



## CURRENT AFFAIRS 28th October 2021

### National News

#### 1. PM Modi approves reconstitution of Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the reconstitution of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).
- Noted economist Dr Bibek Debroy will be the Chairman of the seven-member Council. It has been constituted for a period of two years.
- The Council will analyze any issue, economic or otherwise, referred to it by the Prime Minister and advise him.
- It will also address issues of macroeconomic importance and present views thereon to the Prime Minister.

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



- **Surface to surface ballistic missile, Agni-5 was successfully launched from APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha yesterday. Agni-5 is capable of striking targets at ranges up to 5,000 kilometers with a very high degree of accuracy.**
- **It uses a three-stage solid-fuelled engine.**
- **The successful launch is in line with India's policy to have 'credible minimum deterrence' that underpins the commitment to 'No First Use'.**
- **The Agni missile is a family of medium to intercontinental range ballistic missiles developed by India, named after one of the five elements of nature.**
- **The first missile of the series, Agni-I was developed under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP) and tested in 1989.**

### 3. Govt to launch mega door-to-door vaccination drive - Har Ghar Dastak next month to speed up Covid inoculation



- Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya interacted with the Health Ministers of the States and UTs at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, Yesterday.
- The meeting discussed ramping up of COVID-19 vaccination drive and also PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission which was launched on Monday.
- Talking to media after the meeting , Health Minister said that the government is going to launch a mega vaccination campaign- Har Ghar Dastak with a view to speed up Covid -19 vaccination drive.
- Under the campaign for the next one month, healthcare workers in all the States will visit door-to-door to vaccinate people eligible for second dose and also those who have not taken the first dose.
- Mr Mandaviya said that 48 districts of the country have also been identified where the vaccination of the first dose is less than fifty per cent of the eligible population.

#### 4. Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya releases Krishi UDAN 2.0



- Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya released Krishi UDAN 2.0 today which lays out the vision of improving value realization through better integration and optimization of Agri-harvesting and air transportation.
- The scheme proposes to facilitate and incentivize the movement of Agri-produce by air transportation.
- The Minister said Krishi UDAN 2.0 is an example of the government's collaborative approach towards policymaking.
- The Krishi UDAN 2.0 will be implemented at 53 airports across the country mainly focusing on Northeast and tribal regions and is likely to benefit farmers, freight forwarders and Airlines.
- The Ministry of Civil Aviation plans to be pilot the scheme for 6 months, and, will introduce amendments based on the results of the evaluation and consultations with other stakeholders.

## 5. Union MSME Minister Launches “SAMBHAV” National Level Awareness Programme



- Union Minister of MSME Shri Narayan Rane has called for the engagement of the youth in promoting entrepreneurship leading to the economic development of the country.
- Launching “SAMBHAV”, a National Level Awareness Programme-2021 being organised by Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Government of India, in New Delhi today, he emphasized that new products and services created by budding entrepreneurs can give a cascading effect, for stimulating related businesses or sectors.
- Minister of State Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma stressed upon enhancing the GDP contribution from present 30 per cent to 50 per cent, and employment generation in MSME sector from 11 crore to 15 crore.
- He expressed hope that India will be the top economy of the world in future.

## 6. Centre notifies 4-year teacher education programme



- The Centre notified the four-year integrated teacher education programme (ITEP) — envisaged as the minimum degree qualification for school teachers under the National Education Policy 2020 — which will be offered by about 50 institutes across the country from the next academic year.
- Dual-major bachelor's degrees will be offered under ITEP, integrating basic BA and BSc degrees with BEd.
- The course will help students save a year — pursuing BEd after completing a bachelor's degree currently takes five years.
- The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) under the Ministry of Education has devised the curriculum of the course.
- The four-year ITEP will be available for all students who choose teaching as a profession after clearing school.

## 7. YouWeCan, Goa Govt Launch Initiative For Free Breast Cancer Screening



- Free breast cancer screening will be provided to 1 lakh women in Goa as part of the 'Swasth Mahila, Swasth Goa' initiative, which was launched by international cricketing icon and humanitarian
- Yuvraj Singh's YouWeCan Foundation in partnership with SBI Foundation and the state government, ensuring that 50% of the state's age-eligible female population is screened.
- Vishwajit P. Rane, Minister of Health, Women and Child Development, launched the programme on Wednesday at Goa Medical College and Hospital. Rane said, "I've been advocating for this effort for quite some time.

## 8. PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission

**PM AYUSHMAN BHARAT HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE MISSION**  
Largest Ever Scheme to Scale-up Health Infrastructure

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ensured a transformation in healthcare in the past seven years

Ayushman Bharat **PM-JAY** & Ayushman Bharat Health & Wellness Centers brought scale while Ayushman Bharat - Digital Mission brings technology to healthcare

“Every Indian deserves accessible, affordable and high-quality healthcare. We have worked to ensure this through multi-dimensional interventions.”  
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi

**Rs 64,000 crore**  
to be invested in building healthcare infrastructure

**PM AYUSHMAN BHARAT HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE MISSION**

**Multi-dimensional and Multi-modal Interventions**

- Focus on critical and primary care
- Network of 29,000 Health and Wellness Centers
- Specialized Critical Care Hospital Blocks in all districts with 37,000 beds, with ICUs, ventilators and oxygen support
- Over 4,000 Block & District level Public Health Units & Labs
- Full range of diagnostic services in all districts
- IT-enabled disease surveillance system

**Institutional Approach to Holistic Healthcare**

- National Institution for One Health
- 4 New National Institutes for Virology
- Regional Research Platform for WHO South East Asia Region
- 15 Biosafety Level 3 Labs
- 15 New Regional National Centre for Disease Control
- Public health units at 50 international entry points preventing public health emergencies and disease outbreaks

**A HEALTHY FUTURE BECKONS!**

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Know about PM Modi's transformative vision for healthcare in his own words by scanning this QR code

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission on October 25, 2021, in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- The mission was launched to improve the public health infrastructure in urban as well as rural areas.
- It will work in addition to the National Health Mission.
- This scheme is of worth Rs 5000-crore and is India's largest scheme launched to scale-up health infrastructure.
- The Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission was announced by PM. It is expected to extend support to 17,788 rural Health & Wellness Centres across 10 high focus states.
- Under the scheme, 11,024 urban Health & Wellness Centres will be established.

## 9. National Steering Committee for implementation of the NIPUN Bharat Mission



- It seeks to develop a methodology of assessment to analyze the progress of education and provide feedback to States/UTs. To achieve the goal of universal proficiency in foundational literacy and numeracy for every child by end of Class 3 by 2026-27.
- The Union Education Minister, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan will be the Chairperson of the NSC and Minister of State for Education, Smt. Annpurna Devi will be the Vice-Chairperson.
- Department of School Education and Literacy has constituted the National Steering Committee (NSC) for the implementation of the NIPUN Bharat Mission.

## 10. GAIL to build India's largest green hydrogen plant



State-owned GAIL (India) Ltd will build India's largest green hydrogen-making plant as it looks to supplement its natural gas business with carbon-free fuel.

GAIL Chairman and Managing Director Manoj Jain said the company is looking at building a 10-megawatt (MW) electrolyzer capable of generating 4.5 tonnes of green hydrogen daily.

The firm has already floated a global tender to buy the electrolyzer and is hoping to get delivery in 12-14 months. It will be double the size of the one announced by state electricity producer NTPC.

## 11. PM Modi to attend G-20 Leaders' Summit-2021



- At the two-day G-20 Summit, starting from October 30 in Italy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to direct a united global approach to deal with the situation in Afghanistan and combating challenges of climate change & covid-19 pandemic.
- The prime minister is set to travel Rome to attend 16th G-20 Summit and Glasgow to attend World Leaders' Summit of COP-26, from October 29 to November 2.
- Modi will participate in 16th G-20 Summit in Rome from October 30-31, accepting the invitation of Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi.
- Italy is holding the presidency of G-20 since December 2020.
- G-20 is a leading global forum that brings together the major economies of the world.
- Members of the grouping account for more than 80 per cent of the World's GDP, 60 percent of the world's population and 75 per cent of global trade.
- It holds meeting every year since 1999 and a yearly summit since 2008.
- G-20 has become a premier global forum for international economic cooperation.

## Appointments

### 12. Siddhartha Lal reappointed Eicher Motors MD



- Eicher Motors Ltd passed the resolution to reappoint Siddhartha Lal as the Managing Director of the company for five years, starting May 1, 2021.
- The board also approved a revised remuneration structure for the Managing Director, with a maximum cap of 1.5 per cent of profits as per Section 198 of the Companies Act.
- The proposal for reappointment was cleared with almost 93.8 per cent of the total 226 million votes casted going in favour of the resolution.

### 13. Indian-origin Leader becomes Canada's new Defence Minister



- On October 26, 2021, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau reshuffled his cabinet.
- He has appointed Indian-origin Canadian politician Anita Anand as new Defence Minister of Canada.
- Prime Minister reshuffled his cabinet after his Liberal Party returned to power in snap polls,
- Furthermore, there were calls for major military reforms. Public and political leaders are putting pressure on Canadian military to change its culture and create a system for preventing and managing sexual misconduct allegations.
- Anita Anand (54-year-old) will replace Indian-origin Harjit Sajjan.
- Harjit Sajjan is a long-term defence minister who was criticized for handling the military sexual misconduct crisis.
- Though, there are some reports that, Sajjan has been given charge as Minister of International Development Agency.

## Sports

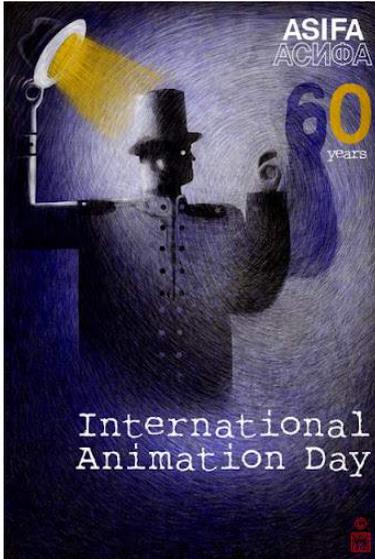
### 14. Emilia Romagna MotoGP: Marc Marquez wins as Yamaha's Fabio Quartararo seals championship



- Fabio Quartararo of Monster Energy Yamaha MotoGP is the 2021 MotoGP World Champion.
- After Ducati Lenovo Team's Francesco Bagnaia crashed out of the race lead in the closing stages of the Gran Premio Nolan del Made in Italy e dell'Emilia-Romagna, the title was decided as Repsol Honda Team's Marc Marquez emerged victorious, with Pol Espargaro securing his maiden podium with Honda.
- Enea Bastianini passed Quartararo on the last lap to bag his second podium of the season, but the day and year belongs to the Frenchman.

## Important days

### 15. International Animation Day: 28 October



- 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.
- This year marks the 20th International Animation Day.
- The day was created in 2002 by International Animated Film Association (ASIFA), an International Animated Film Association, a member of UNESCO.
- ASIFA Founder: John Halas.
- ASIFA Founded: 1960, Annecy, France
- President of ASIFA: Sayoko Kinoshita

## 16. CCI approves HDFC Bank's acquisition of 4.99% stake in HDFC ERGO



- Fair trade regulator CCI on Monday approved HDFC Bank's acquisition of 4.99 per cent shareholding in HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company.
- HDFC Bank had said its board has given approval to buy more than 3.55 crore shares in group firm HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company for over Rs 1,906 crore from the parent company Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC).
- HDFC Bank Headquarters: Mumbai
- HDFC Bank Founded: August 1994
- HDFC Bank CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan
- HDFC Bank Tagline: We understand your world.

## 17. IndiGo partners with Kotak Mahindra Bank to launch Ka-ching credit card



- Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMBL) and IndiGo airlines announced on October 25 that they have partnered to launch a co-branded credit card called Ka-ching under IndiGo's 6E rewards programme.
- The credit card will be launched in November 2021 and provide exclusive travel benefits to members.
- Available in two variants, 6E Rewards, and 6E Rewards XL, the new Ka-ching credit cards will provide varied benefits to card-holders both on domestic and international travel.
- Flyers will be able to earn additional 6E rewards on dining, shopping, transport, medical bills, utilities, fuel, and other major categories with feature partners of the 6E rewards programme.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Founded: 2003
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Kotak Mahindra Bank MD & CEO: Uday Kotak

## 18. India, ADB seal agreement on PRF loan to support urban mobility in Mizoram



- The Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$4.5 million project readiness financing (PRF) loan on October 26, 2021
- The loan agreement will support project preparation and design activities for improving urban mobility in capital city, Aizawl in the state of Mizoram.
- PRF supports the development of long-term solutions for improve urban mobility by identifying high-priority urban transport investments in Aizawl.
- It will help in ensuing project and enhancing its readiness by extending support to due diligence and preparatory activities.

## 19. US issues passport with 'X' gender marker



- The United States has issued its first passport with an “X” gender designation, marking a milestone in the recognition of the rights of people who do not identify as male or female, and expects to be able to offer the option more broadly next year, the State Department
- This step was taken following the fight of Dana Zzyym, who is an intersex activist from Fort Collins.
- Zzyym has battling legally with the US State Department since 2015 to get a passport that did not require Zzyym to lie about gender by selecting either male or female.
- Zzyym was born with ambiguous physical sexual characteristics but was raised as a boy.
- Zzyym underwent several surgeries that failed to make Zzyym appear fully male.

## 20. Glasgow to host COP-26 summit from Oct 31



**UN CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
UK 2021**

- The most critical climate change conference since the Paris Agreement, the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP-26) is to be hosted by United Kingdom in Glasgow from 31st of October to 12th of November.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to Rome and Glasgow from the 29th of this month to 2nd November to attend the 16th G-20 Summit and the World Leaders' Summit of COP-26.
- Mr Modi will participate in the 16th G-20 Summit in Rome from 30th and 31st October at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Italy Mario Draghi.
- The Summit will also be attended by Heads of State and Heads of Government of G-20 Member Countries, the European Union and other invited countries and International Organizations.

**By Sameer Singhal**