

**WEEKLY**

# CURRENT AFFAIRS CAPSULE

**21ST OCTOBER – 27TH OCTOBER 2018**

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## Awards & Honours

### Meenakshi Chaudhary won 1st runner-up title

- India's Meenakshi Chaudhary has been crowned the first runner-up of Miss Grand International 2018 at the sixth edition of the pageant held in Myanmar.
- Chaudhary was narrowly edged out by Paraguay's Clara Sosa for the top honour.
- Sosa succeeds Miss Grand International 2017 Maria Jose Lora of Peru.
- She has been the winner of fbb Colors Femina Miss Grand India 2018 title earlier.

### Roopam won World Health Summit Startup Award

- Roopam Sharma, a 23-year old Indian scientist, won the World Health Summit Startup award, 2018.
- He won for his invention, Manovue – the world's first intelligent personal assisting system for the visually impaired.
- He is the youngest person to be recognized as one of the top innovators under 35 by the MIT Tech Review in 2016.

### Asma Jahangir won UN Human Rights Prize

- Pakistan's human rights activist and lawyer Asma Jahangir has been posthumously awarded the UN Prize along with three other winners.
- Rebeca Gyumi of Tanzania, Brazil's first indigenous lawyer Joenia Wapichana and Ireland's human rights organisation Front Line Defenders are the other winners of the prize.
- The Prize is an honorary award given for outstanding achievement in human rights.

### BEML received Top Challengers' Award

- Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), a Mini Ratna Public Sector Undertaking, under the Ministry of Defence, received the prestigious 'Top Challengers Award 2018'.
- It won the prize for the excellent performance during the financial year 2017-18 and Best Seller in Crawler Equipment-Dozers and Rigid Dump Truck segment for mining sectors.
- The award is instituted by ASAAP Information Global Group.

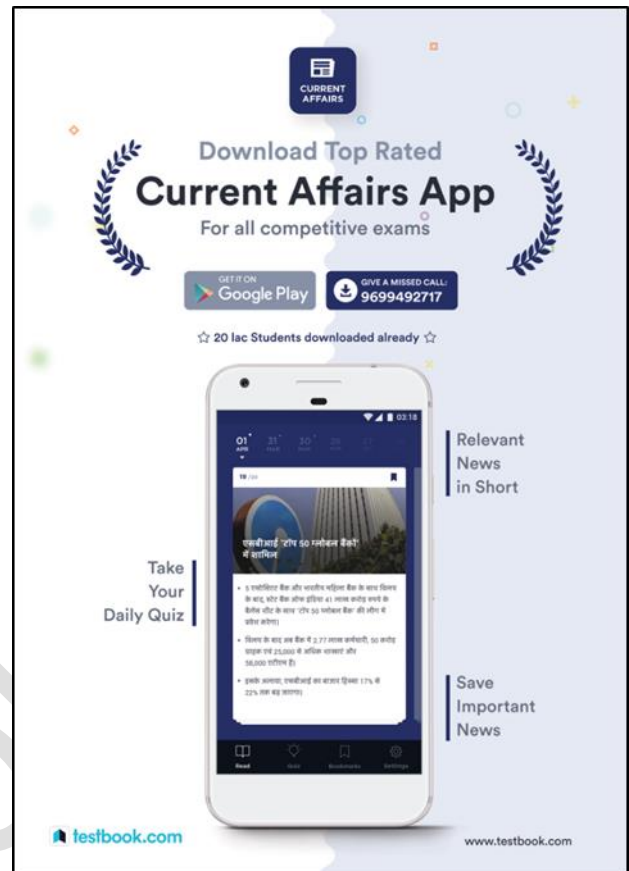
### Sakharov prize awarded to filmmaker Sentsov

- The European Parliament awarded the prestigious Sakharov human rights prize to jailed Ukrainian filmmaker Oleg Sentsov on 25 October 2018.
- The Sakharov Prize was set up in 1988.
- It is awarded every year to individuals or organizations that have made an important contribution to the fight for human rights or democracy.

### 'Unnayan Banka' won CAPAM award for 2018

- 'Unnayan Banka' has won the Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management's (CAPAM) international innovation award for 2018.

- It is an online and offline education project started in Banka, Bihar.
- CAPAM is an organisation that promotes good governance and knowledge exchange amongst governments from Commonwealth countries.



### Tagore awards for cultural harmony announced

- 'Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony' for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 were announced on 25 October 2018.
- The awards were given to Manipuri dancer, Rajkumar Singhajit Singh (2014), Chhayanaut (a cultural organisation of Bangladesh) (2015) and sculptor, Ram Vanji Sutar (2016).
- It carries an award prize of Rs 1 crore, a citation in a scroll and a plaque.
- The award jury was headed by PM Modi.

### Malayalam author won first JCB Prize 2018

- Malayalam author Benyamin has bagged the inaugural 'JCB Prize for literature' for his book 'Jasmine Days'.
- The book explores the lives of South Asians in the Middle East.
- Benyamin was awarded a cash prize of ₹25 lakh and a trophy.
- JCB Prize for Literature is an Indian literary award established in 2018 and the award is funded by the construction manufacturing group JCB.

### Tezpur Univ professor won INSA Teachers Award

- Tezpur University professor Ashis Mukherjee has been awarded the prestigious "Indian National Science Academy (INSA) Teachers Award (2018)".

- He has been awarded for his consistent and high-level of teaching, and inspiring and mentoring students to take up careers in Science and Technology.
- The award is one of the highest recognition for science and technology teachers in the country.

#### PM Modi awarded Seoul Peace Prize 2018

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been awarded the Seoul Peace Prize 2018.
- He has been awarded for his contribution to high economic growth in India and world through 'Modinomics'.
- The Seoul Peace Prize was established in 1990 to commemorate the success of the 24th Olympic Games held in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

#### Invest India won UN award

- 'Invest India' has won the UN Award for excellence in promoting investments in sustainable development.
- The awards are organised by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- Invest India is a non-profit venture of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).
- Deepak Bagla is the CEO of Invest India.

#### International honour for scientist

- Agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan will receive the first 'World Agriculture Prize' on 26 October 2018.
- The award has been instituted by the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) with an aim to recognise individuals who have served humanity through agriculture.
- Prof. Swaminathan has been hailed by the United Nations Environment Programme as 'The Father of Economic Ecology'.

#### Fali S. Nariman conferred National Award

- Fali S. Nariman was conferred with Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration on 22 October 2018.
- He is a distinguished Indian Constitutional jurist and senior advocate to the Supreme Court of India.
- He has been awarded the Padma Bhushan (1991), Padma Vibhushan (2007) and Gruber Prize for Justice (2002).

#### Sujatha Gidla won Shakti Bhatt Prize

- Sujatha Gidla has won the 2018 Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize.
- She won the award for her book, 'Ants Among Elephants: An Untouchable Family and the Making of Modern India'.
- The Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize is funded by the Shakti Bhatt Foundation.
- It was set up in 2008 in memory of writer Shakti.
- It carries a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh.

### Days & Events

#### World Day for Audiovisual Heritage

- The 2018 World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is celebrated on October 27.
- Its theme is "Your Story is Moving".
- The General Conference of UNESCO approved the commemoration of a World Day for Audiovisual Heritage in 2005 as a mechanism to raise general awareness of the need to preserve and safeguard important audiovisual material for future generations.

#### Vigilance Awareness Week 2018

- Vigilance Awareness Week 2018 will be observed by the Central Vigilance Commission from 29 October to 3 November 2018.
- The theme for Vigilance Awareness Week 2018 is 'Eradicate Corruption-Build a New India'.
- 'Awareness Gram Sabhas' are also organised for the dissemination of awareness in Gram Panchayats (in rural and semi-urban areas) to sensitise the rural citizens.

#### United Nations Day observed on 24 October

- United Nations Day is observed every year on 24 October.
- United Nations day has been in observance since 1948.
- The day commemorates the anniversary of the UN Charter that came into force in 1945.
- With the ratification of UN Charter by the majority of its signatories, the UN officially came into being.

#### World Development Information Day: 24 October

- The United Nations' (UN) World Development Information Day is observed every year on October 24.
- The aim is to draw the attention of the world to development problems and the need to strengthen international cooperation to solve them.
- The General Assembly in 1972 established World Development Information Day.

### International Affairs

#### 2nd Int. Conference On Primary Health Care

- JP Nadda, Minister for Health and Family Welfare addressed the 'Second Plenary Session of '2nd International Conference on Primary Health Care towards UHC & SDGs', at Astana, Kazakhstan.
- The conference aims to renew the commitment to primary health care to achieve universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Mr Nadda spoke on the theme "The Future of Primary Health Care".

#### Mahinda Rajapaksa became new PM of Sri Lanka

- Former President Mahinda Rajapakse was sworn in as the new Prime minister of Sri Lanka.
- He replaced Ranil Wickremesinghe.
- Mr. Rajapaksa was administered the oath by the President Maithripala Sirisena at his office in Colombo.

#### Soyuz rocket successfully launched by Russia



- On 25th October 2018, Russia successfully launched a Soyuz rocket for the first time since the failure of a similar rocket on 11th October 2018.
- Soyuz-2.1B rocket has successfully carried a satellite for the Russian military.
- It was the third launch of a Soyuz rocket from Russia's northern Plesetsk launch pad in 2018.

#### NATO's biggest peacetime drill launched

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) biggest military exercise, 'Trident Juncture 2018', since the Cold War has started in Norway on 25 October 2018.
- The exercise brought together around 50,000 personnel from all 29 NATO allies, plus partners Finland and Sweden.
- The exercise will run till 7 November 2018 in central and eastern Norway, the North Atlantic and the Baltic Sea.

#### Ethiopia appointed first female President

- Ethiopia's parliament has appointed the country's first female President, Sahle-Work Zewde.
- Sahle-Work has been Ethiopia's ambassador to France, Djibouti, Senegal, and the regional bloc, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.
- Just prior to her appointment as President, she was the UN's top official at the African Union.
- As President she is expected to serve two six-year terms.

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#### Military exercise 'Iron Magic 19' begins

- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the US on 21 October 2018 kicked off a two-week military exercise named 'Iron Magic 19'.
- The exercise seeks to reinforce cooperation, joint actions and exchange of expertise in military areas.
- The last 'Iron Magic' military exercise was held in 2017.

#### European Parliament bans single-use plastics

- The European Parliament has voted for a complete ban on a range of single-use plastics in an effort to tackle pollution in seas, fields and waterways.
- Items such as plastic straws, cotton swabs, disposable plastic plates and cutlery would be banned by 2021.
- There are also measures to ensure that 90% of plastic bottles are recycled by 2025.

#### World's oldest known shipwreck has been found

- An ancient Greek trading ship dating back more than 2,400 years has been found virtually intact at the bottom of the Black Sea.
- The vessel is one of more than 60 shipwrecks identified by the Black Sea Maritime Archaeology Project.

- Researchers used specialist remote deep-water camera systems to map the sea floor.

#### Pakistan & Russia have begun military drills

- Pakistan and Russia have begun annual joint military drills named 'Druzhba-III' in Pakistan on 22 October 2018.
- This is the third joint military drill between Pakistan and Russia under the bilateral training cooperation agreement.
- Russia and Pakistan have been holding the 'Friendship' drills since 2016.
- In October 2016, they held their first-ever joint military exercise in Pakistan.

#### US will pull out of nuclear arms treaty

- The US announced that it is pulling out of the 'Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty' with Russia.
- The treaty was signed in 1987.
- The treaty prohibits the US and Russia from possessing, producing or test-flying a ground-launched cruise missile with a range of about 480 to 5,470 kilometres.
- The treaty also offered a blanket of protection to the United States' European allies.

#### Hurricane Willa approaching towards Mexico

- Hurricane Willa has grown rapidly into an 'extremely dangerous' near-Category 5 storm in the eastern Pacific and is moving towards Mexico's western coast.
- The hurricane was recognised as 'life-threatening' by the US National Hurricane Center (NHC).
- It has maximum sustained winds of about 130 miles per hour (209 km).

#### Climate fund approved US\$ 1 Billion

- An UN-backed Green Climate Fund (GCF) has approved more than \$1 billion for 19 new projects to help developing countries tackle climate change.
- The funding has been approved for the projects linked to geothermal energy in Indonesia, greener cities in Europe and West Asia, and protection for coastal communities in India.
- The GCF is based in the Incheon, South Korea.

## National Affairs

#### Railways to build world's highest railway line

- Indian Railways is building the world's highest rail lines that will connect Ladakh with Delhi.
- The location survey of the first phase is complete. The final location survey is expected to be completed in 30 months after which a detailed project report will be finalised.
- The national transporter plans to build a strategically-important Bilaspur-Manali- Leh line along the Indo-China border.

#### 24th edition of Technology Summit at New Delhi

- India will host the 24th edition of Technology Summit with Italy as the partner country.

- The two-day summit will be inaugurated on 29th October 2018.
- This is the first time that Italy has been selected as a partner country for this prestigious event.
- The Summit is envisaged to serve as a wide-ranging knowledge-business partnership platform.

#### International Arya Mahasammelan inaugurated

- The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the International Arya Mahasammelan on 25 October 2018 in Delhi.
- This is the 11th such international Arya Mahasammelan since 2006.
- Issues such as prevention of superstition, modernisation, women empowerment, tribal welfare, and management of natural calamities will be discussed at the convention.

#### KIIFB to list masala bonds

- The Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) will list masala bonds in the London and Singapore Stock Exchanges.
- The bonds are being floated to mobilise resources for infrastructure projects in Kerala.
- KIIFB had obtained clearance from the Reserve Bank of India.
- The KIIFB expects an interest of 9+ or 9- for the rupee-denominated borrowings.

#### Kaiga station's Unit-1 created world record

- The 'Kaiga Generating Station' has created a world record for the longest uninterrupted operation of units having Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs).

- Unit-1 of Kaiga Generating Station (KGS-1) completed 895 days of continuous operation.
- The earlier record for PHWRs was held by Unit-7 of Pickering Nuclear Generating Station at Ontario, Canada which operated continuously for 894 days.

#### PM Modi inaugurated the 'Krishi Kumbh 2018'

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Krishi Kumbha 2018-a mega farmers' conclave in Lucknow on 26 October 2018.
- The aim of the conclave is to promote modern technique and diversification in agriculture that could help farmers to double their income.
- Israel and Japan are official partners of Krishi Kumbh 2018.
- Haryana and Jharkhand are the partner states for Krishi Kumbha 2018.

#### Gogha- Dahej Ferry service ready to start

- Gogha- Dahej Ro-Pax Ferry service will be inaugurated in Gujarat on 27 October 2018.
- The ferry service is a part of Sagarmala programme of the Ministry of Shipping.
- The ferry service has a carrying capacity of 100 vehicles and 500 passengers.
- The ferry will travel through the sea route by crossing the Gulf in Cambay.

#### Punjab government banned sale of herbicide

- The Punjab government has banned the sale of glyphosate.
- Glyphosate is a herbicide which is extensively used in the State to control a wide variety of weeds in almost all the crops.
- The chemical has been observed to be a Group 2A cancer-causing material.
- This chemical is also known for causing other health problems and has the potential to damage human DNA.

#### Ban on BS-IV vehicles from 2020

- The Supreme Court banned the sale and registration of motor vehicles conforming to the emission standard Bharat Stage-IV in the entire country from April 1, 2020.
- Bharat stage (BS) emission norms are standards instituted by the government to regulate output of air pollutants from motor vehicles.
- The BS IV norms have been enforced across the country since April 2017.

#### STAPCOR – 2018 was inaugurated

- Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the International Conference on Status and Protection of Coral Reefs (STAPCOR – 2018) at Bangaram coral Island in Lakshadweep on 22 October 2018.
- The theme of the conference is "Reef for Life".
- The conference was organised Lakshadweep Administration with the technical support of the Zoological Survey of India

#### Experts' group to cut schoolbag weight formed

- Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) informed the Madras High Court that an Expert Group has been formed to formulate a draft policy on reducing the weight of school bags.
- MHRD had issued an order on 5 October 2018 to formulate a policy on school bags.
- Professor Ranjana Arora of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is the convener of the Expert Group.

#### Longest river bridge to be built in Assam

- The government of India has announced to build a new bridge over the Brahmaputra river.
- The 19.3 km, the four-lane bridge will be built by 2026-27.
- It will run between Dhubri in Assam and Phulbari in Meghalaya.
- India's longest river bridge at present, which is 9.15 km long, lies between Dhola and Sadiya in Assam.

#### No ban on fire crackers: Supreme Court

- The Supreme Court has refused to impose a nationwide blanket ban on the sale of firecrackers.
- It said only 'green firecrackers' will be allowed to be sold.
- It also imposed timing restrictions on burning firecrackers on Diwali.
- The Supreme Court's verdict came in response to a plea seeking a ban on the manufacturing and sale of firecrackers across the country to curb air pollution.

#### 'Harit Diwali-Swasth Diwali' campaign launched

- Environment Ministry has launched 'Harit Diwali-Swasth Diwali' campaign on 22 October 2018.
- This campaign was initiated in 2017-18 wherein a large number of school children participated and took the pledge to minimize bursting of crackers.
- In 2018, the 'Harit Diwali-Swasth Diwali' campaign has been merged with "Green Good Deed" movement.

#### Sagar conference inaugurated in Goa

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the 'Sagar' conference at Goa on 23 October 2018.
- It was organised by the Forum for Integrated National Security (FINS).
- The aim of the conference was to highlight the technological, economic and developmental opportunities with opening up of outer space.
- FINS is a Mumbai based think tank working on national security and strategy.

#### Indian Carpet Expo in Varanasi inaugurated

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurated 36th Indian Carpet Expo in Varanasi on 21 Octber 2018.
- The expo is being organised under the aegis of the Deen Dayal Hastkala Sankul – a trade facilitation centre for handicrafts – at Varanasi..
- The expo has become a world-famous international fair amongst the buyers of Handmade carpets, rugs and other floor coverings.

#### 200 'Nirmal' Ganga projects to be completed

- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said that the government intends to complete 200 projects for ghats and crematoria.
- The government is taking various measures to ensure ecological flow or the minimum quantity of water at different stretches of the Ganga.
- The government had in May 2015 approved Rs 20,000 crore under its ambitious 'Namami Gange'.

#### #MeToo: SC declined urgent hearing of PIL

- The Supreme Court declined urgent hearing on a PIL seeking the registration of FIRs based on allegations of sexual misconduct and assault levelled by women across various sectors,
- It is a part of what is being referred to as India's #MeToo movement.
- #MeToo spread virally in October 2017 on social media in an attempt to demonstrate the widespread prevalence of sexual assault and harassment.

#### 27th Fusion Energy Conference inaugurated

- The 27th Fusion Energy Conference (FEC) was inaugurated in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on 22 October 2018.
- The six-day event is organised by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and hosted by the Department of Atomic Energy and Gandhinagar-based Institute of Plasma Research.
- FEC aims to provide a forum for the discussion of key physics and technology issues.

#### NITI Lecture Series on artificial intelligence

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the fourth edition of the NITI Lecture Series focussed on 'leveraging artificial intelligence for inclusive growth' on 22 October 2018.
- The 2018 theme for the lecture series was 'AI for All: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Inclusive Growth'.
- The lecture series is part of the National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence.

#### Global meet on maternal, child health

- India will be hosting 'The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health' forum in December 2018.
- The meeting will be on issues related to maternal and child health.
- The forum will be hosted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in collaboration with the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health.
- This is the 2nd time India is hosting the forum -- the first was in 2010.

#### Renaming of Allahabad approved by UP Governor

- Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Ram Naik approved the renaming of Allahabad as Prayagraj on 20 October 2018.
- The name of the district has been approved by the Governor under section 6, subdivision 2 of the Uttar Pradesh Revenue Code, 2006.

- The proposal to rename the historic city of Allahabad as Prayagraj was approved by the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet on 16 October 2018.

#### National award in Netaji's name announced

- Prime Minister Modi announced an annual award in the name of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose for police and paramilitary forces on 21 October 2018.
- The award will be given to police personnel who do excellent work in relief and rescue operations.
- The award will be announced on January 23, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's birthday.

#### 4 Himalayan peaks named after Atal Bihari

- Four unnamed Himalayan peaks near Gangotri glacier have been named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- The peaks are located at 6,557, 6,566, 6,160 and 6,100 metres on the right flank of Gangotri glacier.
- Located near Sudarshan and Saifi peaks in Raktvan valley, the peaks have been named Atal-1, 2, 3 and 4.

#### First cruise service launched b/w Mumbai & Goa

- India's first luxury cruise ship service was launched between Mumbai and Goa on 21 October 2018.
- India's first ever passenger cruise ship service is a joint venture between Mumbai Port Trust and Angriya Sea Eagle Pvt Ltd.
- The cruise ship Angriya has been named after first the Maratha Navy Admiral Kanhoji Angre.
- The Cruise can accommodate 400 passengers along with 70 crew members.

## India & World

#### PM Modi on a two-day visit to Japan

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a two-day visit to Japan from 28 October 2018.
- The Prime Minister will attend the 13th India-Japan annual summit.
- He will also hold bilateral talks with Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.
- He will visit Yamanashi prefecture at the foothills of Mount Fuji and also address community function in Tokyo.

#### India and Bangladesh signed three agreements

- India and Bangladesh signed three agreements on 25 October 2018.
- The agreement were signed for enhancing inland and coastal waterways connectivity between the two countries for trade and cruise movements.
- It includes the use Chattogram and Mongla Ports in Bangladesh for goods movement.
- They also signed a standard operating procedure (SOP) for movement of passenger and cruise services.

#### MoU amongst BRICS nations approved

- The Union Cabinet has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among BRICS regarding cooperation in the social and labour sphere.
- The MoU was signed on 3 August 2018 during BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers (LEM) Meeting.
- In the MoU, the parties including India have agreed to cooperate and hold mutual events in the prominent areas viz. labour legislation and enforcement.



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MoU on Environmental Cooperation approved

- The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed among the BRICS Nations on Environmental Cooperation.
- The MoU was signed during the 10th BRICS Summit in July 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- The MoU shall facilitate the exchange of experiences, best practices among the BRICS nations.

#### Extradition treaty with Malawi approved

- The Union Cabinet has approved the signing and ratification of the Extradition Treaty between India and Malawi on 24 October 2018.
- The treaty would provide a legal framework for seeking extradition of terrorists, economic offenders and other criminals from and to Malawi.
- Malawi is a landlocked country in Africa.
- The capital of Malawi is Lilongwe and its currency is Malawian kwacha.

#### 45 Indian companies participate in SIAL Paris

- Forty-five Indian companies are participating in the SIAL Paris exhibition – the largest international market place for food service professionals.
- SIAL Paris is the leading exhibition of food service products.
- SIAL Paris is held every two years, and is famous for culinary demonstrations by famous chefs every day.

#### India, Iran, Afghanistan held meeting

- India, Afghanistan and Iran held their first trilateral meeting on Chabahar port project on 23 October 2018 in Tehran.
- The Indian delegation was led by Secretary (Economic Relations) TS Tirumurti.
- The Afghan and Iran delegations were led by respective deputy ministers of Transport.
- The next meeting of the Coordination Council will be held in India in the first half of 2019.

#### India – Czech Joint Commission meeting

- The eleventh session of India – Czech Republic Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation was held on 22 and 23 October 2018 at Prague.
- The Indian delegation was led by Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution, C. R. Chaudhary.
- Various issues like long-term study visa, strengthening of mutual Trade and investment relations were discussed.

#### MoU signed between India and Myanmar

- India and Myanmar signed the MoU for the appointment of a private operator for the operation and maintenance of Sittwe Port on 22 October 2018.
- The Sittwe port in Myanmar will connect India's landlocked north-east region to the Bay of Bengal through Mizoram.
- It will also provide an alternate route to Kolkata.

#### India, Croatia signed two agreements

- India and Croatia signed two agreements to strengthen cultural and diplomatic cooperation between the two countries on 22 October 2018.
- The agreements were signed and exchanged by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and her Croatian counterpart Marija Pejcinovic Buric.
- Buric is the first Croatian foreign minister to visit India after 17 years.

#### India, China signed security agreement

- India and China have signed the first-ever agreement on security cooperation on 22 October 2018.
- The agreement will strengthen and consolidate assistance in counter-terrorism, organised crimes, drug control, human trafficking and exchange of information.
- The agreement was signed by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and China's State Councilor and Minister of Public Security Zhao Kezhi.

### Government Policies & Schemes

#### Govt. notified rules on granting citizenship

- The Union Home Ministry has empowered the Collectors in seven states to accept online applications to grant citizenship to 'minorities' from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh living in India.
- Collectors in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi will grant citizenship and naturalisation certificates to the minorities.

#### HRD Ministry launched two web portals

- Minister of Human Resource Development Prakash Javadekar launched the web portal of two schemes on 25 October 2018.
- 'Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences' (IMPRESS) and 'Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration' (SPARC) were the two schemes of whose portal were launched.
- The objective of IMPRESS is to identify and fund research proposals in social sciences.

#### Creation of FIDF approved by Union Cabinet

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for the creation of special Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF).
- FIDF would provide concessional finance to State Governments / UTs and State entities, cooperatives, individuals and entrepreneurs etc.
- The credit from the fund will help generate over 9.40 lakh direct and indirect jobs for fishermen.

#### Appointment of Adjudicating Authority approved

- The government of India approved setting up of Appellate Tribunal and Adjudicating Authority for speedy disposal of cases related to benami transactions.
- The Adjudicating Authority and Appellate Tribunal will be based in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

- Appointment of the Adjudicating Authority would provide first stage review of administrative action under benami transactions act.

#### Railways' UTS app will be launched on 1 Nov

- The railways 'UTS mobile' app for buying unreserved tickets online will be available nationwide from 1 November 2018.
- It was first launched in Mumbai because a large number of people travel in locals.
- After Mumbai, it was started in Delhi-Palwal and Chennai city.
- As of now railway has already implemented the scheme in 15 of its zones.

#### 'Main Nahin Hum' portal launched

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Main Nahin Hum' portal on 24 October 2018.
- The portal, which works on the theme 'Self4Society', will enable IT professionals and organisations to bring together their efforts towards social causes on one platform.
- The portal is expected to help catalyse greater collaboration towards the service of the weaker sections of society.

#### Hry to introduce livestock veterinary scheme

- The Haryana Government has decided to introduce the 'Pashu Sanjeevni Sewa' scheme on 23 October 2018.
- Under the scheme, free of cost health care services would be made available to livestock in the state through mobile veterinary clinics.
- The service will be first started in all the blocks of Jind, Yamunanagar and Nuh districts.

#### Special courts notified for benami cases

- The Finance Ministry has issued the notification for setting up Sessions Courts in all states and union territories.
- The Session court will act as Special Courts for the trial of offences under the benami transaction law.
- Benami transaction refers to transactions made in a fictitious name, or the owner is not aware of the ownership of the property.

### Personality in News

#### Varun became ambassador of ARENA Channel

- Maruti Suzuki India announced Bollywood Superstar Varun Dhawan as the brand ambassador for Maruti Suzuki ARENA channel.
- The youth icon will be the face of Maruti Suzuki's new marketing campaign 'A destination called you. A feeling called Maruti Suzuki ARENA.'
- The Car Maker is working on the transformation of its retail network across India.

#### Nobel chemistry laureate Shimomura passed away

- Japanese-born Marine biologist Osamu Shimomura, who won the Nobel Prize in chemistry, has died.

- Shimomura and two American scientists shared the 2008 Nobel Prize for the discovery and development of a jellyfish protein that later contributed to cancer studies.
- In 1962, Shimomura isolated green fluorescent protein from jellyfish.

## Science & Technology

### NASA names gamma-ray constellations

- NASA scientists have devised a new set of 21 modern gamma-ray constellations and named them after fictional characters such as the Hulk and Godzilla.
- The constellations were devised to celebrate the completion of 10 years of operations of the Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope.
- Fermi's Large Area Telescope has been scanning the entire sky each day, mapping and measuring sources of gamma rays.

## Committees & Recommendations

### Cabinet nod to panel on SDGs

- The Union Cabinet has approved the constitution of a High-Level Steering Committee for periodically reviewing and refining the National Indicator Framework (NIF) for monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The committee will be chaired by Pravin Shrivastava, Chief Statistician of India.
- The committee would recommend measures to "mainstream" SDGs into ongoing national policies.

### GoM constituted by government of India

- A Group of Ministers (GoM) has been constituted by the government of India to strengthen the legal and institutional frameworks to deal with and prevent sexual harassment at the workplace.
- The Group of Ministers will be chaired by the Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh.
- It will recommend action required for effective implementation of the existing provisions related to sexual harassment.

### Report on Cross Border Insolvency submitted

- The Insolvency Law Committee (ILC) has recommended that India adopt the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law of Cross Border Insolvency.
- The advantages of the model law are the precedence given to domestic proceedings and protection of public interest.
- ILC is chaired by Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas.

## Business & Economy

### RBI to inject Rs 40,000 crore in November

- The Reserve Bank said it will inject Rs 40,000 crore into the system in November through the purchase of government securities.

- The central bank had already injected Rs 36,000 crore into the system in October.
- An Open Market Operation (OMO) is an activity by a central bank to give (or take) liquidity in its currency to (or from) a bank or a group of banks.

### WB approves funds for Bangladesh's bridges

- The World Bank has approved \$425 million to improve road connections in Bangladesh.
- It will be done through the building, maintaining and improving rural bridges in a programme that will benefit two-thirds of the country's people.
- The 'Operation For Supporting Rural Bridges Programme' will maintain 85,000 m of bridges and build another 20,000 m of new bridges.

### IDFC Bank to be renamed as IDFC First Bank

- IDFC Bank proposed to change its name to 'IDFC First Bank Ltd' in the wake of its amalgamation with the non-banking financial company Capital First.
- The decision was taken during the meeting of the Board of Directors of IDFC Bank.
- The proposal now needs the approval of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

### NSE Indices launched Nifty 500 Value 50 index

- NSE Indices Limited launched a new index, 'Nifty 500 Value 50', on 24 October 2018.
- The index will track the performance of select 'value' companies based on price multiples and dividend yield.
- The index consists of 50 companies from its parent Nifty 500 index, selected based on their 'value' scores.

- NSE Indices is a group company of National Stock exchange (NSE).

#### RBI lifted ban on Fino Payments

- Fino Payments Bank has been allowed to open new accounts by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Fino Payments Bank had been unable to enrol new customers since the end of May 2018 after RBI found the bank to be non-compliant with the operational guidelines laid down by it.
- According to RBI's guidelines for payments banks, a customer can make deposits of up to ₹1 lakh per account in a year.

#### Govt permits import of pet coke

- The government of India permitted imports of certain quantity of pet coke, used for fuel purpose, for anode making by the aluminium industry.
- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has allowed the import of 1.4 MT per annum pet coke for producing calcined pet coke.
- In general, import of pet coke for fuel purpose is prohibited.

#### NSE to launch copper large futures contract

- National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has got approval from Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch copper large futures contract with a trading unit of 25 tonne.
- The 25 tonne copper futures contract is one of the highest traded contracts.
- NSE aims to provide an onshore hedging platform to big Indian corporates, refiners and various users in the value chain.

#### REC to launch global medium-term notes

- Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) will launch its global medium-term notes programme at the Global Securities Market (GSM).
- GSM is a primary market platform for raising funds from global investors.
- GSM is an arm of the BSE's international exchange India INX.
- India INX is the country's first international exchange launched in January 2017.

#### MobiKwik will sell gold on its app

- MobiKwik will now allow customers to buy digital gold.
- MobiKwik users will be able to buy and sell 99.5% purity, 24-carat gold on the app starting at one rupee.
- It has partnered with SafeGold, a digital platform that allows customers to buy, sell and receive vaulted gold
- It has created a separate category called 'Gold' on its app.

#### PNB Metlife launched 'Khushi' app

- Life insurer PNB Metlife has unveiled an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered customer service app 'Khushi'.
- The aim is to provide assistance to policyholders for their insurance-related queries.

- A policyholder can use the app to upload documents; download receipts and statements; get policy features; premium due details; get fund value and portfolio details; and update contact details.

#### Paytm launched PayPay in Japan

- Paytm has launched a payment service called 'PayPay' in Japan.
- PayPay is based on QR (quick-response) code technology.
- The payment service has been launched in association with SoftBank Corporation and Yahoo Japan Corporation.
- SoftBank Group is one of the largest investors in Paytm.
- PayPay Corporation was established in June 2018.

#### 'Wealth Hub' launched by State Bank of India

- State Bank of India (SBI) launched its wealth business services by opening 'SBI Wealth Hub' in Mangaluru, Karnataka.
- The wealth hub was inaugurated by SBI Chairman Rajnith Kumar.
- SBI is the first PSU bank in the country to introduce comprehensive wealth business services for its clients.
- The bank has also launched Wealth Business services for NRIs.

## Sports

#### Sourav Kothari clinched World Billiards C'ship

- India's Sourav Kothari defeated Peter Gilchrist of Singapore 1134-944 to clinch the 2018 World Billiards Championship title at Leeds in the UK.
- The former national and Asian Billiards champion Kothari was pipped at the post for the coveted World Billiards crown on two occasions in the last two years.

#### Belgium topped in latest FIFA rankings

- According to the latest FIFA rankings, Belgium is the number one ranked football team in the world.
- France is on the second rank.
- 4 times FIFA World Cup winner, Germany got 14th rank.
- India was ranked 97th in the latest rankings.
- Tunisia (22nd) was the highest ranked African team.
- The latest FIFA rankings were released on 25 October 2018.

#### Pooja Danda won bronze medal in wrestling

- Wrestler Pooja Danda won a bronze medal at World Wrestling Championship 2018 in Budapest, Hungary.
- She won a silver medal at the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast.
- Pooja is only the fourth Indian woman to win a World Championship medal.
- Prior to Pooja, only Alka Tomar (2006) and Geeta and Babita Phogat (2012) have won bronze medals for India at the World Championship.

#### Virat Kohli becomes fastest to 10,000 ODI runs



- India cricket captain Virat Kohli became the fastest batsman to reach 10,000 one-day international runs.
- Kohli made 10,000 ODI runs in 205 innings while Sachin Tendulkar took 259 innings.
- Kohli became the fifth Indian batsman and 13th ever to reach 10000 ODI runs.
- Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid and MS Dhoni have scored over 10,000 runs in ODIs.

#### Marc Marquez clinched fifth MotoGP title

- Spain's Marc Marquez clinched MotoGP world champion title for the fifth time with a victory in the Japanese MotoGP on 21 October 2018.
- Marquez is the youngest-ever rider to win five premier class titles.
- Marquez has joined Valentino Rossi, Mick Doohan and Giacomo Agostini as one of only four riders to have taken five or more premier-class World Championships.

#### Bajrang Punia won silver medal in wrestling

- Bajrang Punia won silver medal in the 65 kg category of the World Wrestling Championship 2018 in Budapest on 22 October 2018.
- He was defeated by Japanese Takuto Otoguro in the final.
- Bajrang Punia also won gold medal in wrestling at Commonwealth Games 2018 and Asian Games 2018.
- Sushil Kumar is the lone Indian to win a gold medal at the World Wrestling Championships in 2010.

#### Mumbai won Vijay Hazare Trophy 2018

- Mumbai won their third Vijay Hazare Trophy title at Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on 20 October 2018.
- Mumbai defeated Delhi by 4 wickets in the final.
- Mumbai last won the trophy way back in 2006-07.
- The Vijay Hazare Trophy is also known as the Ranji One Day Trophy and was started in 2002-03.

#### Saina Nehwal won silver medal in Denmark Open

- Indian badminton player Saina Nehwal won the silver medal in Denmark Open 2018 on 21 October 2018.
- She was defeated by Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu Ying in the final.
- Saina Nehwal won the Denmark Open in 2012.
- According to the Badminton World Federation, the current ranking of Saina Nehwal is 10.

## Defence

#### Indigenously overhauled Su-30MKI given to IAF

- The 11 Base Repair Depot (BRD) of the Indian Air Force in Maharashtra's Nashik district handed over its first indigenously overhauled Sukhoi Su-30MKI fighter jet to the IAF.
- The ceremony was held at the Air Force Station Ojhar.
- The Sukhoi Su-30MKI is a twin-jet multi-role air superiority aircraft developed by Russia's Sukhoi and built under licence by India's Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL).

#### Reliance Naval launched training ship

- ICGS Varuna, an indigenously-designed training vessel built by Reliance Naval and Engineering Limited (RNEL) for the Indian Coast Guard, was launched on 24 October 2018.
- The vessel's primary role is to impart sea training to cadets of Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
- The vessel is 105 meters long and has a capacity of accommodating 242 personnel.

#### IAI signed missile defence deal with India

- Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has signed a US\$ 777 million defence contract with India.
- Under the contract, IAI will supply 'Barak 8' long-range surface-to-air defence missiles and missile defence systems for the Indian Navy.
- Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) will be the main manufacturer for the project.
- The IAI is Israel's largest aerospace and defence company.

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