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# Daily Current Affairs Capsule

## 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020

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## World Food Day: 16 October



World Food Day is an international day celebrated every year around the world on 16 October in honor of the date of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 1945.

- The day is celebrated widely by many other organizations concerned with food security, including the World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.
- The theme for this year's World Food Day 2020 is "Grow, Nourish, Sustain Together".

## Global Handwashing Day: 15 October



Global Handwashing Day is observed on October 15 each year to raise awareness and highlight the importance of handwashing as an effective means of disease prevention.

- This year it marks a critical reminder for the world that this simple, cost-effective practice can save lives.
- Handwashing has always been one of the most effective ways of keeping diseases at bay and is also one of the key cornerstones of COVID-19 prevention.

## Russia approves second coronavirus vaccine after Sputnik V



After launching the very first vaccine for the treatment of coronavirus back in August, Russia has registered another covid-19 vaccine 'EpiVacCorona'.

- Russia became the first country to give regulatory approval to a Covid-19 vaccine in August when Sputnik V was officially registered ahead of large-scale clinical trials, drawing criticism from some quarters in the scientific community.
- The second Russian vaccine to get regulatory approval has been developed by the Vector State Research Centre of Virology and Biotechnology.
- Putin said that a third Russian vaccine against Covid-19, developed by the Chumakov Centre, would also be registered in the near future.



### Union Health Minister launches 2nd phase of “Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna”



Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan virtually launched the second phase of “Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna” for the underprivileged Thalassemic patients.

- Beneficiaries of the scheme had expressed their gratitude for this valuable support in midst of the gloom in their lives.
- Thalassaemia is a blood disorder in which your body has less hemoglobin than normal.
- This disorder is passed down through families.
- Patients with thalassaemia suffer from anemia due to low levels of hemoglobin.

### Union Cabinet approves World Bank supported STARS project



The Union Cabinet has approved World Bank supported Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States -STARS project.

- The Project seeks to support States in developing, implementing, evaluating and improving interventions with direct linkages to improved education outcomes.
- The total project cost is Rs. 5,718 crore with the financial support of the World Bank amounting to 500 million US dollar.
- STARS project would be implemented as a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Department of School Education and Literacy.
- It will cover six States namely Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Odisha.

### Statue of Unity to be reopened for visitors from Oct 17



In Gujarat, the world's tallest statue - the Statue of Unity will be reopened for visitors from 17th October.

- The site will be reopened for the tourists from the first day of the nine-night Navratri festival.
- The world famous tourist site will be reopened for the first time after it was shut down due to Coronavirus pandemic.
- It is the world's tallest statue with a height of 182 metres (597 feet).
- It is located on the Narmada River, facing the Sardar Sarovar Dam.
- It was designed by Indian sculptor Ram V. Sutar, and was inaugurated by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 31 October 2018.

### Nitin Gadkari to initiate simultaneous blasting for Zojila Tunnel in J&K, Ladakh



Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari initiated simultaneous blasting for Zojila Tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

- The tunnel will provide all-weather connectivity between Srinagar valley and Leh on NH-1.
- It involves construction of a 14.15-kilometre long tunnel at an altitude of about three thousand metres under Zojila pass on NH-1 connecting Srinagar and Leh through Dras and Kargil.
- At a height of 3000 meters in the Peerpanjal mountain range, construction of Zojila tunnel is a historic necessity to provide an all weather road connectivity between Ladakh and the rest of the world.
- Minister Nitin Gadkari also sets a target for the National Highway Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) and the contractor to complete the construction before 2024.

### Anti-pollution measures under GRAP to come into force in Delhi-NCR region



Anti-pollution measures under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) came into force in the Delhi-NCR region.

- Delhi Government has banned use of electricity generators, except those needed for essential or emergency services, in the national capital.
- GRAP includes the measures which will be taken by different government agencies to prevent worsening of Air Quality of Delhi-NCR and prevent PM10 and PM2.5 levels to go beyond the 'moderate' national Air Quality Index (AQI) category.
- The plan requires action and coordination among 13 different agencies in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan (NCR areas).



## India's first Oscar winner Costume designer Bhanu Athaiya passes away



India's first Oscar winner Costume designer Bhanu Athaiya died.

- Kolhapur-born Athaiya, who was active till just five years ago, began her career as a costume designer in Hindi cinema with Guru Dutt's 1956 superhit "C.I.D.". She went on to work in over 100 films.
- She jointly won the Academy Award for Best Costume Design with John Mollo, for Richard Attenborough's "Gandhi". The lavish biopic of Mahatma Gandhi swept the Oscars with eight awards.
- In 2012, Athaiya returned her Oscar to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for safe keeping.

## Renowned Malayalam poet Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri passes away

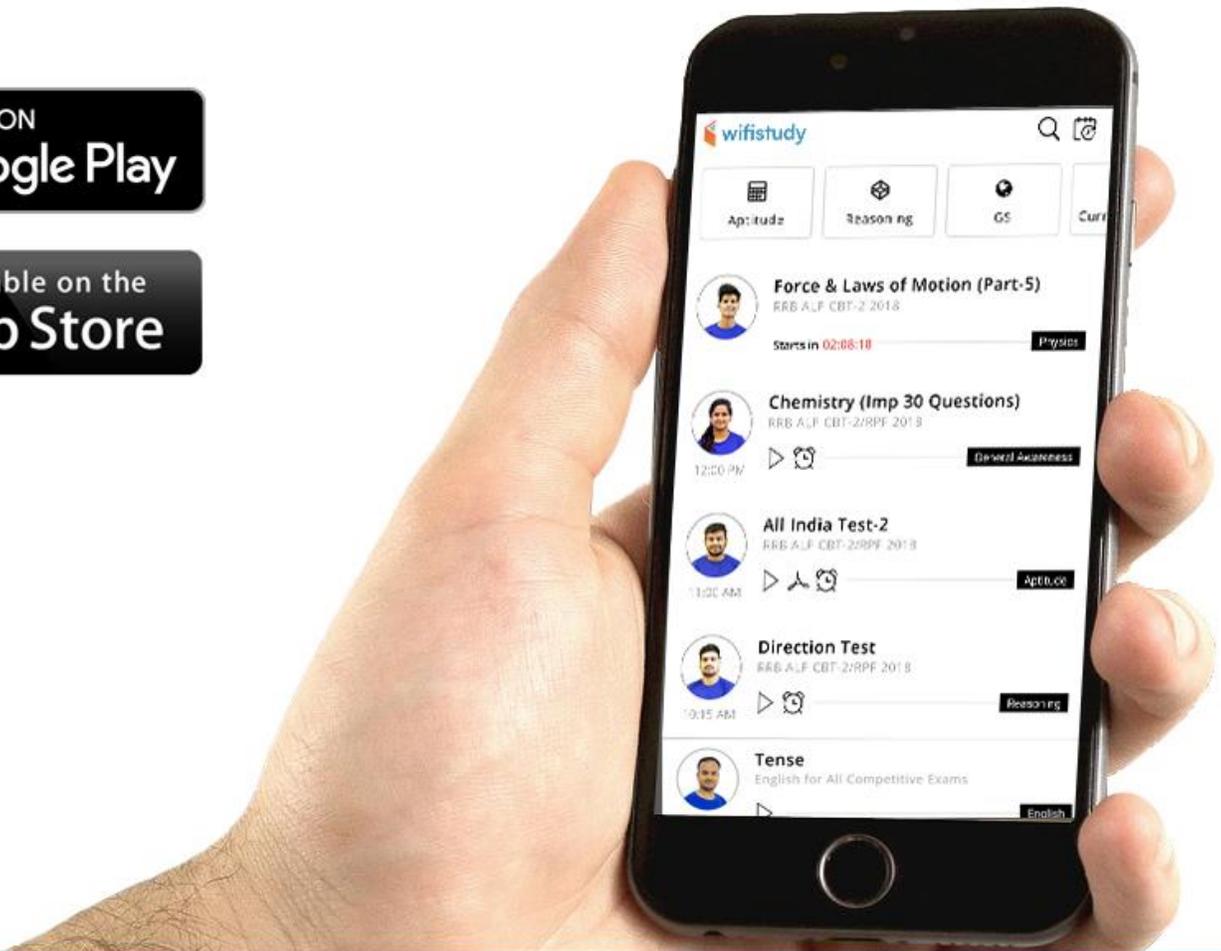


Renowned Malayalam poet and Jnanpith laureate Mahakavi Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri passed away.

- Recently, he was conferred with the Jnanpith award, the highest literary award in the country.
- Popularly known as Akkitham, his "Irupatham Noottandinte Ithihasam" (Epic of the 20th Century) is considered as one of the first truly modernist poems in Malayalam literature.
- Among the numerous awards which came his way are Padma Shri, Ezhuthachan Award, Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award, Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award for Poetry, Odakkuzhal Award, Vallathol Award and the Vayalar Award.



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