

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCT 20, 2019**

### **NATIONAL**

- **The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) – will be reviewed starting from the second week of November to submit the final proposal revamping the school education in the country**
- ✓ The National Council of Educational Research Training (NCERT) had submitted the proposal to the Ministry of HRD to complete the new curriculum framework by December 2020
- ✓ The NCF provides the basic framework for school syllabi and writing of textbooks, while providing guidelines on teaching practices
- ✓ Of the four NCFs released in 1975, 1988, 2000 and 2005, the final NCF removed focus from teachers to students to ensure ‘learning without burden’
  
- **Defence minister Rajnath Singh - has approved a proposal to admit girls in Sainik Schools from the 2021-'22 academic session in a phased manner.**
- ✓ The decision was taken after the success of the pilot project in which girls were admitted to the Sainik School in Mizoram’s Chhingchhip two years ago
- ✓ The 31 Sainik Schools in India provide 25% of the cadets selected for the National Defence Academy

### **INTERNATIONAL**

- **British Parliament – rejects the PM Boris Johnson’s Brexit proposal by 322 to 306 votes**
- ✓ The rejection will prompt the PM to request a postponement again with the EU till January 2020

## MORE CHAOS ON 'SUPER SATURDAY'

### WHAT HAPPENED?

MPs have supported a motion tabled by Independent MP Oliver Letwin that 'withholds approval' for British PM Boris Johnson's Brexit deal until legislation implementing it has been passed

### TORY REBEL WITH A CAUSE

**Oliver Letwin**, a former cabinet minister with a reputation as an unofficial fixer, was one of 21 Conservatives expelled from



the party in September for not supporting Johnson's pledge to leave the EU on October 31 with or without a deal



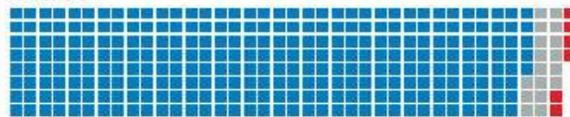
Thousands of Britons marched through London on Saturday to demand a new Brexit referendum and celebrated as lawmakers in parliament voted to postpone Britain's departure from the EU

### HOW LAWMAKERS VOTED?

The result of the Letwin amendment is that Johnson was robbed of a straight up-or-down vote on his Brexit deal

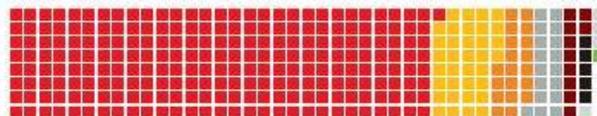
Against

**306**



For

**322**



■ Conservative ■ Labour ■ Scottish National Party ■ Liberal Democrat ■ Democratic Unionist Party ■ Plaid Cymru ■ Green Party  
■ Independent ■ TIG

### WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

➤ The vote means Johnson is obliged to write to the EU seeking a delay until January 31, 2020.

➤ Johnson is legally obliged to request a Brexit extension from the European Union if he can't pass his plan by 11pm BST (3.30am IST). While he did not explicitly refuse to send a letter to EU requesting the delay – as an earlier law passed by his opponents demands – he said he would not negotiate

**'I will not negotiate a delay with EU and neither does law compel me to do so'**

### IS JOHNSON'S DEAL NOW DEAD?

No. The government plans to push ahead with the legislation enacting the deal agreed by Johnson in Brussels – the Withdrawal Agreement Bill. They also want to hold another 'meaningful vote' on Monday, but the call will be made by House speaker John Bercow



**The British Parliament's first weekend sitting since the Falklands War of 1982 had been dubbed 'Super Saturday'**

- ✓ As per the earlier agreement between UK and EU, UK should have got the approval of its Parliament by October 31 for the Brexit proposal, which didn't happen now
- ✓ Already the British Parliament rejected the proposal thrice, under the former PM Theresa May
- ✓ The original date for the Britain to exit EU has been March 31, 2019, even though Northern Ireland still prefers to be with the European Union

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **US astronauts Christina Koch and Jessica Meir - made history on October 18 when they stepped outside the International Space Station (ISS) on the first all-female spacewalk to replace faulty batteries**



- ✓ Koch and Meir stepped into outer space at some 254 miles (408 km) above Earth to replace a faulty power unit designed to store energy from the station's solar panels
- ✓ The mission, expected to last nearly five hours, follows an aborted first attempt at an all-female spacewalk in March
- ✓ The first attempt could not be accomplished because one of the astronaut's medium-sized spacesuits was not configured and ready for the journey.
- ✓ Astronauts on the space station, which became operational in 2000, have performed 221 maintenance spacewalks, 43 of which included women astronauts
- ✓ Koch is scheduled to complete the longest single space flight by a woman by remaining in orbit aboard the station until February 2020.

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde – to be sworn in as the 47th Chief Justice of India on November 18, after the retirement of CJI Ranjan Gogoi**
- ✓ After practising as an advocate with the Bar Council of Maharashtra, Bobde was designated a senior advocate in 1998, 20 years after he started practising law
- ✓ Later, Bobde was appointed as additional judge of Bombay HC on March 29, 2000



- ✓ He was appointed chief justice of the Madhya Pradesh HC on October 16, 2012.
- ✓ After six months, he was appointed judge of the SC on April 12, 2013.
- ✓ Senior-most SC judge, Justice Bobde bring with him more than 19 years of experience as a judge of constitutional courts
- **Senior IPS officer of Gujarat cadre, Anup Kumar Singh - has been appointed as director general of the national security guard (NSG)**



- ✓ His appointment was cleared by the appointments committee of the Cabinet (ACC) led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✓ He replaces Sudeep Lakhtakia, a 1984-batch Indian police service (IPS) officer of Telangana cadre, who retired two months earlier
- ✓ He will be in charge of the 'black cats commando' force up to September 30, 2020 i.e. date of his superannuation or till further orders, whichever is earlier

- ✓ The NSG was raised in 1984 as the federal contingency force to counter terrorists and hijack-like incidents

## SPORTS

- **13-year old Raunak Sadhwani – becomes the country's 65<sup>th</sup> Chess Grandmaster**



- ✓ Raunak has been trained by former Russian world champion Vladimir Kramnik
- ✓ The Russian had trained Raunak along with 5 other young Indian talents as part of the Kramnik-Microsense India Chess Program held in Switzerland in August this year.
- ✓ Raunak has already achieved two GM norm and is in the process of getting his third and final GM norm in the ongoing FIDE Chess.com Grand Swiss tournament at Isle of Man.

