinese H<sub>a</sub> Solar Explorer (CHASE).
- China Capital: Beijing
- China Currency: Renminbi
- China President: Xi Jinping

## Index and Report

### 8. WHO Global TB report for 2021: India worst-hit country in TB elimination



- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has released the 'Global TB report for 2021, where it highlighted the effects of COVID-19 which led to a huge reversal in the progress of Tuberculosis (TB) elimination.
- The report also mentioned India as the worst-hit country in TB elimination, where the detection of new TB cases saw a huge impact in 2020.
- WHO Established- 7 April 1948
- WHO Director General- Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
- WHO Headquarters- Geneva, Switzerland



## 9. India ranks 40th in 2021 Mercer CFS Global Pension Index survey



- Mercer Consulting, a leading global management consulting firm, has released the 13th edition of the Mercer Global Pension Index (2021 MCGPI).
- India has been ranked at 40th position out of 43 countries in the 2021 Mercer CFS Global Pension Index survey. In 2020, India was ranked at 34th position out of 39 pension systems
- Iceland has topped this ranking with an index value of 84.2 followed by the Netherlands with 83.5 and Norway with 82.0.
- India had an overall index value of 43.3. Thailand had the lowest overall index value at 40.6. The 2021 MCGPI, has added 4 new retirement systems: Iceland, Taiwan, UAE and Uruguay.

## Books and Authors

### 10. 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.**

## Appointment

### 11. Amitabh Chaudhry reappointed Axis Bank CEO



- Amitabh had taken charge as Axis Bank's new MD and CEO in January 2019 after as outgoing MD and CEO Shikha Sharma retired, effective December 31, 2018. The extended three-year term will be effective from January 1, 2022.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the re-appointment of Amitabh Chaudhry as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of private lender Axis Bank for a period of three years.
- Axis Bank Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Axis Bank Founded: 3 December 1993, Ahmedabad

## Important Days

### 12. World Statistics Day: 20 October



- World Statistics Day is celebrated around the globe every year on 20 October to highlight the achievements of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.
- The United Nations Statistical Commission proposed celebrating 20 October 2010 as World Statistics Day.
- The General Assembly adopted on 3 June 2010 resolution 64/267, which officially designated 20 October 2010 as the first-ever World Statistics Day under the general theme “Celebrating the many achievements of official statistics.
- The main significance of world statistics day is that statistics make things easier and faster.
- Also, it gives a clear glimpse of your past and present status. World statistics day is celebrated every five-year plays a significant role in growth and development in all aspects of a country

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