

Weekly Current Affairs from 19th to 23rd October, 2020

Important News: State

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath launched 'Mission Shakti' for security of women in the state

- Uttar Pradesh government launched a six months long women empowerment campaign 'Mission Shakti' to raise awareness and tackle crime against women.
- Under this campaign, various awareness and training programs will be conducted regarding various schemes for the respect, protection and self-reliance of women and girls.

Important News: India

Government to make India free of Trans fat by 2022

- Health Minister Dr Harsh said that the aim of the government is to make India Trans Fat free by 2022, a year ahead of target set by World Health Organization.
- This year is the elimination of trans-fat from the food supply chain.
- He also launched the '**Eat Smart City**' challenge by **FSSAI** in partnership with Smart City Mission and The Food Foundation, UK to create an environment of right food practices and habits in India's smart cities and can set an example for others to follow.
- **Note: Trans fats** are a form of unsaturated fat associated with a number of negative health effects. Artificial trans fat is created during hydrogenation, which converts liquid vegetable oils into semi-solid partially hydrogenated oil. Trans fat can also be found naturally in meat and dairy.

Union Education Minister launched 'KAPILA' (Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness Education campaign)

- The program was launched on the 89th birth anniversary of former President Late Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.
- The Institution Innovation Council (IIC 2.0) annual report was presented and the launch of IIC 3.0 was announced. It has also been decided to celebrate the week of 15th to 23rd October as '**Intellectual Property Literacy Week**'.
- **Note: Institution Innovation Council (IIC)** was established by the Ministry of Education in 2018. It aims to conduct various innovation and entrepreneurship-related activities.
- **National Intellectual Property Rights Policy** was approved by the Indian cabinet on 12 May 2016 to ensure compliance to the Doha Development Round



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and TRIPS Agreement. With its seven objectives, it aims at creating a “Creative India; Innovative India”.

FSSAI's new food safety compliance platform to become operational across India from November 2020

- The system has been operational in 9 States/UTs -Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Odisha, Chandigarh, Manipur, Goa, Puducherry and Ladakh since June.
- FSSAI is launching its cloud based, upgraded new food safety compliance online platform called FoSCoS (URL-<https://foscoss.fssai.gov.in>).
- It will replace the existing FLRS (Food Licensing and Registration System) (URL-<https://foodlicensing.fssai.gov.in>)
- **Note:** FoSCoS is conceptualized to provide one point stop for all engagement of a food business operator (FBO) with the department for any regulatory compliance transaction.
- **Facts about FSSAI** (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India)

Formed: August 2011

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairperson: Rita Teatota

Under: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launches AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR scheme

- Ayushman Sahakar scheme aims at bringing transformation in the health services primarily in the rural areas.
- This scheme has been formulated by the NCDC (National Cooperative Development Corporation). NCDC would extend term loans to prospective cooperatives to the tune of 10000 crore in the coming years.

Facts: National Cooperative Development Corporation is a statutory corporation set up under an Act of Indian Parliament.

Founded: 13 March 1963

Headquarters: New Delhi, India



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Agency executive: Sundeep Kumar Nayak, Managing Director

Under: Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

PM Narendra Modi to deliver keynote address at virtual Grand Challenges Annual Meeting

- Grand Challenges Annual Meeting will convene from October 19 to 21.
- The Grand Challenges Annual Meeting, for the last 15 years, has fostered international innovation collaborations to address the biggest challenges in health and development. It will call for deepened scientific collaborations in solving global health problems with great emphasis on COVID-19 with an "India for the World" framing.
- **Note: The Grand Challenges Annual Meeting 2020** will be co-hosted by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, the Indian Council of Medical Research and NITI Aayog, along with the Grand Challenges Canada, the United States Agency for International Development and Welcome.

Government launches CuRED, CSIR website on COVID-19 clinical trials

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched a website that gives comprehensive information about the numerous COVID-19 clinical trials that CSIR is engaged in partnership with industry, other government departments and ministries.
- **CuRED (CSIR Ushered Repurposed Drugs)**, the website provides information about the drugs, diagnostics and devices including the current stage of the trials, partnering institutions and their role in the trials and other details.
- **Note: Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** was established in September 1942 as an autonomous body that has emerged as the largest research and development organization in India. Its Director General is Shekhar C. Mande.

Cabinet approves mutual recognition pact between India's ICAI and Malaysia's MICPA

- The Union Cabinet approved the mutual recognition agreement between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA). This would enable appropriately qualified chartered accountant members of either institute to join the other by receiving appropriate credit for their existing accountancy qualification.



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- Besides, the Cabinet cleared a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the **ICAI and the Certified Practising Accountants, Papua New Guinea (CPA PNG)** to work together in capacity building and strengthening the accounting, financial and audit knowledge base in Papua New Guinea.
- **Note: Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** is the national professional accounting body of India. It was established on 1 July 1949 as a statutory body under the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 enacted by the Parliament to regulate the profession of Chartered Accountancy in India.

Anti-Tank Guided Missile Nag passes final trial

- The long-awaited 3rd generation **Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM), Nag**, successfully completed its final user trial in Pokhran, Rajasthan and Nag will enter into the production phase.
- The missile is launched from the NAG missile carrier (NAMICA). The missile will be produced by Defence PSU Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), whereas Ordnance Factory, Medak will produce the NAMICA.
- **Note:** The Nag missile has been developed by DRDO to strike and neutralize highly fortified enemy tanks. It also has night strike capabilities. It has a minimum range of 500 meters and maximum range of 4 kilometers. Nag uses an imaging infra-red seeker to lock on to the target before launch.

PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate three key projects in Gujarat on 24th October

(i) **Kisan Suryodaya Yojana** is to provide day-time power supply for irrigation.

(ii) **Paediatric Heart Hospital** attached with the U.N Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre and a Mobile Application for tele-cardiology at the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital in Ahmedabad.

(iii) **Girnar Ropeway** will provide a scenic view of the lush green beauty surrounding the Girnar mountain.

Facts about Gujarat:

State Bird: Greater flamingo

State Animal: Asiatic lion

State Flower: Marigold

State Tree: Banyan



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Sardar Patel statue, which is the highest in the world.

New series of consumer price index for industrial workers (CPI-IW) released

- Labour Minister, Santosh Gangwar released the new series of consumer price index for industrial workers (CPI-IW) with 2016 Base Year.
- Earlier the base year for the CPI-IW was 2001. It is an important economic indicator.
- **Note:** CPI-IW is a measure of inflation and used to calculate dearness allowance (DA) for government employees, wages for industrial workers and dearness relief for pensioners.
- India has five consumer price indices (CPIs), three of which are working-class specific. These are **CPI-IW** for industrial workers, **CPI-AL** for agricultural labour and **CPI-RL** for rural labour. There is also **CPI-Urban** and **CPI Rural**. The combined rise in retail prices is captured by **CPI Combined**.

Minister of State for Shipping, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya launched the development of Indigenous Software solution for VTS (Vessel Traffic Services) and VTMS (Vessels Traffic Monitoring Systems)

- VTS and VTMS is software which determines vessel positions, position of other traffic or meteorological hazard warnings and extensive management of traffic within a port or waterway.
- **Vessel Traffic Services (VTS)** contribute to safety of life at sea, safety and efficiency of navigation and protection of the marine environment, adjacent shore areas, work sites and offshore installations from possible adverse effects of maritime traffic.
- **Vessels Traffic Management Systems** are installed in some of the busiest waters in the world. Data from traffic movements can be stored and used as reference information for port administration, port authorities, coastguards and search and rescue services.

6th India International Science Festival (IISF)

- The 6th edition of IISF 2020 will be held from 22nd to 25th December, 2020.
- IISF is organised jointly by Science & Technology-related Ministries & Departments of the Government of India and Vijnana Bharati (Vibha).
- **Note:** IISF is a festival to celebrate the achievements of India's scientific and technological advancements with students, innovators, craftsmen, farmers, scientists and technocrats from India and abroad.



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- The 1st and 2nd IISF were held in New Delhi, the 3rd in Chennai, the 4th in Lucknow, and the 5th was in Kolkata.

RBI conducted the first-ever open market operation (OMO) in state development loans (SDLs), buying Rs 10,000 crore of securities

- SDL holders offered Rs 15,475 crore of bonds against the OMO size of Rs 10,000 crore. The lowest cut-off yield was offered for Karnataka's 9-year bond at 6.4746 per cent, while the highest cut-off was for Jammu Kashmir's 10-year SDL at 6.6813 per cent. Overall, two papers each of 15 states were purchased in the OMO.
- In a separate development, the RBI has also announced OMO purchase of central government bonds worth Rs 20,000 crore on October 29, 2020.
- **Note: State Development Loans (SDLs)** are the securities issued by states to manage their own finances.

Indian government launches 'e-Dharti Geo portal'

- Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri, launched the 'e-Dharti GeoPortal' which will integrate legacy drawings such as maps and lease plans in the management information system.
- **Note:** Portal will allow the data to become geographic information system (GIS)-enabled. The ministry issued in a statement that the Land and Development office has developed a property certificate incorporating details and the outline map of the property which is available online on the portal.

First-ever multi-modal logistic park in Assam

- Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone for the first-ever multi-modal logistic park of the country in Assam.
- The 700-crore rupee park at Bongaigaon district will provide direct connectivity to road, air, rail and waterways to the people of Assam and other parts of North East.
- It will be developed under the Bharatmala Pariyojana of the Centre.
- **Note: Bharatmala Pariyojana** is a centrally-sponsored and funded Road and Highways project of the Government of India. It was launched in 2017.

Facts about Assam:

- **World Heritage Sites:** Kaziranga Wildlife Sanctuary and Manas Wildlife Sanctuary



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- **State Dance:** Bihu Dance
- **State Bird:** White-winged wood duck
- **State Animal:** One-horned rhinoceros
- **State Flower:** Foxtail orchids
- **State Tree:** Hollong
- People celebrated **Kati Bihu festival** in Assam's Bongaigaon on 17 October 2020.

NITI Ayog to formulate a national policy on water conservation under 'Buldhana Pattern'

- Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari said that Maharashtra's 'Buldhana Pattern' of water conservation has won national recognition and the NITI Aayog is in the process of formulating National Policy on water conservation based on it.
- **Note: Buldhana Pattern-** The synchronization of national highway construction and water conservation was achieved for the first time in Buldhana district, by using soil from the water bodies, nallas and rivers. This consequently led to the increase in capacity of water storage across the water-bodies in Buldhana district.
- By this activity in Maharashtra, 225 lakh cubic metre of soil was used in National Highway construction and the resultant widening / deepening resulted in increase of 22,500 Thousand Cubic Metre (TMC) of water storage capacity with no cost to state government.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) to provide 346 million dollar loan for Power Supply Project in Rural Maharashtra and 177 million dollar loan for Maharashtra Road Improvements

- **Facts: Asian Development Bank (ADB)**
- **Headquarters:** Mandaluyong, Philippines
- **President:** Masatsugu Asakawa
- **Founded:** 19 December 1966
- **Purpose:** Economic development
- **Membership:** 68 countries
- India was a founding member of ADB in 1966 and is now the bank's fourth-largest shareholder.
- Vice-President of ADB is **Mr. Ashok Lavasa**

Rajkiran Rai appointed as IBA chairman



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- Presently Mr. Rai is Union Bank of India's CEO. He succeeds **Rajnish Kumar** as the IBA Chairman.
- SBI's chairman **Dinesh Kumar Khara** has been elected as the deputy chairman of the association.
- **Note: IBA (Indian Banks' Association)**, formed on 26 September 1946 as a representative body of management of banking in India is an association of banks, financial institutions and others that deals with resolving generic and industry level issues of its members.

Important News: World

Qatar recorded the highest O3 exposure followed by Nepal and India.

- Among the 20 most populous countries, India recorded the highest increase (17%) in O3 concentrations in the past ten years.
- On average, global exposure to ozone increased from about 47.3 parts per billion (ppb) in 2010 to 49.5 ppb in 2019.
- **Note:** O3 is a major respiratory irritant which is not released directly into the air but is formed in a complex chemical interaction between nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the presence of sunlight.

Singapore in the world first for facial verification

- Singapore will be the first country in the world to use facial verification in its national identity scheme.
- **Note:** London-based biometric and facial authentication company, iProov, provides this technology. The technology will be integrated with the country's digital identity scheme SingPass and allows access to government services.

Vishal V. Sharma has been appointed as India's next permanent representative to UNESCO

- **Facts about UNESCO** (The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)
- **Formation:** 1945
- **Headquarters:** Paris, France
- **Head-Director General:** Audrey Azoulay

Defense

Australia to join Malabar Naval Exercise-2020 with India, US & Japan



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- In the 24th **edition** of Malabar exercise, Australia will join the Malabar naval exercise involving India, US and Japan.
- The exercise showcases the deep trust between four major Indo-Pacific democracies and their shared will to work together on common security interests in the maritime domain.
- Exercise Malabar-2020 is expected to be held in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea later this year.
- **Note:** The **Malabar** series of Naval exercises started in 1992 as a bilateral Indian Navy-US Navy exercise and Japan joined the Naval exercise in 2015. Past non-permanent participants are Australia and Singapore.
- The **23rd edition of the MALABAR Exercise** was scheduled among the navies of India, Japan and USA from 26 September to 04 October 2019 off the coast of Japan.

India, US to sign geospatial pact BECA during 2+2 dialogue to deepen military cooperation

- **BECA (Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement)** for Geo-Spatial Cooperation will be signed with the US to further tighten the strategic clinch between the two countries during the 2+2 dialogue held on 26 and 27 October.
- **Note: BECA**, which will enable the US to share advanced satellite and topographical data for long-range navigation and missile-targeting with India, is expected to be inked during the two-plus-two dialogue.
- BECA will be a very significant development as it would allow India to use global geospatial maps of the US for accuracy of stand-off weapons like cruise and ballistic missiles.
- India inked the General Security of Military Information Agreement (**GSOMIA**) with the US in 2002, which was followed by the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (**LEMOA**) in 2016, and then the Communications, Compatibility and Security Arrangement (**COMCASA**) in 2018.

INS Kavaratti to be commissioned into Indian Navy

- The last of four indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) stealth corvettes INS Kavaratti under Project 28 (Kamorta class) will be commissioned into the Indian Navy by Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Naravane, at Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam.
- INS Kavaratti has up to 90% indigenous content. The use of carbon composites to build it has been described as a 'commendable feat achieved in Indian shipbuilding.'



- It has state-of-the-art weapons and a sensor that can detect and take action against hostile submarines. It also has a good endurance for long-range deployments.
- **Note:** 'Project 28' was approved in 2003. The other three warships under this project are **INS Kamorta** (commissioned in 2014), **INS Kadmatt** (2016) and **INS Kiltan** (2017).

India-Sri Lanka begin their 8th edition of annual Navy bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-20

- The 8th edition of the annual Indian Navy (IN) and Sri Lankan Navy (SLN) bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-20 starts from October 19 to October 21, 2020, in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka.
- **Note:** The interaction between the navies of both nations has grown in recent years. It is in agreement with India's 'neighbourhood first' policy and PM Modi's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for all the Region).
- **The previous edition of SLINEX was conducted off in Visakhapatnam, India in September 2019.**

India successfully test-fires SANT Missile with 'Lock-On after Launch' & 'Lock-On before Launch' capabilities

- **SANT missile (Stand-off Anti-Tank Guided Missile)**, the air to ground version, has been successfully tested, at the Integrated Test Range in Odisha's Chandipur.
- **Note:** The **SANT missile** has been developed by DRDO's research centre Imarat, in association with Indian Air force, and is an upgrade of Helina's missile, which had a range of 7-8 km.
- The new missile has a range of 15-20 km and is equipped with a new nose-mounted active radar seeker, to help keep the launch platform at a safe distance, to evade defensive fire from the target area.

India conducts successful night trial of nuclear-capable Prithvi-2 missile

- India successfully conducted a night trial of the indigenously developed nuclear-capable Prithvi-2 missile as part of a user trial by the Army from a test range in Odisha.
- **Note:** The state-of-the-art surface-to-surface missile blasted off from launch complex 3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur near Balasore.



- The trial of the missile, which has a strike range of 350 km, was carried out from a mobile launcher. The Prithvi-2 missile is capable of carrying 500-1,000 kg of warheads and is powered by liquid propulsion twin engines.

BrahMos Supersonic Missile Successfully Test Fired From Navy's Stealth Destroyer

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) test fired BrahMos supersonic cruise missile successfully from the Indian Navy's indigenously-built stealth destroyer INS Chennai, hitting a target in the Arabian Sea.
- BrahMos as "prime strike weapon" will ensure the warship's invincibility by engaging naval surface targets at long ranges, thus making the destroyer another lethal platform of Indian Navy.

India to Deliver Kilo Class Submarine INS Sindhuvir to Myanmar Navy

- This will be the first submarine of the neighboring country. The step is in accordance with India's vision of SAGAR and also in line with India's commitment to building capacities and self-reliance in the neighboring countries.
- **Note: SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)** is India's policy of maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean region. It was unveiled in 2015.

Ranking & Index

Global Hunger Index 2020

- India ranks 94 out of 107 countries.
- As per the report, 14 % of India's population is undernourished. Country recorded a child stunting rate of 37.4 %. Stunted children are those who have a "low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition".
- At present, India lags behind Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Indonesia among others on the Global Hunger Index. Only 13 out of 107 countries, including Rwanda, Liberia, Afghanistan and Chad among others have fared worse than India.
- **Note:** The Global Hunger Index is an annual report, jointly published by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe, designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger at the global, country and regional levels.

State of Global Air (SoGA) 2020 Report: India recorded highest air pollution exposure globally in 2019



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- Indians have the **highest exposure** to hazardous PM 2.5 particulate matter and the **third-highest exposure to ozone**.
- It is the State of Global Air 2020 Report for 2019 by the US-based Health Effects Institute. The findings are based on the latest Global Burden of Disease study published in The Lancet.
- India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal among top 10 countries with highest PM 2.5 exposure; India leads the tally.
- In 2019, air pollution caused 6.67 million deaths globally, with India accounting for 1.67 million of these.
- 476,000 newborns worldwide died in 2019 due to air pollution; India alone saw over 116,000 such deaths.
- **Note: PM stands for particulate matter** (particle pollution): the term for a mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets found in the air. **PM10**: inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 10 micrometers and smaller.
- **PM2.5**: fine inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 2.5 micrometers and smaller.
- **India is also among the top ten countries with highest ozone (O3) exposure** in 2019.

Government released Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) Index 2020

- This information came to light during the 8th Governing Body Meeting of the State Health Society of the National Health Mission (NHM) in Chandigarh.
- Haryana was ranked at the top slot (1st) with an AMB Index of 46.7 among 29 states in the country.
- West Bengal got 2nd, Orissa got 3rd and Uttar Pradesh got 29th rank.
- **Note: Anemia Mukht Bharat**, an initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and UNICEF, has been launched to reduce the prevalence of Anemia all over India.

44th OECD International Migration Outlook 2020 Report

- As per the report, **India ranked second** in terms of the “total” inflow of new migrants to OECD countries during the year 2018 as well as in the number of Indians obtaining citizenship of these countries.
- China continued to retain the top position as the largest source country.
- Romania got third position.
- **Note:** Migration from India to OECD countries climbed significantly by 10% and hit 3.3 lakh and it accounted for about 5% of the overall migration to OECD countries.



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Facts:

- **The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**
- **Headquarters:** Paris, France
- **Founded:** 1961
- **Membership:** 37 Countries
- **Secretary General:** Jose Angel Gurría

Important Days

WORLD STATISTICS DAY, 20 October 2020

- This is the 3rd World Statistics Day.
- The theme is **“Connecting the world with data we can trust.”** This theme reflects on the importance of trust, innovation, authoritative data and the public good in national statistical systems.
- **Note:** World Statistics Day is an international day to celebrate statistics which is created by the United Nations Statistical Commission. It was first celebrated on 20 October 2010. The day is celebrated every five years.

Facts about National Statistics Day in India:

- Every year, the Statistics Day is celebrated on 29th June, the birth anniversary of Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, to recognise his invaluable contribution in establishing the National Statistical System.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 17 October

- The theme is **“Acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all.”**
- A research done by The World Bank has revealed that, as of 2020 around 1.89 billion people or nearly 36 percent of the world's population is living in extreme poverty. And nearly half of the populations in developing countries have been living on less than \$1.25 a day.
- **Note:** In 1992, the United Nations (UN) declared to dedicate October 17 as International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

Obituaries

The first female officer of the Indian Air Force, Dr. Vijayalakshmi Ramanan passed away



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- She was commissioned as an officer in the Indian Air Force on August 2, 1955. She became the Wing Commander on 22 August 1972. She served as a Gynecologist.

Sports

DANISA Denmark Open 2020

- **Location:** Odense Sports Park
- The **Denmark Open**, or formerly known as **Danish Open**, is an annual badminton tournament held in Denmark and organized by Danmarks Badminton Forbund.
- **List of winners**

Men's singles	Women's singles	Men's doubles	Women's doubles	Mixed doubles
Winner- Anders Antonsen	Winner- Nozomi Okuhara	Winner- Marcus Ellis, Chris Langridge	Winner- Yuki Fukushima, Sayaka Hirota	Winner- Mark Lamsfuss, Isabel Hertrich
Runner-up- Rasmus Gemke	Runner-up- Carolina Marin	Runner-up- Vladimir Ivanov, Ivan Sozonov	Runner-up- Mayu Mastsumoto, Wakana, Nagahara	Runner-up- Chris Adcock, Gabrielle Adcock

Sheikh Russel International Air Rifle Championship 2020

- Bangladesh Shooting Sport Federation (BSSF) organized the championship.
- **Winners List:**



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Medal	Men's Event	Women's Event
Gold	Naoya Okada (Japan)	Elavenil Valarivan (India)
Silver	Shahu Tushar Mane (India)	Shiori Hirata (Japan)
Bronze	Baki Abdullah Hel (Bangladesh)	Vidya Toyyiba (Indonesia)

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