

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—OCTOBER 17, 2021

### STATES

- **Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal - launched the 'Desh Ke Mentors' programme at Thyragraj Stadium in New Delhi recently to provide career guidance to school students**



- ✓ Under the programme, nine lakh students of classes 9 to 12 in Delhi government schools will be connected with volunteer mentors who will offer them career and general guidance.
- ✓ Actor Sonu Sood had been appointed as the brand ambassador for the programme on August 27
- ✓ The mentors, from various professional and academic backgrounds between the ages of 18-35, will engage with students over the phone for 10-15 minutes daily to guide them on various aspects of life
- ✓ They will help the students in their overall development and personality development by sharing their knowledge, skills and expertise in various fields
- ✓ Interested citizens from across the country can become mentors by registering on the Desh ke Mentors app
- ✓ One mentor will be assigned between two to five students.

- ✓ The app, which was developed by a team from Delhi Technological University (DTU), will connect students and mentors based on how their profile and interests align.
- ✓ The programme includes a two-month mandatory mentoring module and another optional four-month module.
- ✓ The initiative has been launched under the 'Youth for Education' programme by the Directorate of Education.

## NATIONAL

- **'Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Prerana Sthal' - was inaugurated at Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam on October 15, 2021**



- ✓ The Prerna Sthal was inaugurated on the occasion of 90<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, former President of India as well as the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'
  - ✓ The NSTL is the premier naval research laboratory of Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO).
  - ✓ Dr. Samir V Kamat, DRDO's director-general (Naval Systems & Materials), jointly unveiled a statue of Dr. Kalam during the occasion.
  - ✓ On the occasion, NSTL products Varunastra, Torpedo Advanced Light (TAL) and Maareech decoy are being displayed at the venue.
- **The Indian Railways - has launched two long haul freight trains 'Trishul' and 'Garuda' in South Central Railways (SCR)**
    - ✓ These trains are longer than normal composition of freight trains
    - ✓ Trishul is the first long haul train of SCR comprising three freight trains, that is 177 wagons
    - ✓ The train was launched from Kondapalli station of Vijayawada division to Khurda division, East Coast Railway.



- ✓ Another train 'Garuda' was launched later from Raichur of Guntakal division to the Manuguru of Secunderabad division.
  - ✓ Both the trains had empty open wagons to load the coal which is predominantly meant for thermal power stations.
  - ✓ SCR is one among the five major freight loading railways, operating with its headquarters in Secunderabad
  - ✓ The zone has three divisions under its administration, namely Secunderabad, Hyderabad and Nanded.
- **Union minister of state, Jitendra Singh - launched Heli-borne survey technology for groundwater management recently in Jodhpur, Rajasthan**



- ✓ The technology was developed by the Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad
- ✓ Heli-borne geophysical mapping technique will provide high-resolution 3D image for sub-surface up to a depth of 500 meters below the ground level and map potential groundwater sources
- ✓ This latest technology is being employed by CSIR to map groundwater sources in arid regions and utilise groundwater for drinking purposes
- ✓ Earlier, the Ministry of Jal Shakti has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with CSIR-NGRI for executing the project named "High Resolution Aquifer Mapping & Management" in arid regions of North Western India
- ✓ This project aims to target key water challenges in the states of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab and Haryana.

- ✓ The ₹150 crore Heli-borne project is to be implemented in two phases in collaboration with the Ministry of Jal Shakti as a part of National Aquifer Mapping Project
- ✓ This includes 65,000 square kilometres spread across eight districts in Rajasthan, 32,000 square kilometres spread across five districts in Gujarat, and 2,500 square kilometres spread across two districts in Haryana
- **Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways – recently launched a reward scheme for ‘Good Samaritans’**
- ✓ Under the scheme, a cash award of ₹5,000 will be given to any individual who save the life of a road accident victim by rushing him/her to hospital within the 'golden hour' of the accident.
- ✓ The Scheme mainly aims to motivate the general public to help the road accident victims in emergency situation
- ✓ An individual Good Samaritan can be awarded maximum 5 times in a year.
- ✓ On receipt of communication from the Police Station/Hospital, District Level Appraisal Committee shall review and approve the proposals on a monthly basis.
- ✓ The Appraisal Committee at the District Level would comprise of District Magistrate, SSP, Chief Medical and Health Officer, RTO (Transport Department) of the concerned District
- ✓ The Ministry will provide Rs. 5 Lakhs as initial grant to the Transport Department of the State/UT for making payment to the Good Samaritans.
- ✓ A State Level Monitoring Committee under Chairmanship of Principal Secretary (Home) along with Commissioner (Health) and ADGP (Traffic & Road Safety) as Members and Transport Commissioner as Member Secretary shall do Quarterly Meetings to monitor the proper implementation of scheme.
- ✓ Every year, the State Level Monitoring Committee of each State/UT will nominate three most worthy proposals for national level awards on yearly basis to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for further consideration.
- ✓ They will be awarded with Rs. One Lakh each along with a Certificate and trophy during National Road Safety Month (NRSM) in Delhi.
- ✓ The scheme would be effective from October 15, 2021 till March 31, 2026.
- ✓ 'Golden hour' refers to the 1-hour time period following a traumatic injury during which there is the highest likelihood of preventing death by providing prompt medical care.
- ✓ A total of 3,66,138 road accidents occurred in India during the calendar year 2020, causing 1,31,714 deaths, as per Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari
- ✓ Last month, the Rajasthan government announced a similar reward for Good Samaritans who save lives by taking road accident victims to hospitals.
- ✓ The state government said that the ₹5,000 cash reward will be given under the Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Jeevan Rakshak Yojna.

# INTERNATIONAL

- **The United Nations Human Rights Council - unanimously voted recently to recognize a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a 'universal right' in Geneva, Switzerland.**
- ✓ If recognised by all, the right would be the first of its kind in more than 70 years since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948.
- ✓ Costa Rica, the Maldives, Morocco, Slovenia and Switzerland were the countries who brought resolution 48/13 for its adoption in the council, which was passed with 43 votes in favour and 4 abstentions
- ✓ The right to a clean environment was first proposed in the 1972 Stockholm Declaration
- ✓ Over 13,000 civil society organisations and indigenous peoples' groups, more than 90,000 children worldwide, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and private sector stakeholders had campaigned for the right
- ✓ The UN resolution emphasises "the rights to life, liberty and security of human rights defenders working in environmental matters, referred to as environmental human rights defenders."
- ✓ Environmental defenders across the globe are subject to constant physical attacks, detentions, arrests, legal action and smear campaigns.
- ✓ The right to a clean and healthy environment was left out of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights because it was drafted before the launch of the modern environmental movement in the 1960s and 70s.
- ✓ The Agenda was presented last month by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.
- ✓ The Council resolution includes an invitation to the UN General Assembly to consider the matter.
- ✓ In 1972, the United Nations Conference on the Environment in Stockholm, which ended with a historical declaration, was the first one to place environmental issues at the forefront of international concerns

## INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India - agreed to provide a \$200 million Line of Credit support for development projects in Kyrgyzstan and also concluded an understanding on executing high impact community projects**
- ✓ This was agreed during the recent meeting between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with his Kyrgyz counterpart Ruslan Kazakbaev
- ✓ The External Affairs Minister recently visited Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Armenia with an aim to further expand bilateral ties with the three Central Asian countries.



- ✓ This will be the first-ever visit of an External Affairs Minister of India to independent Armenia
- ✓ During the meeting, Jaishankar also held discussion on the evolving situation in Afghanistan.
- ✓ Jaishankar also gifted Indian epics and classics to the Manas-Mahatma Gandhi library in Bishkek.
- ✓ During his visit, the Minister attended the 6th Ministerial meeting of the Conference of Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)
- ✓ Kazakhstan is the current Chair and initiator of the CICA Forum

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman – chaired the 8th ministerial meeting of the India-USA Economic and Financial Partnership on October 15, alongwith US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen**



- ✓ The discussion focused on wide range of topics including the macroeconomic outlook, recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic followed by the financial regulatory and technical collaboration, multilateral engagement, climate finance, anti-money laundering, combating terrorism among others
- ✓ The joint statement issued at the end of the meeting mentioned that the meeting majorly reflected on fighting financial crimes and showed the commitment towards urgent progress in combating climate change.

- ✓ Earlier in June, financial regulators from both sides met for the tenth U.S.-India Financial Regulatory Dialogue to discuss a range of issues
- ✓ The U.S. Treasury and India's Ministry of Finance launched the Economic and Financial Partnership in 2010
- ✓ This is a framework to strengthen the economic bonds between the two nations and build a foundation for greater cooperation and economic growth in the future.

## SPORTS

- **India – beat Nepal to win their eighth SAFF Championship title on October 16, 2021 at Male, Maldives**



- ✓ Indian Captain, Sunil Chhetri scored the first goal of the match, followed by goals from Suresh Singh and Abdul Sahal Samad
- ✓ India were in the final for the twelfth time as against the first time finalists Nepal
- ✓ India has won the SAFF title earlier in the years 1993, 1997, 1999, 2005, 2009, 2011, 2015, and 2021.
- ✓ Chhetri ended the tournament as the highest goal scorer with 5 goals and has scored 18 goals in the tournament so far
- ✓ Chhetri is now the sixth player in men's international football with 80-plus goals in 125 matches
- ✓ Notably, he reached the mark faster than Lionel Messi, who has 80 in 156 matches and is on joint fifth place with the Argentinean legend
- ✓ The other players with more than 80 goals are Cristiano Ronaldo (115), Ali Daei (109), Mokhtar Dahari (89), and Ferenc Puskas (84).

## RANKINGS

- **Japan - has the world's most powerful passport for the third year in a row, as per the Henley Passport Index 2021 released recently**
- ✓ Japan and Singapore stood at the top of this year's list, with their passports holders allowed to travel visa-free to 192 countries, while South Korea and Germany (190 countries) share the second position.
- ✓ Finland, Italy, Luxembourg and Spain (189 countries) share the third spot in the Henley Passport Index 2021



- ✓ India's rank has slipped by six places from last year to 90 (58 countries) on this list, which lists the world's most travel-friendly passports.
- ✓ India shares the rank with Tajikistan and Burkina Faso.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, and Yemen are among the least powerful.
- ✓ The Henley Passport Index ranks the passports of countries according to the number of destinations their holders can visit without a prior visa.
- ✓ The rankings are based on the analysis of data provided by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- ✓ The index covers 227 destinations and 199 passports
- **The 2021 Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) - was jointly released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).**
- ✓ The report provides estimates on multidimensional poverty across 109 developing countries, based on the data from surveys ranging from 2009 to 2019-2020
- ✓ These include 26 low-income countries, 80 middle-income countries and 3 high-income countries, covering 5.9 billion people
- ✓ The index measures each person's deprivations across 10 indicators divided into 3 equally weighted dimensions (Education, Health and Standard of Living)
- ✓ As per the report, 1.3 billion people are multi-dimensionally poor (or 21.7%) which includes 644 million children (about 50%) who are under 18 years and 105 million (about 8.2%) who are aged 60 or older
- ✓ Among them, nearly 85% live in Sub-Saharan Africa (556 million) or South Asia (532 million).
- ✓ Of the overall poor people, 84% (1.1 billion) live in rural areas, and 16% (about 209 million) live in urban areas, while more than 67% live in middle-income countries.
- ✓ In India, five out of six poor people were from lower tribes or castes, with 9.4% of the population in the country belong to the poorest Scheduled Tribes caste
- ✓ The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) was launched by the UNDP and the OPHI in the year 2010.

# INTERNATIONAL DAY

## ➤ International Day for Rural Women - October 15



- ✓ The day is observed every year to focus on gender equality and empowering women in rural areas.
- ✓ According to the UN, the day recognises the critical role and contribution of rural women in agricultural and rural development
- ✓ Theme 2021 - "Rural women cultivating good food for all"
- ✓ According to a report by the United Nations, 40% of the total agricultural labour force in developing countries comprises women.
- ✓ In South American countries, the figure is around 20% whereas, in Asia and Africa, more than 50% of the agricultural labour force is women.
- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly had established this day on December 18, 2007, in its resolution 62/136.

## ➤ Global Handwashing Day – October 15



- ✓ The day aims to raise awareness about the benefits of handwashing with soap as an easy, effective, and affordable way to prevent diseases, promote health and save lives
- ✓ It was founded in the year 2008 by the Global Handwashing Partnership, an international coalition of organizations working to promote handwashing with soap
- ✓ Theme 2021 - "Our Future is at Hand – Let's Move Forward Together."
- ✓ Interestingly, the year 2008 was also the International Year of Sanitation and the first Global Handwashing Day was observed in 2008 in Stockholm, Sweden

➤ **International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction – October 13**



13 OCTOBER  
**INTERNATIONAL DAY  
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

- ✓ The day is observed to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction
- ✓ According to United Nations, the observance of the Day is an opportunity to acknowledge the progress being made towards reducing disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-30.
- ✓ The framework was approved at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan in March 2015.
- ✓ Sendai suffered a devastating earthquake and tsunami in 2011 in which 20,000 people lost their lives.
- ✓ The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction was started in 1989, after a call by the United Nations General Assembly
- ✓ Theme 2021 - "International cooperation for developing countries to reduce disaster risk and disaster losses"

➤ **World Arthritis Day – October 12**



- ✓ The Day was observed every year to raise awareness of issues affecting people with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs).
- ✓ It was established in 1996 by The Arthritis and Rheumatism International (ARI) Foundation
- ✓ Theme 2021 - Don't Delay, Connect Today: Time2Work
- ✓ Arthritis is a common disorder which affects joints of a person, causing problems like pains and inflammation.
- ✓ It is usually affects older people above 65 but can also develop in men, women and children in any age

- ✓ The European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR) will mark this day with five dedicated podcasts with relevant content to celebrate awareness day.

➤ **World Cotton Day - October 7**



- ✓ The day is observed every year to recognise the importance of cotton sector worldwide
- ✓ World Cotton Day also strives to emphasise the problems that the world's cotton economies experience and the critical role played by it in economic development, international trade and poverty alleviation
- ✓ Cotton is a global commodity grown in over 75 countries across five continents and sustains at least 28.67 million growers
- ✓ The inaugural World Cotton Day was held in Geneva in 2019.
- ✓ The International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) established the day.
- ✓ According to experts, cotton has a negative carbon footprint as it degrades 95% faster than the polyester in wastewater helping to keep the environment clean.
- ✓ The Cotton-4 nations, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, and Mali, made an official proposal to the United Nations General Assembly on August 30, for the establishment of a World Cotton Day
- ✓ The Bremen Cotton Exchange, as one of the world's largest cotton organisations, also supported the idea of World Cotton Day.
- ✓ Cotton is also one of India's most important commercial crops, providing a living for around 6 million cotton farmers.
- ✓ India is the world's second-largest cotton producer and largest consumer
- ✓ India introduced its very first label and logo, "Kasturi Cotton" on the occasion of the second World Cotton Day in 2020.
- ✓ The trademark will stand for brightness, whiteness, softness, shine, purity, and individuality.
- ✓ Cotton Corporation of India developed the "Cott-Ally" smartphone application to offer updated information on weather conditions, agricultural methods, and crop situations.

- ✓ In the period between 2011 and 2018, India also ran a Cotton Technical Assistance Project (Cotton TAP-I) for 7 African nations, including Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, and Chad, as well as Uganda, Malawi, and Nigeria.
- ✓ Theme 2021 - "There's more to cotton than you think"
- ✓ According to the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), the annual revenue from cotton is estimated at USD 41.2 billion, while cotton trade amounts to USD 18 billion every year
- ✓ Cotton occupies just 2.1% of the world's arable land and despite this, it meets 27% of the world's textile needs.

