

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2020**

### **Awards**

The well-known film actor who has been conferred with the prestigious SDG Special Humanitarian Action Award by United Nations Development Programme – **Sonu Sood**

The Indian state which has been awarded the UN Interagency Task Force (UNIATF) Award 2020 for its outstanding contribution towards the non-communicable diseases-related sustainable development goals – **Kerala**

### **Persons**

The well-known film director who has been appointed the President of Film and Television Institute of India, Pune – **Shekhar Kapoor**

The Union Agriculture Minister who has been given the additional charge of Ministry of Food Processing Industries following the resignation of Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal – **Narendar Singh Tomar**

The Bollywood actor who has been signed by Amazon Inc for its Alexa voice assistant – **Amitabh Bachchan**

The new Prime Minister of Japan who has taken over following the resignation of Mr Shinzo Abe, who resigned due to his deteriorating health – **Mr. Yoshihide Suga**

The well-known film personality who has been appointed the Chairman of National School of Drama, Delhi for 4 years – **Paresh Rawal**

### **Obituary**

The former Army officer, Defence Minister, Finance Minister, External Affairs Minister and Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission who passed away on 27 Sep 2020 – **Shri Jaswant Singh**

The Union Minister of State for Railways who passed away on 23 Sep 2020 due to COVID-19 – **Shri Suresh Angadi**

The former Union Minister of Rural Development and architect of National Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) who passed away on 13.09.2020 – **Raghuvansh Prasad Singh**

The well known social activist, recipient of Right Livelihood Award (2004) and Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award, who passed away on 11 Sep 2020 – **Swami Agnivesh (Vepa Shyam Rao)**

The renowned scientist and radio astronomer, recipient of Padma Shri and Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar awards, who passed away on 07 Sep 2020 – **Govind Swarup**

The chief pontiff of Edneer Mutt in Kasaragod district, Kerala and the petitioner in the landmark case on constitutional amendment who passed away on 06 Sep 2020 – **Kesavananda Bharati**

India's first female cardiologist, recipient of Padma Bhushan (1967) and Padma Vibhushan (1992), who passed away on 29 August 2020 – **S.I. Padmavati**

### Defence

The 4th edition of biennial India-Japan Maritime bilateral exercise conducted in north Arabian Sea from 26 to 28 September 2020 – **JIMEX**

The 11th edition of biennial bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Russian Navy scheduled to be held in the Bay of Bengal from 04 to 05 September 2020 – **Indra Navy - 20**

### Sports

The winners of Italian Open 2020 Men's Singles and Women's Singles titles respectively – **Novak Djokovic and Simona Halep**

### Places

The place in Bihar where setting up All India Institute of Medical Sciences has been approved by Union Cabinet – **Darbhanga**

The Indian Air Force base at which Rafale aircraft were formally inducted into the IAF in presence of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh and Ms Florence Parly, Minister of the Armed Forces of France – **Ambala**

### Miscellaneous

The languages which have been added to the list of official languages (namely Urdu and English) of Jammu and Kashmir by the Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill, 2020 – **Kashmiri, Dogri and Hindi**

The MSP (Minimum Support Price) for wheat for 2020-21 marketing season as announced by the Central Govt – **Rs. 1975**

The title and number of 24x7 toll free mental rehabilitation helpline launched by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment – **KIRAN, 1800-599-0019**

### AIFF Awards 2019-20

AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year: **Gurpreet Singh Sandhu**

AIFF Women's Footballer of the Year: **Sanju**

AIFF Men's Emerging Footballer of the Year: **Anirudh Thapa**

AIFF Emerging Women's Footballer of the Year: **Ms. Ratanbala Devi**

### Kapila Vatsyayan

Born: 25 Dec 1928; Passed away: 16 Sep 2020

Leading scholar of Indian classical dance, art, architecture, and art history. Rajya Sabha MP.

Founder of **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts**.

**Awards:** Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship (1970), Lalit Kala Akademi Fellowship (1995), Padma Vibhushan (2011)

**Books written:** The Square and the Circle of Indian Arts (1997), Bharata: The Natya Sastra (1996), Matralaksanam (1988)

### **Hypersonic Technology Demonstration Vehicle (HSTDV)**

Tested by: DRDO

Tested on: 07 Sep 2020 at 1103 hours

Tested at: Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Launch Complex at Wheeler Island, off the coast of Odisha.

The hypersonic cruise vehicle was launched using a proven solid rocket motor, which took it to an altitude of 30 kilometres (km). The hypersonic combustion sustained and the cruise vehicle continued on its desired flight path at a velocity of six times the speed of sound i.e., nearly 02 km/second for more than 20 seconds. On this successful demonstration, the country enters into the hypersonic regime paving way for advanced hypersonic Vehicles.

### **TIME magazine's 100 most influential people - 2020**

#### **Indians in the list**

1. PM Shri Narendra Modi in **Leaders** category
2. Ayushmann Khurrana in **Artists** category
3. Bilkis (of Shaheen Bagh fame) in **Icons** category
4. Prof Ravindra Gupta in **Pioneers** category
5. Sundar Pichai in **Titans** category

### **EASE 2.0 Index for PSBs**

Top 3 banks

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Bank</b>
1.	Bank of Baroda
2.	State Bank of India
3.	Oriental Bank of Commerce

Top 3 banks in Responsible Banking

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Bank</b>
1.	Bank of Baroda
2.	State Bank of India
3.	Punjab National Bank

### Top 3 banks in Customer Responsiveness

Rank	Bank
1.	State Bank of India
2.	Oriental Bank of Commerce
3.	Bank of Baroda

### **The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill 2020**

**Position prior to amendment:** Under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, the Central Govt could regulate or prohibit the production, supply and distribution of any essential commodity for securing its equitable distribution and availability at fair prices.

**After the amendment:** The Central Government may regulate the supply of such foodstuffs, including cereals, pulses, potato, onions, edible oilseeds and oils, only under extraordinary circumstances which may include war, famine, extraordinary price rise and natural calamity of grave nature.

Further, any action on imposing stock limit shall be based on price rise and an order for regulating stock limit of any agricultural produce may be issued under this Act only if there is —

1. hundred per cent increase in the retail price of horticultural produce; or
2. fifty per cent increase in the retail price of non-perishable agricultural foodstuffs,
3. over the price prevailing immediately preceding twelve months, or average retail price of last five years, whichever is lower.

### **3 Important Labour Bills passed by Parliament**

**Social Security Code, 2020:** It amalgamates 9 laws viz – 1. The Employees’ Compensation Act, 1923; 2. The Employees’ State Insurance Act, 1948; 3. The Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952; 4. The Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959; 5. The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961; 6. The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972; 7. The Cine Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1981; 8. The Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1996 and 9. The Unorganised Workers’ Social Security Act, 2008

**Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code, 2020:** It amalgamates 13 laws viz - 1. The Factories Act, 1948; 2. The Plantations Labour Act, 1951; 3. The Mines Act, 1952; 4. The Working Journalists and other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955; 5. The Working Journalists (Fixation of Rates of Wages) Act, 1958; 6. The Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961, 7. The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, 8. The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970; 9. The Sales Promotion Employees (Conditions of Service) Act, 1976; 10. The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979; 11. The Cine-Workers and Cinema Theatre Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act, 1981; 12. The Dock Workers (Safety, Health and Welfare) Act, 1986 and 13. The Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996

**Industrial Relations Code, 2020:** It amalgamates 3 laws viz - 1. The Trade Unions Act, 1926; 2. The Industrial Employment (Standing orders) Act, 1946 and 3. The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947

### Important Days of September 2020

<p><b>International Day of Charity:</b> 05 September 2020            Designated by: United Nations General Assembly            First observed: 2013</p>
<p><b>International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies:</b> 07 August 2020            Designated by: United Nations General Assembly            First observed: 2020</p>
<p><b>International Literacy Day:</b> 08 September 2020            Designated by: UNESCO            First observed: 1966            Theme: Literacy teaching and learning in the COVID-19 crisis and beyond.</p>
<p><b>World Suicide Prevention Day:</b> 10 September 2020            Designated by: International Association for Suicide Prevention            First observed: 2003</p>
<p><b>International Day of Democracy:</b> 15 September 2020            Designated by: UN General Assembly            First observed: 2008            Theme: COVID-19: A Spotlight on Democracy</p>
<p><b>International Day for Preservation of Ozone Layer:</b> 16 September 2020            Designated by: UN General Assembly            First observed: 1995            Theme: Ozone for life: 35 years of ozone layer protection</p>
<p><b>World Patient Safety Day:</b> 17 September 2020            Designated by: WHO            First observed: 2019            Theme: Health Worker Safety: A Priority for Patient Safety            Slogan: Safe health workers, Safe patients</p>
<p><b>International Day of Peace:</b> 21 September 2020            Designated by: UN General Assembly            First observed: 1982            Theme: Shaping Peace Together</p>
<p><b>International Day of Sign Languages:</b> 23 September 2020            Designated by: UN General Assembly            First observed: 2020            Theme: Sign Languages are for everyone</p>
<p><b>World Maritime Day:</b> 24 September 2020            Designated by: International Maritime Organisation            First observed: 1978            Theme: Sustainable Shipping for Sustainable Planet</p>
<p><b>International Day for total elimination of Nuclear Weapons:</b> 26 September 2020            Designated by: UN General Assembly            First observed: 2014</p>
<p><b>World Tourism Day:</b> 27 September 2020            Designated by: UNWTO General Assembly            First observed: 1980            Theme: Tourism and Rural Development</p>

**World Rabies Day:** 28 September 2020

Designated by: Global Alliance for Rabies Control

First observed: 1980

Theme: End Rabies: Collaborate, Vaccinate

**International Day for Universal Access to Information:** 28 September 2020

Designated by: UNESCO

First observed: 2016

Theme: Access to Information – Saving lives, Building Trust, Bringing Hope!

**International Translation Day:** 30 September 2020

Designated by: Federation of International Translators and UN General Assembly

First observed: 1953 (By FIT) and 2020 (by UN)

Theme: Finding the words for a world in crises

### [Shri SP Balasubrahmanyam](#)

Born; 04.06.1946; Passed away: 25.09.2020

Indian musician, playback singer, music director, actor, dubbing artist, and film producer who worked predominantly in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Hindi, and Malayalam films

Tested positive for COVID-19 in August 2020

**Awards:** Padma Shri (2001), Padma Bhushan (2011)

National Film Award for Best Singer in 1979 (Telugu), 1981 (Hindi), 1983 (Telugu), 1988 (Telugu), 1995 (Kannada) and 1996 (Tamil)

Filmfare Awards in 1989 and Filmfare Awards South in 2006, 2007 and 2020

He has also won several Nandi Awards by Govt of Andhra Pradesh as singer, music director, dubbing artist and supporting actor.

He has won Tamil Nadu State Film Awards and Karnataka Awards as singer.

### [US Open 2020](#)

Title	Winner	Runner-up
Men's Singles	Dominic Thiem (Austria)	Alexander Zverev (Germany)
Women's Singles	Naomi Osaka (Japan)	Victoria Azarenka (Belarus)
Men's Doubles	Mate Pavic (Croatia) and Bruno Soares (Brazil)	Wesley Koolhof (Netherlands) and Nicola Pietrangeli (Croatia)
Women's Doubles	Laura Siegemund (Germany) and Vera Zvonareva (Russia)	Nicole Pietrangeli (USA) and Xu Yifan (China)

### [INS VIRAAT](#)

Commissioned in Indian Navy: 1987; Decommissioned: 06 Mar 2017

It was a Centaur class aircraft carrier inducted after purchase from U.K. where it was renamed **HMS Hermes**.

It was the oldest aircraft carrier in the world in 2016 when it sailed for the last time under its own power. It has been finally towed to Alang shipbreaking yard to be broken down to scrap.

### **Global Economic Freedom Index 2020**

Released by: Fraser Institute, Canada

Rank	Country	Rank	Country
1.	Hongkong	98.	Bhutan
2.	Singapore	105.	India
3.	New Zealand	124.	China
4.	Switzerland	129.	Pakistan
5.	Australia	133.	Bangladesh

Note: India's rank in 2019 was 79

### **Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) ranking of states**

Announced by: Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs

Ranking of States based on the implementation of Business Reform Action Plan started in the year 2015. Till date, State Rankings have been released for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017-18. The Business Reform Action Plan 2018-19 includes 180 reform points covering 12 business regulatory areas such as Access to Information, Single Window System, Labour, Environment, etc.

The top five states under State Reform Action Plan 2019 are:

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Uttar Pradesh
3. Telangana
4. Madhya Pradesh
5. Jharkhand

### **Global Innovation Index 2020**

Released by: World Intellectual Property Organisation

Rank	Country	Rank	Country
1.	Switzerland	14.	China
2.	Sweden	48.	India
3.	U.S.A.	95.	Nepal
4.	U.K.	101.	Sri Lanka
5.	Netherlands	107.	Pakistan

Note: India's rank in 2019 was 52

### **Abbreviations in News**

**SAROD**-Ports: Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes - Ports

**BEAMS**: Beach Environment & Aesthetics Management Services

### **Books in News**

Azadi: Freedom. Fascism. Fiction by **Arundhati Roy**

Voices of Dissent by Romila Thapar

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