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CURRENT AFFAIRS OF OCTOBER 2015

Persons

The chairperson of ruling Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxist Leninist) who has been elected the first woman President of Nepal – **Bidhya Devi Bhandari**

The Indian lady, winner of Mrs India, Queen of Substance title who has been crowned Mrs Earth 2015 at a beauty pageant in Jamaica – **Mrs. Priyanka Khurana Goyal**

The renowned nuclear scientist who has taken over as the Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy following the retirement of Shri Ratan Kumar Sinha – **Dr. Sekhar Basu**

The newly elected Prime Minister of Nepal under the new Constitution who was sworn in by the President Ram Baran Yadav – **Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli**

The Padma Shri winning Tamil film actress who entered the Guinness Book of World Records for having acted in 1000 films who passed away on 10 Oct 2015 – **Manorama**

The veteran lyricist and music composer who passed away on 09 Oct 2015 – **Ravindra Jain**

The South Korean climate change expert who has been elected the new chief of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change (a post held formerly by RK Pachauri) – **Hoesung Lee**

The Indian-American activist and founder of Sustainable Innovations who has been listed among CNN's Top 10 Heroes of 2015, for bringing safe drinking water to more than 10,000 drought-stricken people in his native Rajasthan – **Bhagwati Agrawal**

The Governor of Meghalaya who has been sworn in as the Governor of Manipur following the death of Mr. Syed Ahmed in September – **V. Shanmuganathan**

The Indian magician who has been conferred the Merlin Award (popularly known as the Oscar of the magic) – **Zenia Bhumgara**

Sports

The sports magazine which has launched its digital version with the Indian tennis legend Ramanathan Krishnan and cricketer Venkatraghavan inaugurating it – **Sportstar**

The Indian golfer who has been awarded the inaugural Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of the Month award launched to recognise outstanding efforts of Asian Tour members both at home and abroad – **Anirban Lahiri**

The Indian tennis player who has entered the ATP top 100 hundred rankings for the first time in his career – **Yuki Bhambri**

The Indian pace bowler who has announced his retirement from international cricket having taken 311 test and 282 ODI wickets – **Zaheer Khan**

The tennis player who has won the Fenesta Open National Championship 2015 women's title for the fourth time in a row defeating Sai Samhita Chamarthi in the finals – **Prerna Bhambri**

The tennis player who has won the Fenesta Open National Championship 2015 men's title defeating Vishnu Vardhan in the finals – **Sriram Balaji**

The British boxer who has been defeated by Indian professional boxer Vijender Singh in his debut professional fight – **Sonny Whiting**

The country which has won the Bermuda Bowl Bridge tournament beating Sweden in the finals of World Bridge Championships in Chennai – **Poland**

The Ukrainian-born Russian chess grandmaster who has won the Chess World Cup 2015 tournament held in Baku, Azerbaijan – **Sergey Karjakin**

The venue of Paragliding World Cup 2015 tournament being held from 24 to 31 Oct 2014 – **Bir, Himachal Pradesh**

The police officer from Telangana who has become the first Indian woman to conquer the 7,077 m high Kun mountain, the twin of Nun, located in the Zaskar mountain range of Himalayas in Jammu and Kashmir – **G.R. Radhika**

The new President of Board of Control for Cricket in India who has been chosen following the death of Mr. Jagmohan Dalmiya – **Shashank Mahohar**

Corporate

The Chinese company which has announced that it has developed the world's first 3D blood vessel bio-printer, which makes it possible to produce personalized functional organs – **Sichuan Revotek**

The Chinese smartphone making company which has replaced PepsiCo as the title sponsor of Indian Premier League, cricket tournament – **Vivo**

Defence

The annual military exercise by the Navies of India, United States and Japan in the Indian Ocean being conducted from Oct 14 to 19 is named – **Exercise Malabar**

The fifth joint military exercise between India and China which began at Kunming Military Academy, Yunnan Province, China on 12 Oct – **Hand-in-Hand**

India's first indigenously-designed and built torpedo launch and recovery vessel which was commissioned into the Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam – **INS Astradharini**

Books

The book written by Jamaican author Marlon James which has been awarded the Man Booker Prize 2015 – **A Brief History of Seven Killings**

The book written by former Pakistan foreign minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri which was launched in Mumbai – **Neither a Hawk Nor a Dove**

Banking

The public sector bank with which the Indian e-commerce website, Paytm has tied up to offer mobile wallet top up facility through bank ATMs – **Bank of Maharashtra**

The new private sector bank which has launched its operations with 23 branches for corporate and rural customers, becoming the 91st scheduled commercial bank in India – **IDFC Bank**

Railways

The alternative train accommodation scheme to be launched by the Indian Railways to enable waitlisted passengers of train to opt for confirmed berths in alternative trains is named – **Vikalp**

Agriculture

The agricultural commodity on which the Govt has decided to hike the customs duty from 10% to 25% for a period upto 31.03.2016, in view of the continued fall in international prices and the anticipated adverse impact of increased imports – **Wheat**

The agricultural pest which has affected about two-third of Punjab's cotton crop causing a loss of over Rs. 4000 crores – **Whitefly**

Indices and Rankings

The rank of India in the Ease of Doing Business Rankings released by the World Bank group recently (The rank was 134 in the previous release) – **130**

The rank of India in the Global Competitiveness Index report 2015-16 released by World Economic Forum recently – **55**

Places

The places between which the Central Govt has agreed to declare river Godavari as National Waterway in the revised National Waterways Bill, 2015 – **Nasik and Rajahmundry**

The country with which Pakistan has signed an agreement to build a 1,100-km gas pipeline with a capacity of 12.4 billion cubic metre per annum from Lahore to Karachi – **Russia**

The places where the Union Cabinet has cleared the proposal to set up three new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna (PMSSY) – **Nagpur, Mangalgi (A.P.) and Kalyani (W.B.)**

Miscellaneous

The political party of Canada led by **Justin Trudeau** which has won the Canadian Federal Elections 2015 by winning 184 seats out of 338 seats – **Liberal Party**

The cyclonic storm which lashed parts of Philippines displacing thousands of people is named – **Typhoon Koppu**

The theme of World Food Day 2015 observed on 16 October 2015 – **Social Protection and Agriculture**

US-based Internet based TV streaming service provider which launched its service in India recently – **YuppTV**

The non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug which has been banned by the Tamil Nadu government to save vultures – **Ketoprofen**

The state which has decided to launch a programme named Food Net to ensure transparency and plug leakage and diversion of farmers produce – **Haryana**

The World Bank-assisted 'National Watershed Management Project' approved by the Union Cabinet is named (The project aims to fulfil the watershed component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMSKY) to reduce surface runoff of rainwater, increase groundwater levels and better water availability in rain-fed areas) – **Neeranchal**

The language which has been included to be taught in Kendriya Vidyalayas as an additional foreign language (a year after KVs had decided to replace it with Sanskrit) – **German**

The year in which India is set to chair the G-20 summit – **2018**

Right Livelihood Awards 2015

Honorary Award – Tony de Brum & the People of the Marshall Islands (Marshall Islands) – In recognition of their vision and courage to take legal action against the nuclear powers for failing to honour their disarmament obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Sheila Watt-Cloutier (Canada) – For her lifelong work to protect the Inuit of the Arctic (indigenous people) and defend their right to maintain their livelihoods and culture, which are acutely threatened by climate change.

Kasha Jacqueline Nabagesera (Uganda) – For her courage and persistence, despite violence and intimidation, in working for the right of LGBTI people to a life free from prejudice and persecution.

Gino Strada, founder of organisation named EMERGENCY (Italy) – For his great humanity and skill in providing outstanding medical and surgical services to the victims of conflict and injustice, while fearlessly addressing the causes of war.

Nobel Prizes 2015

Field	Winners	Nationality	Contribution
1. Medicine	William C. Campbell	Ireland	For their discoveries concerning a novel therapy against infections caused by roundworm parasites.
	Satoshi Omura	Japan	
	Youyou Tu	China	
2. Chemistry	Tomas Lindhal	Sweden	For mechanistic studies of DNA repair
	Paul Modrich	U.S.A.	
	Aziz Sancar	Turkey	
3. Physics	Takaaki Kajita	Japan	For the discovery of neutrino oscillations, which shows that neutrinos have mass.
	Arthur B. McDonald	Canada	
4. Literature	Svetlana Alexievich	Belarus	For her polyphonic writings, a monument to suffering and courage in our time.
5. Peace	National Dialogue Quarter	Tunisia	For its decisive contribution to the building of a pluralistic democracy in Tunisia in the wake of the Jasmine Revolution of 2011.
6. Economic Sciences	Agnus Deaton	U.K.	For his analysis of consumption, poverty, and welfare.

India's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC)

India has submitted its action plan to the UN climate body, UNFCCC. Every country is submitting these action plans, called Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, or INDCs, ahead of an annual climate change conference in December to be held in Paris. Some of the salient points of the INDC are:

- To put forward and further propagate a healthy and sustainable way of living based on traditions and values of conservation and moderation.
- To adopt a climate-friendly and a cleaner path than the one followed hitherto by others at corresponding level of economic development.
- To reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 per cent by 2030 from 2005 level.
- To achieve about 40 per cent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel based energy resources by 2030, with the help of transfer of technology and low cost international finance, including from Green Climate Fund.
- To create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.
- To better adapt to climate change by enhancing investments in development programmes in sectors vulnerable to climate change, particularly agriculture, water resources, Himalayan region, coastal regions, health and disaster management.

- To mobilize domestic and new and additional funds from developed countries to implement the above mitigation and adaptation actions in view of the resource required and the resource gap.
- To build capacities, create domestic framework and international architecture for quick diffusion of cutting edge climate technology in India and for joint collaborative R&D for such future technologies.

Trans-Pacific Partnership

On October 5, 2015 the U.S. and 11 other Pacific Rim nations agreed to Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), the largest regional trade accord in history. It is a potentially precedent-setting model for global commerce and worker standards that would tie together 40 per cent of the world's economy. It seeks to eliminate or reduce about 18,000 tariff and non-tariff barriers.

The 11 nations are Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Canada and Vietnam.

Virender Sehwag

1. Retired from all forms of cricket in Oct 2015. Test career from 2001 to 2015 (104 tests and 8586 runs) and ODI career from 1999 to 2015 (251 matches and 8273 runs)
2. First Indian to be honoured as the Wisden Leading Cricketer in the World for his performance in 2008 and the first in the world to be honoured twice consecutively.
3. Holds the world record for fastest triple century in international cricket (off 278 balls)
4. Highest score by an Indian in test cricket, 319 against South Africa in Chennai, also the only Indian to score a Test triple century.
5. One of the four cricketers to score 2 triple centuries in Test cricket with Don Bradman, Brian Lara and Chris Gayle
6. Awarded Arjuna Award in 2002 and Padma Shri in 2010.

IDFC Bank

IDFC Bank started its operations on October 1, 2015 with 23 branches.

Headquarters : Mumbai.

MD & CEO : Dr. Rajiv B. Lall

Launched by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on : 19 Oct 2015

The bank was a part of non-banking financial company IDFC (Infrastructure Development Finance Company) which was granted an in-principle approval to set-up a bank in 2014.

WHO CLASSIFICATION OF RED AND PROCESSED MEATS

The WHO (World Health Organisation) classified meat into the category of carcinogenic (cancer causing) substances.

Causes Cancer – Processed meats including sausages and hotdogs, bacon and salami.

Probably causes cancer – Red meat including pork, beef and lamb.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2014

Presented by the President on 23 October 2015

AKADEMI FELLOW (RATNA)

1. Shri S R Janakiraman (Carnatic Vocalist and Musicologist)
2. Shri M S Sathyu (Film and Art Director)
3. Shri Vijay Kichlu (Classical Singer)
4. Shri Tulsidas Borkar (Harmonium Player)

AKADEMI AWARDS (PURASKAR)

FIELD OF ACTIVITY - MUSIC

1. Smt. Ashwini Bhide Deshpande - Hindustani Vocal Music
2. Ustad Iqbal Ahmed Khan - Hindustani Vocal Music
3. Shri Nath Narelkar - Hindustani Vocal Music
4. Pandit Nayan Ghosh - Hindustani Instrumental Music - Tabla
5. Shri Ronu Majumdar - Hindustani Instrumental Music - Flute
6. Shri .Neyveli Santhanagopalan - Carnatic Vocal Music
7. Shri TA Kaliyamurthy - Carnatic Instrumental Music – Thavil
8. Ms. Sukanya Ramgopal - Carnatic Instrumental Music - Ghatam
9. Shri Dwaram Durga Prasad Rao - Carnatic Instrumental Music – Violin

FIELD OF ACTIVITY - DANCE

1. Shri Adayar Janardanan - Bharatanatyam
2. Smt. Uma Dogra - Kathak
3. Smt. N. Amusana Devi - Manipuri
4. Shri Vedantam Radhesyam - Kuchipudi
5. Shri Sudhakar Sahoo - Odissi
6. Smt. Anita Sharma - Sattriya
7. Shri Jagru Mahato - Chhau
8. Shri Navtej Singh Johar - Contemporary Dance
9. Shri Varanasi Vishnu Namboothiri - Music for Kathakali

FIELD OF ACTIVITY - THEATRE

1. Shri Asgar Wajahat - Playwriting
2. Shri Surya Mohan Kulshreshtha - Direction
3. Shri Chidambar Rao Jambe - Direction

4. Shri Debshankar Haldar - Acting
5. Shri Ramdas Kamath - Acting
6. Shri Amod Bhatt - Allied theatre arts – Music for theatre
7. Shri Manjunath Bhagwat Hostota - Other major traditions of theatre – Yakshgana
8. Shri Amardas Manikpuri - Music for Theatre - Chhattisgarh

FIELD OF ACTIVITY – TRADITIONAL/FOLK/TRIBAL MUSIC/DANCE/THEATRE & PUPPETRY

1. Shri Puran Shah Koti - Traditional music, Punjab
2. Shri K. Kesavasamy - Puppetry - Puducherry
3. Shri Kalamandalam Ram Mohan - Make-up/costume for Kathakali
4. Shri Reba Kanta Mohanta - Mask making, Assam
5. Shri Abdul Rashid Hafiz - Folk music, Jammu & Kashmir
6. Shri K. Shanathoiba Sharma - Thang-ta, Manipur
7. Shri Ramdayal Sharma - Nautanki, U.P.
8. Shri Thanga Darlong - Folk music, Tripura

FIELD OF ACTIVITY: OVERALL CONTRIBUTION / SCHOLARSHIP IN PERFORMING ARTS (NUMBER OF PURASKAR – 2)

1. Shri Akshara K.V. (Kannada Director, Playwright and Writer)
2. Shri Indudhar Nirody (Hindustani Classical Music Singer)

Abbreviations in News

KISAN project: C(K)rop Insurance using Space technology And geoinformatics

INDC: Intended Nationally Determined Contribution

QUESTIONS ON CURRENT AFFAIRS OF OCTOBER 2015

1. Svetlana Alexievich, who has been awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, 2015 belongs to
 (a) Russia (b) Ukraine (c) Belarus (d) Poland
2. Sagarmala is a programme launched by the govt for the development and modernisation of
 (a) hill stations (b) ports (c) islands (d) rivers
3. Which Indian tennis player ranked for the first time in his career in the ATP Top 100 rankings?
 (a) Yuki Bhambri (b) Rohan Bopanna (c) Vishnu Vardhan (d) Somdev Devvarman
4. Artemisinin for the discovery of which Chinese scientist has been awarded the Nobel Prize this year is used to treat -?
 (a) Malaria (b) Ebola (c) Swine flu (d) Bird flu

5. Who of the following has been elected the new chief of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change?

- (a) Sylvia Lucas (b) Alexis Tsipras (c) Maurice Obstfeld (d) Hoesung Lee

6. Which city in southern India is set to turn into "Ivory City", its newly adopted nickname by painting all govt buildings and heritage structures in the colour of ivory (off-white)?

- (a) Mangalore (b) Madurai (c) Mysuru (d) Coimbatore

7. MS Sathyu, who has been awarded the Akademi Ratna by the Sangeet Natak Akademi is associated with

- (a) Carnatic music (b) Film making (c) Odissi dance (d) Folk music

8. Omar al-Bashir, who is in news these days is the President of which African country?

- (a) Democratic Republic of Congo (b) Tanzania
(c) Uganda (d) Sudan

9. Which place in Andhra Pradesh has been chosen for setting up of one of the three AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences) under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana?

- (a) Mangalagiri (b) Anantapur (c) Rajahmundry (d) Vizianagaram

10. Recently, Indian fishermen were reported to have been arrested in Diego Garcia which is an island in the Indian Ocean owned by -

- (a) Spain (b) United States (c) France (d) United Kingdom

11. **Bermuda Bowl** which was won by Poland recently is a trophy associated with which of the following sports?

- (a) Chess (b) Bridge (c) Carrom (d) Rugby

12. In which colour were monuments across the world, including India, lit up to mark United Nations Day on October 24?

- (a) Red (b) Blue (c) Pink (d) Purple

13. What was the theme of World Food Day 2015 observed on 16 October 2015?

- (a) Family Farming: Feeding the World (b) Ending Hunger starts with us
(c) Social Protection & Agriculture (d) Think-Eat-Save

14. With which one of the following sports are Hitendra Mahajan and Mahendra Mahajan associated?

- (a) Cycling (b) Mountaineering (c) Paragliding (d) Wildlife photography

15. How many countries are associated with the United States of America in the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a regional trade accord targeted to tie together 40% of world's economy?

- (a) 8 (b) 9 (c) 10 (d) 11

16. Which organisation in Pakistan took care of the hearing and speech impaired Indian girl, Geeta during her over a decade-long stay in the country?

- (a) Darul Sukun (b) Aahung (c) Edhi Foundation (d) H.O.P.E.S.

17. Virender Sehwag, who retired from all forms of cricket recently is one of the 4 cricketers in the world to have scored 2 triple centuries in test cricket. Who among the following is not among the other three?

- (a) Brian Lara (b) Garfield Sobers (c) Don Bradman (d) Chris Gayle

18. National Dialogue Quartet, a group of four organisations which has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2015 is based in which country?

- (a) Tunisia (b) Greece (c) Turkey (d) North Korea

19. Which of the following books has been awarded the Man Booker Prize 2015?

- (a) A Little Life (b) The Year of the Runaways
(c) A Spool of Blue Thread (d) A Brief History of Seven Killings

20. Which two countries apart from India participated in the maritime exercise Malabar 2015?

- (a) US and Japan (b) US and Singapore (c) Japan & Singapore (d) Singapore & Indonesia

21. Which insect affected about two-thirds of Punjab's cotton crop causing a huge loss to the farmers?

- (a) Aphid (b) Whitefly (c) Locust (d) Spider mite

22. What is the rank of India in Ease of Doing Business Index released by World Bank group recently?

- (a) 124 (b) 134 (c) 130 (d) 144

23. Who is the new Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission?

- (a) RK Sinha (b) Dr. Sekhar Basu (c) AK Doval (d) Nripendra Misra

24. The alternative train accommodation scheme launched by Indian Railways for the benefit of waitlisted passengers is named

- (a) Vikalp (b) Suvidha (c) Aarakshan (d) Pariyojan

25. Which of the following has replaced PepsiCo as the title sponsor of Indian Premier League?

- (a) Amoi (b) Huawei (c) Oppo (d) Vivo

Answers

1. (c) 2. (b) 3. (a) 4. (a) 5. (d) 6. (c) 7. (b) 8. (d) 9. (a) 10. (d) 11. (b) 12. (b) 13. (c)
14. (a) 15. (d) 16. (c) 17. (b) 18. (a) 19. (d) 20. (a) 21. (b) 22. (c) 23. (b) 24. (a) 25. (d)