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October 27, 2020: National / International [Current Affairs](#)

1. NA asks govt to recall ambassador from France

- French President Emanuel Macron came under fire in the National Assembly and the Senate on October 26, 2020 for his Islamophobic remarks amid calls by lawmakers to sever diplomatic ties with France.
 - Both houses unanimously adopted resolutions over the issue, with the National Assembly`s resolution being more specific and stronger. The resolution was moved by Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi after incorporating a separate one sought to be moved by the opposition. It urged the government to recall Pakistan`s ambassador from France
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2. In a first, PMC ends foreign medical students quota

- While abolishing quota for foreign students for the first time in the country`s history, the Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) has made it mandatory for overseas Pakistanis and foreign students to clear Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) to get admission in Pakistan.
- Private colleges have been allowed to have fee structures for foreigners different from that for Pakistani students. Moreover, the provinces can fix a quota for foreign students for admission to their public sector colleges.

3. Senate, NA pass resolutions against blasphemous caricatures in France

- Both the houses of Parliament - Senate and National Assembly - yesterday unanimously adopted resolutions in their separate sessions condemning the publication of blasphemous caricatures in France and the “resurgence of Islamophobic acts” in some countries.
 - In the National Assembly, though the resolution moved by Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi was passed unanimously, yet the house witnessed a verbal brawl between government and opposition before the presentation of the resolution.
 - According to the unanimous resolution, the lower house took serious notice of the republication of blasphemous caricatures depicting Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) and the desecration of the Holy Quran in Norway and Sweden and condemned in strongest terms the resurgence of blasphemous and Islamophobic acts by mischievous elements in some parts of the world.
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4. Pakistan, EGV sign MoU for electric buses

- Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhary said that adoption of technology was imperative to meet modern-day challenges and for development of the country.
 - He was talking to media here during the signing ceremony of a memorandum of understanding between Ministry of Science and an international consortium EGV regarding electric busses.
 - EGV is one of the largest bus manufacturing companies and, under the agreement, now it will manufacture electric busses for Pakistan. “This is our second contract of electric buses with a British company,” he said.
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5. Govt appoints Nargis Sethi as Pay and Pension Commission chairperson

- The federal government on October 26, 2020 has reconstituted the Pay and Pension Commission by appointing former federal secretary Nargis Sethi as its chairperson.
- “The Prime Minister has been pleased to appoint former Federal Secretary Ms. Nargis Sethi as Chairperson of the Pay and Pension Commission with immediate effect,” said a

notification issued by ministry of finance yesterday. The federal government has appointed Ms. Sethi as Chairperson of the Pay and Pension Commission after Wajid Rana had resigned from the post.

6. India, US clinch defence pact on satellite data

- India will sign a military agreement with the United States for sharing of sensitive satellite data, the defence ministry said on Monday, as the two sides began a top-level security dialogue aimed at countering China`s growing power in the region.
 - US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defence Secretary Mark Esper flew into New Delhi for talks with Indian leaders at a time when India is locked in its most serious military standoff with China at the disputed Himalayan border in decades.
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7. Third attempt at Karabakh ceasefire quickly collapses

- A third attempt at halting weeks of fighting over Nagorno Karabakh collapsed quickly on October 26, 2020 with Armenia and Azerbaijan trading accusations of violating the US-brokered ceasefire within minutes.
 - As fighting over the disputed region enters its second month, international mediators are scrambling to bring a stop to frontline clashes and shelling of civilian areas that have left hundreds dead.
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8. US air strike kills five Taliban in Wardak

- A US air strike launched to support Afghan security forces killed five Taliban fighters in central Afghanistan on Sunday evening, a spokesman for US forces in Afghanistan said.
 - Violence has escalated in recent weeks with clashes taking place between the insurgents and government troops across the country, while negotiators from both sides have held talks in Qatar for a peace deal that could allow Washington to withdraw its remaining forces and end the United States` longest war.
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9. Moon richer in water than once thought, says study

- There may be far more water on the Moon than previously thought, according to two studies published on October 26, 2020 raising the tantalising prospect that astronauts on future space missions could find refreshment and maybe even fuel on the lunar surface.
 - The Moon was believed to be bone dry until around a decade ago when a series of findings suggested that our nearest celestial neighbour has traces of water trapped in the surface.
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10. Entire Cricket South Africa board resigns as crisis deepens

- The entire board of Cricket South Africa (CSA) has resigned ahead of a government-imposed deadline for it to co-operate in an investigation of misconduct within the sport's national governing body.
 - The acting president and a group of board members resigned at a meeting October 25, 2020 and the remainder stepped down on Monday, Cricket South Africa said. Three board members will stay in their roles temporarily to ensure the continuity and stability of the organisation, CSA said
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- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(October 24, 2021\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(November 10, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(November 05, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(October 30, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(October 29, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(October 28, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(October 27, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(October 26, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(October 25, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(October 24, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- 1
- 2

- [3](#)
- [4](#)
- [>>](#)

September 2020:

- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(September 30, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(September 29, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(September 28, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(September 27, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(September 26, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(September 25, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(September 24, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(September 23, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(September 22, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(September 21, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)

- 1
- [2](#)
- [3](#)
- [>>](#)

August 2020:

- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(August 23, 2021\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(August 30, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(August 29, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(August 27, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(August 26, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(August 25, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(August 24, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(August 23, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(August 22, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(August 21, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)

- 1
- [2](#)
- [3](#)
- [>>](#)

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- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(July 05, 2021\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(July 31, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(July 30, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(July 29, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(July 28, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(July 27, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(July 26, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(July 25, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(July 24, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(July 23, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [1](#)
- [2](#)
- [3](#)
- [4](#)
- [>>](#)

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- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(June 30, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(June 29, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(June 28, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(June 27, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(June 26, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(June 25, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(June 24, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(June 23, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(June 22, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [Daily Top-10 Current Affairs MCQs / News \(June 21, 2020\) for CSS, PMS](#)
- [1](#)
- [2](#)
- [3](#)
- [4](#)
- [>>](#)