

NATIONAL WEEKLY (09 - 16 October)

'STARS' PROJECT

1. The Union Cabinet has approved World Bank supported Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States -STARS project.
2. The Project seeks to support States in developing, implementing and evaluating interventions with direct linkages to improved education outcomes.
3. STARS project would be implemented as a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme under Department of School Education and Literacy.
4. It will cover six States, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Odisha.

MACS-6478

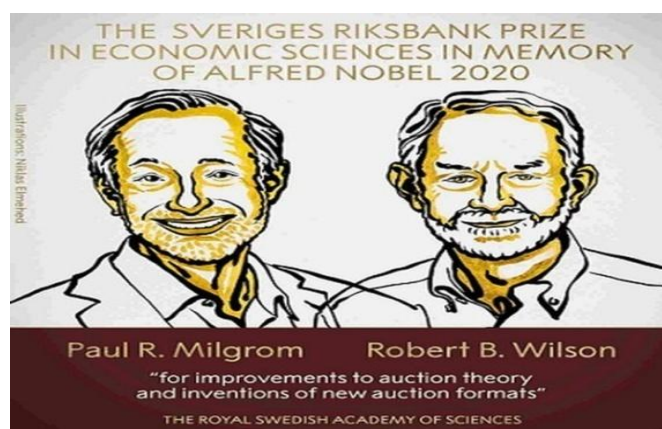
1. A new wheat variety MACS-6478 is helping farmers in a village in Maharashtra to double their yield.

INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE (ISA)

1. The Third Assembly of the International Solar Alliance has been attended by 34 ISA Members ministers.
2. India has been re-elected as the President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and France as the Co-President for a term of two years.

2020 NOBEL PRIZE IN ECONOMICS

1. Two American economists Paul R Milgrom and Robert B Wilson jointly won this year's Nobel Prize in Economics. Both economists are based at Stanford University in California.
2. Paul Milgrom and Robert Wilson were chosen for the Nobel Prize in Economics for improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats.
3. The new auction formats are a beautiful example of how basic research can subsequently generate inventions that benefit society. The unusual feature of this example is that the same people developed the theory and the practical applications.
4. Technically known as the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, the award was established in 1969 and is now widely considered one of the Nobel prizes.



NOBEL PEACE PRIZE FOR 2020

1. The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2020 to the World Food Programme (WFP) for its efforts to combat hunger.
2. The World Food Programme (WFP) is the food-assistance branch of the United Nations and the world's largest humanitarian organization focused on hunger and food security.
3. Founded in 1961, it is headquartered in Rome.
4. In 2019, the WFP provided assistance to close to 100 million people in 88 countries who are victims of acute food insecurity and hunger.
5. In 2015, eradicating hunger was adopted as one of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. The WFP is the UN's primary instrument for realising this goal.
6. The World Food Programme was an active participant in the diplomatic process that culminated in May 2018 in the UN Security Council's unanimous adoption of Resolution 2417, which for the first time explicitly addressed the link between conflict and hunger.

NOBEL PRIZE FOR LITERATURE

1. The 2020 Nobel Prize for Literature has been awarded to American poet Louise Glück.
2. Glück, 77, was honoured “for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal,” the Academy said.
3. She is the fourth woman to win the Nobel Literature Prize in the past decade — after Olga Tokarczuk, Svetlana Alexievich and Alice Munro — and only the 16th since the Nobel prizes were first awarded in 1901.

NIRBADH INITIATIVES

1. Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has recently launched WhatsApp based helpline-cum-grievance redressal mechanism, under its series of Nirbadh initiatives aimed at ensuring seamless and un-interrupted service delivery to subscribers during COVID-19 pandemic.

EXERCISE SURAKSHA KAVACH

1. Agnibaaz Division organized Exercise Suraksha Kavach, a Joint Anti-Terrorist Exercise for both Indian Army and Maharashtra Police at Lullanagar Pune.

NECHIPHU TUNNEL

1. Union defence minister Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone of the Nechiphu Tunnel on the Balipara-Charduar-Tawang (BCT) road in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh.
2. It will be constructed by Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

VIJAYA RAJE SCINDIA

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release a commemorative coin of Rs. 100 in honour of Vijaya Raje Scindia on October 12, 2020.

RUDRAM

1. India's first indigenous anti-radiation missile, Rudram, developed for the Indian Air Force, was successfully flight-tested from a Sukhoi-30 MKI jet off the east coast.
2. Anti-Radiation Missile:
 - Anti-radiation missiles are designed to detect, track and neutralise the adversary's radar, communication assets and other radio frequency sources, which are generally part of their air defense systems.

INDIA'S FIRST HFC PROTOTYPE CAR

1. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and KPIT successfully ran trials of India's first Hydrogen Fuel Cell (HFC) prototype car running on an indigenously developed fuel cell stack at CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory, Pune.
2. The fuel cell is a low temperature PEM (Proton Exchange Membrane) type Fuel Cell that operates at 65-75 degree centigrade, which is suitable for vehicular applications.
3. Hydrogen Fuel Cell (HFC) technology uses chemical reactions between hydrogen and oxygen (from air) to generate electrical energy, eliminating the use of fossil fuels.

SVAMITVA SCHEME

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the physical distribution of Property Cards under the SVAMITVA Scheme on October 11, 2020 to transform rural India.
2. The SVAMITVA scheme, which was launched in April this year, aims to provide the record of rights to village household owners in rural areas and issue Property Cards.
3. The Scheme is being implemented across the country in a phased manner over a period of four years and will cover around 6.62 lakh villages of the country.

4. The launch will enable around one lakh property holders to download their Property Cards through the SMS link delivered on their mobile phones. This would be followed by physical distribution of the Property Cards by the respective State governments.
5. The move will pave the way for using property as a financial asset by villagers for taking loans and other financial benefits.

HAR GHAR JAL STATE

1. Goa has become the first Har Ghar Jal State in the country by providing tap water connection to every rural household.

NEW DEVELOPMENT BANK

1. New Development Bank, also known as BRICS Bank has approved infrastructure projects worth 741 million dollars in India.
2. New Development Bank (NDB), the Shanghai based bank, was established by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa to mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS countries and other emerging economies.

GYAN CIRCLE VENTURES

1. Union Minister for Education inaugurated the Gyan Circle Ventures, a MeitY funded Technology Business Incubator (TBI) of Indian Institute of Information Technology, Sri City (Chittoor), Andhra Pradesh
2. The Gyan Circle Ventures will serve as a hub for innovation and startups by providing support, in various phases, via investments, infrastructure and mentoring.

AMAZON INDIA TIES UP WITH IRCTC TO START ONLINE TRAIN TICKET BOOKINGS

1. Amazon India has partnered with 'Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation' (IRCTC), to provide its customers with the facility to book reserved train tickets on Amazon.
2. With this launch, the e-commerce company's digital payments arm Amazon Pay adds another travel category, thereby offering its customers a one-stop-shop for booking flights, bus and train tickets.

MUKESH AMBANI TOPS THE FORBES INDIA RICH LIST 2020

1. The Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) Chairman Mukesh Ambani, has topped the Forbes India Rich list for 2020.
2. He has retained his position as the wealthiest Indian for the 13th consecutive year on Forbes India list.
3. The tycoon added \$37.3 billion to his net worth, to bring his total fortune to \$88.7 billion, a rise of 73% over the previous year.
4. The second spot has been retained by Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani, with a net worth of \$25.2 billion.
5. Tech tycoon Shiv Nadar acquired the third spot with a net worth of \$20.4 billion.

WINNERS OF FRENCH OPEN TENNIS 2020:

Category	Name of the Sportsperson
Men's Single	Rafael Nadal (Spain)
Women's Single	Iga Swiatek (Poland)
Men's Double	Kevin Krawietz & Andreas Mies (Germany)
Women's Double	Tímea Babos (Hungary) & Kristina Mladenovic (France)

HARYANA GOVT LAUNCHES MOBILE WATER TESTING LABS

1. Haryana government has launched a mobile water testing laboratory van, fully equipped with a multi-parameter system containing analysers, sensor, probes and instruments meant for assessing water quality.
2. Water quality in Haryana is mainly affected by constituents like total dissolved solids (TDS), fluoride, nitrate, iron and alkalinity.

KERALA BECOMES 1ST STATE TO HAVE COMPLETELY DIGITAL, HI-TECH CLASSROOMS

1. The high-tech classroom project was implemented by Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) with financial assistance from Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB).
2. MP and MLA funds, local self-government institutions fund were also utilised for setting up the classrooms.

INDIA RANKS 129 IN CRI INDEX RELEASED BY OXFAM

1. India has been ranked 129 among 158 countries in the 2020 Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index.
2. The third edition of the index focuses on Fighting Inequality in the time of COVID-19.
3. The 2020 CRI index has been topped by Norway. South Sudan is the lowest ranking country in the index at 158th position.

PRINCE WILLIAM LAUNCHES “EARTHSHOT PRIZE” TO BOOST CLIMATE INNOVATION

1. Britain’s Prince William and Naturalist David Attenborough have launched an “Earthshot Prize”, with an aim to encourage change and support to repair the planet.
2. The Earth shot Prize aims to “incentivize change and help to repair our planet over the next 10 years,” and “turn pessimism into optimism” by rewarding innovative solutions to environmental problems.
3. The first five Earthshots will be awarded for projects that focus on protecting and restoring nature and clean air, reviving oceans, fixing the climate and reducing waste.

RUSSIA APPROVES 2ND CORONA VIRUS VACCINE “EPIVAC CORONA”

1. Russia has given regulatory approval to a second Covid-19 vaccine, named ‘EpiVacCorona’, after early-stage studies.
2. The new coronavirus vaccine comes two months after a similar move for Russia’s first vaccine Sputnik V prompted widespread criticism from scientists both at home and abroad.

ODISHA LAUNCHES ‘SUJAL’ MISSION TO PROVIDE TAP WATER FIT FOR DRINKING

1. Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik has inaugurated “Sujal”, ‘Drink from Tap Mission’ scheme, to provide round the clock supply of quality tap drinking water in all urban areas of the state.
2. The state has set the target to provide piped water connections to all urban areas in the state by March 2022.

GUJARAT GOVT ANNOUNCES TO SET UP THE WORLD’S BIGGEST ZINC SMELTER PROJECT

1. Gujarat government has signed a pact with Vedanta Group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) to set up a green field zinc smelter in the state.

GHANA” WINS CENTRAL BANK OF THE YEAR AWARD 2020

1. “Bank of Ghana” has won the Central bank of the year award 2020.
2. Apart from this, Mark Carney (Governor of the Bank of England) has won the Governor of the year at the Central bank of the year award 2020.
3. Central Banking Awards is held annually to recognize excellence in the central banking community.

MADHYA PRADESH WEEKLY (09 - 16 October)

BJP LAUNCHES 'MAIN BHI SHIVRAJ' CAMPAIGN IN MP

1. After a Congress leader termed Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan as 'Bhookha Nanga' (Poor), Chouhan and his party is out to take full advantage of this in the by-elections. The BJP has launched 'Main Bhi Shivraj' campaign while replying to a personal attack on the Chief Minister.

CM CHOUHAN TO PERFORM BHUMI-PUJAN FOR 107 RURAL POTABLE WATER SCHEMES

1. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan perform virtual bhumi-pujan of 107 rural potable water schemes of 18 districts at 10.30 a.m. at Minto Hall on October 14.
2. The 107 rural potable water schemes, costing Rs. 117.983 crore of 18 districts of the state include 12 of Betul districts, 13 of Sehore district, 2 of Vidisha, One of Jhabua, 8 of Khargone, 5 of Barwani, 6 of Ujjain district, 2 of Shajapur district, 2 of Sheopur district, 4 of Damoh district, One of Panna district, 3 of Tikamgarh district, 6 of Narsinghpur district, 2 of Mandla district, 4 of Satna district, 12 of Chhindwara district, 17 of Balaghat district and 7 of Seoni district.

MP AMONG LEADING STATES IN TAX COLLECTION: MIN

1. Expressing his gratitude to the Central Government for releasing Rs 792 crore from the Compensation Cess Fund to Madhya Pradesh without delay, Commercial Tax Minister Jagdish Devda said that Madhya Pradesh has started being counted among the leading states of the country for return filing, tax collection and its efforts to prevent tax evasion.

MP URJA VIKAS NIGAM TO EXECUTE CM SOLAR PUMP SCHEME

1. Madhya Pradesh Urja Vikas Nigam has clarified that it is executing Chief Minister Solar Pump Scheme, under which the payment of registration and beneficiary's payment is deposited only through online portal - cmsolarpump.mp.gov.in.
2. The Nigam in a statement said that it has come to know that some mischievous elements in the state, are misleading the farmers in the name of PM - Kusum Yojana, for installing solar pumps. The Nigam has stated that the farmers should avoid indulging in such rumours. If they get any phone calls or SMSes, they should inform local police. For the details regarding this scheme the farmers may contact the district office of the Nigam.

RATIBAD SISTEC ESTABLISHES RENEWABLE ENERGY LAB

1. Sagar Group's Sagar Institute of Science and Technology (SISTec) Ratibad electrical engineering department has successfully set up a renewable energy lab under its research project sponsored by National Project Implementation Unit (NPIU) under Collaborative Research Scheme.

SEWA SADAN EYE HOSPITAL INAUGURATES 7 VISION CENTRES

1. On the occasion of World Sight Day, Sant Hirdaram Nagar Bhopal based Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital have virtually inaugurated Seven Vision Centers at Raisen, Dehgaon, Ichhawar, Kothri, Ladkui, Nasrullaganj and Shyampur, while 8th center at Ahmedpur in Sehore district have been formally inaugurated by Managing Trustee L.C. Janiyani

MP GOVERNMENT REPORT: 90% SCHOOLS WITHOUT WATER TAP, 40% WITHOUT POWER

1. Over 90% of government primary and middle schools in Madhya Pradesh do not have drinking water taps and four out of every ten schools are without electricity and a hand wash facility, according to unified district information system for education (UDISE) plus report.
2. The report provides data of 99,987 schools as on July 18, 2020 and shows that many schools in the Central Indian state lack basic amenities for students such as drinking water facility.
3. As many as 90,912 schools are without taps and 99,776 schools have unprotected wells. About 82.86% of all such schools don't have other safe water source, as per the report.
4. However, the report shows that progress has been made in providing toilet facilities in schools even though 1,208 schools are without toilets. In 3,654 schools, there are no functional toilets for boys and none for girls in 2,760 schools, the report said.
5. The report also pointed out that half of these schools, don't have a separate room for principal, 1,582 schools are existing without a building and 13,759 schools have no boundary walls.
6. The infrastructural gaps also exist in the eight aspirational districts in the state identified by the National Institution for Transforming India (Niti) Aayog. They include Barwani, Chhatarpur, Damoh, Khandwa, Rajgarh, Vidisha, Singrauli and Guna.

TIGER CUBS FOUND DEAD NEAR CAVE IN MADHYA PRADESH'S BANDHAVGARH RESERVE

1. Pug marks of a tigress were found in the vicinity which suggests the feline was around its offspring, he said, adding that the carcasses were disposed of as per wildlife rules.

AIR QUALITY IN MP DETERIORATES, WORSE THAN PRE-COVID LEVELS



INDORE SLIPS TO 5TH SPOT IN SMART CITY PROJECT RATING

1. Ranking is released by union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for September.
2. The city was earlier at 3rd Position in the country in July
3. Cause : Delay in release of funds from the state

CABINET CLEARS INVESTMENT PROMOTION ASSISTANCE FOR OXYGEN PLANT IN BABAI.

1. M.P. government has decided to facilitate investment Promotion assistance for establishment of Mohasa Babai Industrial and Medical gas production plant in Hoshangabad district.

JAORA MAY BECOME MULTIPURPOSE INDUSTRIAL BELT

1. Amid lack of interest from industries for the proposed textile park at Jaora sugar mill in Ratlam M.P. Industrial development corporation (MPIDC)
2. Indore has sent a Proposal to convert the belt into a multipurpose industrial belt.

M.P.BJP LAUNCHES SOCIAL MEDIAL PLATFORM 'HAAN CHUNAV HAI'

1. To counter congress allegations and point out the old party's failure.
