



## CURRENT AFFAIRS= 08-10-2020

### RIGHT TO PROTEST

The Supreme Court has said that occupying public places for protests is not acceptable and such a space cannot be occupied indefinitely.

#### Key highlights of the judgement:

 Democracy and dissent go hand in hand, but then the demonstrations expressing dissent have to be in designated places alone. The present case was not even one of protests taking place in an undesignated area, but was a blockage of a public way which caused grave inconvenience to commuters

 Fundamental rights do not live in isolation. The right of the protester has to be balanced with the right of the commuter. They have to co-exist in mutual respect



The verdict came on a plea against the Anti-Citizenship Amendment Act protests which had led to blocking of a road in Shaheen Bagh in the national capital last December.

It said that public places cannot be occupied indefinitely like during the Shaheen Bagh protests.

- The judgment upheld the right to peaceful protest against a law but made it unequivocally clear that public ways and public spaces cannot be occupied, and that too indefinitely.
- In a democracy, the rights of free speech and peaceful protest were indeed “treasured”. They were to be encouraged and respected, the court said.
- But these rights were also subject to reasonable restrictions imposed in the interest of sovereignty, integrity and public order. Police regulations also weighed in.
- Fundamental rights do not live in isolation. The right of the protester has to be balanced with the right of the commuter. They have to co-exist in mutual respect.
- The bench also said that Delhi Police ought to have taken action to clear Shaheen Bagh area from the protesters. It was entirely the responsibility of the administration to prevent encroachments in public spaces.

### NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY 2020

Emmanuelle Charpentier of France and Jennifer Doudna of the U.S. won the Nobel Chemistry Prize for the gene-editing technique known as the CRISPR-

**Cas9 DNA snipping “scissors”, the first time a Nobel science prize has gone to a women-only team.**



**About:**



Emmanuelle Charpentier

Jennifer A. Doudna

Charpentier, 51, and Ms. Doudna, 56, are just the sixth and seventh women to receive the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

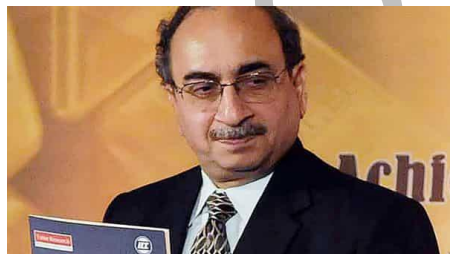
Using the tool, “researchers can change the DNA of animals, plants and microorganisms with extremely high precision”.

The CRISPR-Cas9 tool has already contributed to significant gains in crop resilience, altering their genetic code to better withstand drought and pests.

- The technology has also led to innovative cancer treatments, and many experts hope it could one day make inherited diseases curable through gene manipulation.
- CRISPR’s relative simplicity and widespread applicability has, however, triggered the imaginations of rogue practitioners. In 2018 in China, scientist He Jiankui caused an international scandal when he used CRISPR to create what he called the first gene-edited humans.

**DINESH KUMAR KHARA**

**Dinesh Kumar Khara has assumed charge as the new Chairman of the country's largest lender State Bank of India. Mr. Khara took over from Rajnish Kumar.**



**About:**

Khara has been appointed as SBI Chairman for a period of three years. On August 28, Bank Board Bureau had recommended the appointment of Dinesh Kumar Khara to the post of chairman of

SBI.

- He was instrumental in merging five associate banks and Bharatiya Mahila Bank with SBI effective April 2017.
- State Bank of India (SBI) is an Indian multinational, public sector bank headquartered in Mumbai.

## Evolution Of SBI

The origin of the State Bank of India goes back to the first decade of the nineteenth century with the establishment of the Bank of Calcutta in Calcutta in 1806. Three years later the bank was re-designed as the Bank of Bengal (in 1809).

The Bank of Bombay (1840) and the Bank of Madras (1843) followed the Bank of Bengal. These three banks remained at the apex of modern banking in India till their amalgamation as the Imperial Bank of India in 1921.

Pursuant to the provisions of the State Bank of India Act of 1955, the RBI acquired a controlling interest in the Imperial Bank of India. On 1 July 1955, the Imperial Bank of India became the State Bank of India.

In 2008, the Government of India acquired the RBI's stake in SBI so as to remove any conflict of interest because the RBI is the country's banking regulatory authority.



## POVERTY AND SHARED PROSPERITY 2020: REVERSALS OF FORTUNE

**Global extreme poverty is expected to rise for the first time in 20 years because of the disruption caused by COVID-19, the World Bank said in its biennial Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report.**



### About:

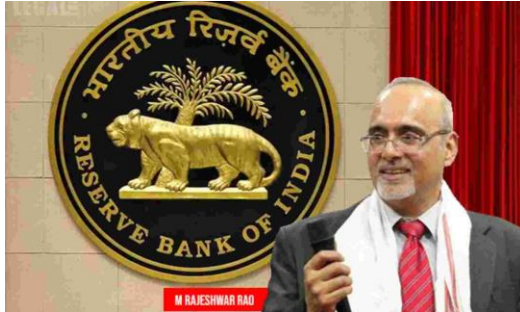
The Poverty and Shared Prosperity series of report by World bank provides the latest and most accurate estimates on trends in global poverty and shared prosperity.

- For more than two decades, extreme poverty was steadily declining. Now, for the first time in a generation, the quest to end poverty has suffered its worst setback.
- **‘Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020: Reversals of Fortune’** presents new estimates of COVID-19's impacts on global poverty and inequality.
- The pandemic may push another 88 million to 115 million into extreme poverty or having to live on less than \$1.50 per day, resulting in a total of 150 million such individuals.



- Some 9.1% to 9.4% of the world will be affected by extreme poverty in 2020.

## RBI DEPUTY GOVERNORS

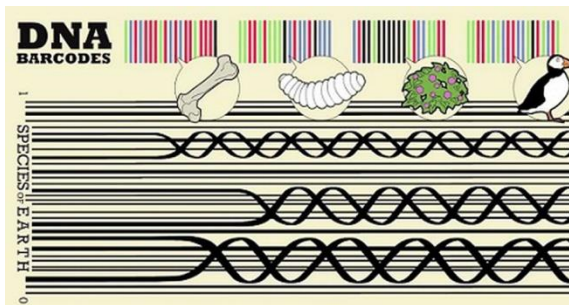


**The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of RBI's senior-most Executive Director M. Rajeshwar Rao as Deputy Governor**

He succeeds N.S. Vishwanathan, who stepped down in March, three months ahead of his extended tenure on health grounds.

- The RBI needs four Deputy Governors: two from within the ranks, a commercial banker and an economist to head the monetary policy department.

## INTERNATIONAL BARCODE OF LIFE (iBOL)



**A MoU has been signed between Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), a subordinate organization under Ministry of Environment and International Barcode of Life (iBOL), a Canadian not-for-profit corporation.**

### About:

- ZSI and iBOL have come together for further efforts in DNA barcoding, a methodology for rapidly and accurately identifying species by sequencing a short segment of standardized gene regions and comparing individual sequences to a reference database.
- iBOL is a research alliance involving nations that have committed both human and financial resources to enable expansion of the global reference database and/or the analytical protocols needed to use the reference library to inventory, assess, and describe biodiversity.  
The MoU will enable ZSI to participate at the Global level programmes like Bioscan and Planetary Biodiversity Mission.

## WORLD COTTON DAY

The 2nd World Cotton Day was observed on 7th October, 2020.



**Background:** At the initiative of the Cotton-4 (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali), the WTO hosted on 7 October 2019 the launch of World Cotton Day in collaboration with the secretariats of the UN FAO UNCTAD, the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC).

### COTTON 4 (C-4)

BENIN, BURKINA FASO,  
CHAD AND MALI ARE  
THE CO-AUTHORS OF  
THE 2003 WTO COTTON  
SECTORAL INITIATIVE



**Objective:** To recognize the importance of cotton as a global commodity grown in over 75 countries across five continents and to highlight its central role in job creation and maintaining economic stability in several least-developed countries.

### Cotton Four?

Cotton is discussed at the WTO on two tracks: 1) the trade reforms needed to address subsidies and high trade barriers for cotton, and 2) the assistance provided to the cotton sector in developing countries.

These various tracks of discussion have been developed over the years as a response to a series of proposals to address the sector tabled by four African countries — Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali — known as the Cotton Four or C4.