

WEEKLY

CURRENT AFFAIRS CAPSULE

23RD SEPTEMBER – 29TH SEPTEMBER 2018

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Awards & Honours

Kanha guide among winners of TOFTigers Awards

- Ramkali Dhurway, a guide from Kanha Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh won the "Billy Arjan Singh Memorial Award for Wildlife Guide" at TOFTigers Wildlife Awards.
- The theme of the 5th edition: "Inclusive Conservation - People and Wildlife".
- Also, a restaurant from Nepal and a nature tour operator from the Netherlands were some of the winners at the event.

Ahmedabad and Indore Airports- Best Airports

- AAI's Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Airport, Indore and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad were conferred with the prestigious National Tourism Awards 2016-17.
- Ahmedabad airport received the Best Airport Award in Major Cities category.
- Indore airport received the Best Airport Award in 'Rest of India' category.
- The awards were presented on World Tourism Day i.e 27 Sept 2018.

National Tourism Awards 2016-17

- Tourism Minister K J Alphons presented National Tourism Awards 2016-17 in various segments of the Travel, Tourism, and Hospitality.
- Andhra Pradesh bagged the first prize in state category for comprehensive development of tourism followed by Kerala.
- Rajasthan and Goa jointly shared the third prize.
- India will be the host country for official World Tourism Day celebrations in 2019.

PM Modi awarded UN Champions of Earth Award

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been awarded the prestigious United Nations Champions of the Earth Award.
- Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron have been awarded in the Policy Leadership category, for their efforts regarding their International Solar Alliance.
- The Champions of the Earth prize is awarded to leaders whose actions have had a positive impact on the environment.

Arjuna Awards for the year 2018

- The Arjuna Awards are given by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to recognize outstanding achievement in sports. The award was presented to 20 peoples, some winners of Arjuna Awards 2018 are as follows-
 - Neeraj Chopra- Athletics
 - Hima Das- Athletics
 - Smriti Mandhana- Cricket

- Manpreet Singh- Hockey
- Ankur Mittal- Shooting
- Shreyasi Singh- Shooting
- Manika Batra- Table Tennis

Dronacharya Awards for the year 2018

- The Dronacharya Award is a sports coaching honor of India. Following sportspersons were conferred with Dronacharya Awards for the year 2018:
 - Subedar Chenanda Achaiah- Boxing
 - Vijay Sharma- Weightlifting
 - Srinivasa Rao- Table Tennis
 - Sukhdev Singh- Athletics
 - Clarence Lobo- Hockey (Life Time)
 - Tarak Sinha- Cricket (Life Time)
 - Jiwan Sharma- Judo (Life Time)
 - V.R. Beedu- Athletics (Life Time)

Luka Modric won FIFA Best player award

- Luka Modric won FIFA's best male player award for 2018.
- Brazil and Orlando Pride forward Marta won the best female player award.
- Mohamed Salah's curling, left-footed strike in an October 12, 2017 match against Everton won the Puskas Award for the best goal.
- Peru's supporters won the Fifa Fan Award.

'Village Rockstars' enters Oscars 2019

- **Assamese** movie 'Village Rockstars' has been selected as India's official entry to the **Oscars 2019**.
- The film is directed by Rima Das.
- The film which had its World Premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival and India premiere at the Mumbai Film Festival 2018.
- It also won the 'Best Feature film Award' at the 65th National Film Awards.

Days & Events

Conference on Academic Leadership inaugurated

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Conference on Academic Leadership on Education for Resurgence' in New Delhi on 29 September 2018.
- It was attended by vice-chancellors and directors of over 350 higher education institutions.
- The theme of the conference is to deliberate on the challenges faced by the Indian education system and to work out a plan for achieving academic outcomes.

World Rabies Day: 28 September

- World Rabies Day is celebrated annually on September 28 to raise awareness about rabies prevention.
- The theme for 2018 is 'Rabies: Share the message. Save a life'.
- The day marks the death anniversary of Louis Pasteur, the French chemist, and microbiologist, who developed the first rabies vaccine.

World Tourism Day: 27 Sept

- World Tourism Day is celebrated on 27 September to raise awareness about the role of tourism in the international community.
- **WTD 2018 theme: "Tourism and the Digital Transformation"**.
- The host country for WTD 2018 is Hungary.
- The World Travel and Tourism Council calculated that tourism in India generated Rs. 15.24 lakh crore or 9.4% of India's GDP in 2017.

Parakram Parv from 28-30 Sept

- The Indian Armed Forces will observe '**Parakram Parv**' from September 28 - 30 to mark the second anniversary of the surgical strikes across the Line of Control.
- Stories of the recipients of the highest gallantry award, the Param Veer Chakra will also be highlighted during the Parv.
- 53 locations in 51 cities across the country will host events highlighting the valour of Indian Armed Forces.

25th September is observed as Antyodaya Diwas

- **25th September** is observed as **Antyodaya Diwas** every year to mark the birth anniversary of **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya**.
- During the Antyodaya Diwas each **Swachhagrahi** will be asked to create a **team of his/her own Swachhagrahis**.
- Each of these team will **work on Open Defecation Free activities** in their villages.
- **22 States** and UTs have been **declared Open Defecation Free** so far.

DEPwD celebrated 'Int Day of Sign Languages'

- "International Day of Sign Languages" was celebrated by Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on 23 September 2018.
- International Day of Sign Languages is celebrated annually across the world on 23 September every year.
- The theme of International Day of Sign Languages is "With Sign Language, Everyone is Included!"

International Affairs

WHO launched SAFER Initiative

- The World Health Organization (WHO) released a new initiative, named SAFER.
- SAFER is the WHO-led roadmap to support governments in taking practical steps to accelerate progress on health by addressing the harmful use of alcohol.
- SAFER provides 5 high-impact strategic actions prioritised for implementation to promote health and development.

Argentina got biggest loan from IMF

- Argentina has received the biggest loan package ever from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- The loan amount of \$57 billion will be disbursed over the next 3 years.
- The aim is to restore the Argentina's struggling economy.
- As per the loan agreement, IMF will only allow **Argentina's central bank to intervene to stabilize its currency** if the peso depreciates below 44 pesos to the dollar.

UN General meeting on ending TB

- The United Nations General Assembly's first-ever high-level meeting on tuberculosis (TB) to accelerate efforts in ending TB was held on 26 September 2018 in New York.
- **The theme of the meeting was "United to end tuberculosis: an urgent global response to a global epidemic"**.

- At the meeting, representatives adopted a **declaration to "reaffirm" their promise to build a TB-free world by 2030.**

Indra Jatra festival in Kathmandu

- The famous **Indra Jatra** festival is being celebrated in **Kathmandu** in September with gaiety and religious fervor **in Nepal.**
- The 8-day long annual festival is observed to **worship Indra**, the lord of rain and good harvest.
- It also marks the **end of monsoon** and **beginning of harvest season** and festivity.
- Nepal's living Goddess **Trishna Shakya** made her **first public appearance** in the festival.

UAE to host Interfaith Alliance Forum

- The UAE will host the Interfaith Alliance Forum in Abu Dhabi on 19th and 20th Nov 2018.
- The forum aims to address and discuss social challenges and to strengthen efforts by religious leaders for protection of the young individuals from extortion and crime via the internet.
- The alliance also highlight the importance of unifying views among religions to ensure the protection of children.

Ibrahim Solih won Presidential Election

- Ibrahim Mohamed Solih** won the **Maldives'** presidential election on 24th September 2018.
- He **defeated** Maldives President **Abdulla Yameen.**
- Mr **Solih** entered the **Parliament for the first time** after defeating a ruling party candidate in **1994.**
- He has been **representing 'Lhaviyani Atoll'** in the **Maldivian Parliament.**

Vietnam's President Tran Dai Quang passed away

- Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang** died on 21 September, 2018.
- A career security officer and four-star general, **Quang** was **elected president** of Vietnam in **April 2016.**
- He was the **second most powerful man** in the country after **General Secretary** Nguyen Phu Trong.
- He rose through the ranks at various positions at the **Ministry of Public Security** before being **appointed** the **minister** in 2011.

Women Foreign Ministers hold meet

- First women-only foreign minister conference** was held in **Montreal**, Canada on 22 September 2018.
- It is **aimed at highlighting women's** key role in **politics** and **decision-making processes.**
- The **meeting** was **co-chaired** by **Canada's top diplomat**, **Chrystia Freeland**, and the **foreign affairs** representative of the **European Union**, **Federica Mogherini.**

WB, UN launched 'Famine Action Mechanism'

- World Bank (WB), the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as companies such as Microsoft, Google and Amazon launched a "Famine Action Mechanism" (FAM).
- FAM is an algorithm that will use analytics to identify areas that are likely to experience extreme food shortages.
- FAM will promote investments that tackle the causes of famine at the first warning signs.

Tiger population doubles in Nepal

- Nepal is likely to be the first country in the world to double its tiger population.
- Nepal announced that there are now an estimated 235 wild tigers in the country, nearly doubling the baseline of around 121 tigers in 2009.
- Nepal conducted its national tiger survey between November 2017 and April 2018 in the transboundary Terai Arc Landscape (TAL).

National Affairs

Bachendri Pal to lead clean Ganga

- Bachendri Pal will lead a month-long rafting expedition "**Mission Ganga**" to spread awareness on waste management.
- The expedition will start from Haridwar on October 5 and traverse through Bijnor, Farukhabad, Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi, Buxar and end at Patna on Oct 30.
- Bachendri Pal, chief of Tata Steel Adventure Foundation (TSAF) is the first Indian woman to climb the Mount Everest.

EC on premature dissolution of assembly

- Election Commission has issued direction on the applicability of Model Code of Conduct in case of premature dissolution of the state assembly.
- The code of conduct will be followed by the caretaker government until the formation of new government.
- The direction has implications for Telangana where the government is continuing as a caretaker government after it dissolved the state assembly.

Assam to introduce methanol as cooking fuel

- The Assam Petrochemicals Limited (APL) will start a pilot project on October 5, 2018, on the use of methanol as an alternative to cooking gas.
- The use of methanol or methyl alcohol as an alternative to liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) will help reduce the cost of cooking.
- APL is a public sector undertaking of the Assam government.



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Conclave of CMs of 12 Himalayan states

- A conclave of chief ministers and parliamentarians of 12 Himalayan states will be held in Shimla on October 5, 2018.
- The theme of the meet is "well being of the next generation of Himalayan people through agriculture".
- The Himachal Pradesh government is organising the conclave in partnership with Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI).

SC allowed entry of women in Sabarimala temple

- The Supreme Court on 28 September 2018 allowed entry of women of all ages into the Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala in Kerala.
- The SC said banning entry of women to Kerala's Sabarimala temple is gender discrimination and the practice violates rights of Hindu women.
- The court gave its verdict on a clutch of pleas challenging the ban on entry of women at Sabarimala in Kerala.

India's first flood forecast system launched

- The Kolkata Municipal Corporation, with the support of the Asian Development Bank launched the India's first flood forecasting and early-warning system.
- The system will provide real-time data on inundation, rainfall intensity, temperature, air quality and other climate-related data.
- This will help policy-makers to make informed decisions during disasters.

Delhi, 4 states agree on Uniform tax rates

- Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh on 25 September 2018 agreed to fix uniform tax rates on petroleum products.
- The states also agreed to bring uniformity in taxes on liquor and registration of vehicles and transport permit.
- It was also decided to constitute a sub-committee, which would give the recommendation with regard to uniformity in tax rates.

Supreme Court struck down section 497

- The Supreme Court on 27 September 2018 declared adultery cannot be a criminal offence.
- The Supreme Court declared Section 497 from the penal code as unconstitutional.
- The Supreme Court declared that the adultery law violated Article 14, 15(1) and 21 of the Constitution and offends the dignity of a woman.

Navy inked pact to build two DSVs

- The Navy has signed a contract with the Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam.

- The contract is for building two diving support vessels (DSVs), which are required for submarine support operations at sea.
- The DSV enables divers to remain underwater for long hours with their equipment.
- The Navy undertakes diving operations in the Indian Ocean Region for submarine rescue.

SC declared Aadhaar as constitutionally valid

- The Supreme Court on 26 September 2018 declared the government's Aadhaar scheme as constitutionally valid.
- The Supreme Court, however, struck down some of its provisions including its linking with bank accounts, mobile phones and school admissions.
- The Supreme Court held that Aadhaar would remain mandatory for the filing of IT returns and allotment of Permanent Account Number (PAN).

Live streaming of court proceedings allowed

- The Supreme Court on 26 September 2018 agreed to live-streaming and video recording of court proceedings.
- The apex court said that necessary rules for balancing rights of public and protecting dignity of litigants will be placed soon.
- The verdict was passed on a batch of petitions filed by, law student **Snehl Tripathi** and NGO 'Centre For Accountability and Systemic Change' on the issue.

Smart City Expo India-2018 inaugurated

- Vice president Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated Smart City Expo India-2018 in Jaipur.
- The object of this 3-day long expo is to discuss experts and groups to utilize the benefits of new technology, town planning, and capacity management in the smart city sector.
- Near about 6000 delegates from MNC's of different countries, researchers and CEO's of different Smart cities, are participating in the expo.

"IND-Uzb: Dialogue of Cultures" inaugurated

- Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Shri Arun Goel inaugurated the exhibition "India - Uzbekistan: Dialogue of Cultures" in New Delhi.
- The Exhibition is dedicated to the visit of Uzbekistan President, Shavkat Mirziyoyev to India in October.
- This exhibition showcases original artifacts which include coins from the royal mints of Kushans including coins depicting portraits of Kanishka etc.

HMR is the 2nd largest metro rail in India

- **Hyderabad Metro Rail (HMR)** has now become **second largest metro rail** network in India.
- It is also the **world's largest metro project** under the **public-private-partnership (PPP)** model.

- The **Hyderabad** metro now has an **operational network of 45 km**.
- **Delhi Metro Rail** with an **operational network of over 350kms** is the largest metro rail network in India.

SC forms committee to look into jail reforms

- **Supreme Court** constituted a **3 member committee** to look into the aspect of **jail reforms across the country** and suggest measures to deal with them.
- The **committee** is headed by the former judge **Justice Amitava Roy**.
- The **committee** will also look into the **various issues** concerning **women prisoners**.
- **Supreme Court** was **hearing a matter** relating to **inhuman conditions** in **1,382 jails** across India.

SC: Legislators can practice as lawyers

- The Supreme Court said that the legislators could not be banned from practising as lawyers in courts.
- The Supreme Court also said that no law debar the MPs, MLAs and MLCs from practising in court.
- At present, only the ministers and legislators holding other constitutional positions are barred from giving legal counsel to clients.

4th India International Science Festival

- The 4th edition of India International Science Festival will be inaugurated by President of India in Lucknow on October 6, 2018.
- Science & Technology Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan said that IISF 2018 is a tribute to former PM Late Sh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- IISF is the biggest platform to bring together students, researchers to celebrate **India's** achievements in science and technology.

Jowai- Ratacherra section of NH 6 inaugurated

- Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the rehabilitation and up-gradation of Jowai-Ratacherra (Meghalaya Assam border) section of the National Highway- 06 at Shillong.
- The 102 km road is very important for the development of industries as it passes through cement and coal belts of the Meghalaya.
- NH 6, is a national highway running from Jorabat in Meghalaya to Silling in Mizoram.

Rs 25,050 crore needed to rebuild Kerala

- The **World Bank**, in its preliminary report, has estimated that an amount of Rs 25,050 crore is necessary for rebuilding the state.
- The **report** was prepared after the **visits** of **World Bank** and **Asian Development Bank** teams to several flood-hit areas of Kerala.

- The **final report** would be submitted on **October 1, 2018**, after incorporating the changes suggested by the State government.

India & World

1st consignment of rice to China from Nagpur

- The first consignment of non-basmati rice of 100 tonnes have been shipped to China from Nagpur.
- The consignment will be received by China National Cereals, Oils and Foodstuffs Corporation.
- 19 rice mills have been registered for export of non-basmati rice from India to China.
- The protocol to export rice was signed on 9 June 2018, at Qingdao, China, during Narendra Modi's visit.

ADB approved \$150 mn loan for Madhya Pradesh

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide \$150 million loan for establishing the first multi-skills park in Madhya Pradesh.
- The skills park will be equipped with international training facilities to enhance the quality of Madhya Pradesh's technical and vocational education and training (TVET) system.
- Skills Park campus will be established in Bhopal.

Cabinet approves MoU b/w NITI Aayog, and MEDRF

- The Cabinet has approved Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NITI Aayog, and Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation (MEDRF).
- The MoU is in the field of social, economic, industrial and regional development programs.
- It provides a framework and enabling environment to understand each other's strengths, market, technologies, policies, etc.

Cabinet approved MoU b/w India & Uzbekistan

- The Union Cabinet has approved the MoU between India and Uzbekistan on 26th September, 2018.
- The MoU will help in mutual cooperation in regulation of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and in combating drug trafficking.
- It is an effective framework to deal with all issues requiring mutual assistance and cooperation in the areas identified.

2nd REINVEST meet to be held in Delhi-NCR

- The 2nd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo, (REINVEST- 2018) will be held from 2-5 Oct 2018 in New Delhi.
- RE-INVEST is a global platform to explore strategies for development and deployment of renewables.
- The 2nd RE-INVEST will include a 3-day conference on renewables, clean tech and future energy

choices, an expo of renewables-related manufacturers.

2nd Ministerial Meeting of IORA in Delhi-NCR

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy will host 2nd Ministerial Meeting of Indian Ocean Rim Association from 2-4 October 2018 in Delhi NCR.
- The event will be held in parallel with the 1st General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the 2nd Global RE-INVEST Meet & Expo.
- IORA is a dynamic organisation of 21 Member States and 7 Dialogue Partners.

First assembly of ISA in India

- The inaugural General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) will take place in Delhi-NCR on 2 October.
- The Founding Conference of the ISA was jointly hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron in March 2018.
- The ISA, formation of which was initiated by India and France, aims to bring all countries together for cooperation on solar energy.

\$500 mn loan for climate resilient infra in TN

- Asian Development Bank will provide a \$500 million loan to build **climate resilient infrastructure** in several cities of Tamil Nadu.
- **Multi-tranche Financing Facility** will develop **climate-resilient water supply, sewerage, and drainage infrastructure** in at least 10 cities.
- ADB said this funding will be in three tranches between Sept 2019 and March 2022.

'Gandhi March' in Netherlands

- India will organise '**Gandhi March**' from the iconic **Peace Palace at the Hague in the Netherlands**.
- 'Gandhi March' will see the participation of people of all nations and around 20 **ambassadors from different countries**.
- Also, special commemorative stamps will be issued by the Indian postal department at the Peace Palace complex.
- **October 2** is also marked as **International Day of Non-Violence**.

India, China to sign security agreement

- India and China will sign an **internal security cooperation agreement** during the visit of China's Minister of Public Security in October 2018.
- The **proposed pact** is expected to cover areas of **intelligence sharing, exchange programme, sharing of best practices, and cooperation in disaster mitigation**.
- This will be the **first** such **agreement** between **India and China** which look after **internal security**.

India's MIB in UN Global Media Compact

- India's **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB)** is among more than 30 organisations from across the world that have come together to form a **global media compact**.
- The **SDG Media Compact** is an **initiative** to **advance awareness** of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- The **Compact** is an **initiative** of the **United Nations**, in **collaboration** with the **UN Foundation**.

India, Nepal agree to explore satellite images

- India and Nepal have agreed to explore the possibility of using high resolution satellite images in boundary survey work during a meeting of the Nepal-India boundary working group (BWG).
- The BWG is a joint body constituted by Nepal and India in 2014 to carry out works in the fields of construction, restoration and repair of boundary pillars, including clearance of no-man's land.

Personalities in News

Mukesh Ambani tops Barclays Rich List

- Mukesh Ambani has topped the 'Barclays Hurun India Rich List 2018' for the seventh consecutive year.
- Barclays Hurun India Rich List 2018 is a compilation of the individuals in India having a net worth of ₹1,000 crore or more.
- The list was compiled on the basis of the net worth of living Indians as on July 31, 2018.
- Mukesh Ambani is followed by S.P. Hinduja and L.N. Mittal.

Naval officer Commander Abhilash Tomy rescued

- Naval officer Commander Abhilash Tomy who is representing India in Golden Globe Race 2018 was rescued by French vessel Osiri.
- Tomy in his sailing vessel 'Thuriya', was dismantled and had suffered a back injury in extreme weather and sea condition in the Indian Ocean.
- The GGR is a race to sail around the globe. Tommy is the only Indian to circumnavigate the globe non-stop on INSV Mhadei.

Environment

Air pollution control device inaugurated

- Environment Minister **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** inaugurated air pollution control device '**Wind Augmentation Purifying Unit**', (WAYU) in **New Delhi**.
- The device WAYU is developed by the Council of Science and Industrial Research to mitigate air pollution at traffic junctions.

- This device works on two principles mainly **wind generation** for **dilution** of air pollutants and **active pollutants removal**.

Government Policies & Schemes

Rail Heritage Digitisation Project launched

- Minister of Railways, Shri Piyush Goyal has launched "**Rail Heritage Digitisation Project**" of **Indian Railways** in collaboration with Google Arts & Culture.
- The project is first of its kind in India, to showcase **the country's Rail Heritage to the National and International audience**.
- Under the project, 22 digital screens will be set up across different locations for showcasing this project.

Govt launched Agmark online system

- The government launched an online platform for processing applications related to quality **certification mark 'Agmark' for agricultural products**.
- Agmark is certification mark that assures conformity to a set of standards approved by the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection.
- In the new online application system, there are provisions for online receipt of fees from the applicants.

CoE for Data Analytics and DigiVaarta

- National Informatics Centre (NIC) and National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated (NICSI) have jointly set up a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for data analytics to support the government.
- The Centre of Excellence for Data Analytics (CEDA) was launched on 28th September 2018.
- NIC is a technology advisor and ICT solution provider to Government at all levels.

'Incredible India' Mobile App launched

- The Union Tourism Minister, K.J. Alphons on the World Tourism Day launched the 'Incredible India' Mobile App.
- The app showcases India as a holistic destination, revolving around major experiences, such as spirituality, heritage, culture, yoga, wellness etc.
- The app has been developed by Tech Mahindra.
- The app is equipped with features to assist the traveler in each phase of their journey.

Centre steps up grant for disaster fund

- The government of India has enhanced its contribution in the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) from 75% to 90% with effect from April 2018.
- As per revised guidelines, the government of India will contribute 90% while states will contribute 10% to the relief fund.
- SDRF was established at the state level to meet the rescue and relief expenditure of disaster-affected states.

Government launched Financial Inclusion Index

- The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Arun Jaitley, launched the Financial Inclusion Index.
- The index will have three measurement dimensions: (i) Access to financial services (ii) Usage of financial services and (3) Quality.
- The various components of the index will also help to measure financial services for use of internal policy making.

MHA merges police forces in 6 UTs

- Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has notified new rules merging police forces in 6 Union Territories.
- The National Capital Territory of Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Chandigarh (Police Service) Rules, 2018, was notified on September 25 2018.
- The police officers, who are not direct IPS recruits, could be posted in any of the 6 UTs.

Ordinance to dissolve MCI passed by President

- President Ram Nath Kovind has given assent to promulgate an Ordinance to set up a committee to run the Medical Council of India (MCI).
- The committee will have a 7-member Board of Governors led by NITI Aayog Member Dr V.K. Paul.

- The Bill provides for simplification of procedures and is aimed at spurring rapid growth in the number of undergraduate and postgraduate medical seats in the country.

Finance Ministry launches Jan Dhan Darshak App

- Finance Ministry has launched Mobile Application 'Jan Dhan Darshak' as a Part of Financial Inclusion.
- This App will provide guidance to the common people in locating a financial service touch point at a given location in the country.
- Department of Financial Services (DFS) and National Informatics Centre (NIC) have jointly developed the app Jan Dhan Darshak.

Cabinet approved Digital Communications Policy

- The Union Cabinet has approved the National Digital Communications Policy-2018 (NDCP-2018) and re-designation of the Telecom Commission as the "Digital Communications Commission".
- The policy aims to facilitate India's effective participation in the global digital economy.
- The policy also aims to ensure digital sovereignty and the objectives are to be achieved by 2022.

Proposal to convert GSTN into govt entity

- The Union Cabinet cleared a proposal to convert GST Network (GSTN) into a 100% government-owned company.
- GSTN provides IT infrastructure for the new indirect tax regime.
- After restructuring of GSTN, ownership will be equally divided between the Centre and states.
- Currently, the Centre and states together hold 49% stake in the GST Network.

Financial assistance for canal approved

- Union Cabinet approved Central Assistance of Rs. 620.42 Crore and Rs. 205.758 Crore for implementation of relining of Rajasthan Feeder Canal and Sirhind Feeder Canal respectively.
- Implementation of these twin projects would help in addressing the problem of water-logging in South-West Punjab.
- Funding to the Rajasthan Feeder and Sirhind feeder shall be made through NABARD.

Scheme for acid attack victims

- The Haryana govt approved financial assistance to women and girl acid attack victims scheme.
- Under this scheme, the survivors of the crime after 2 May 2011 will be eligible for the monthly pension.
- Either the victim herself or her legal guardian can apply to the **district social welfare officer** for relief.
- The financial assistance will be given on the **basis of the percentage of disability**.

Helpline for tobacco users

- India has become the first and only SAARC country to have a quit-line number on tobacco products.
- India is the fourth country in Asia after Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore to have this government helpline for those looking at quitting tobacco.
- The quit-line number will be printed on all tobacco products manufactured after September 1, 2018.

Panel approves nutrition norms

- The **National Technical Board on Nutrition** has recommended that **severely malnourished children** must be **fed freshly cooked food** prepared from locally available cereals, pulses and vegetables.
- The **measures** are part of the **community-based health management** of **children** suffering from **Severe Acute Malnutrition**.
- The **guidelines** outline the role of **Anganwadi workers** and **auxiliary nurse midwives**.

'Mysuraksha' app launched in Mysuru

- The **Mysuru city police** have launched 'Mysuraksha' app to ensure the safety and security of auto and cab passengers.
- The passengers can scan the **QR (Quick Response) code** printed on autos and cabs that will have the **details of the vehicle and the driver**.
- If the passengers encounter any trouble, they can **transmit** the **details** to the **police control room** just by pressing the **SOS button**.

Science & Technology

Japan's rovers successfully land on asteroid

- Japanese space agency's **MINERVA-II1** (Micro-Nano Experimental Robot Vehicle for Asteroid, the second generation) is the **world's first rover** to **land** on the surface of **the asteroid Ryugu**.
- The MINERVA-II1 consisted of two rovers, Rover-1A and Rover-1B.
- The **rovers** are **designed** to hop along the **asteroid's surface**, taking photographs and gathering data.

Committees & Recommendations

Govt formed panel to advice on boosting trade

- The commerce ministry has set up a High-Level Advisory Group (HLAG) to look into the opportunities and ways to address the ongoing challenges in the global trade scenario.
- HLAG will be headed by economist Surjit S. Bhalla.
- The other members of the group include S. Jaishankar, Former Foreign Secretary and Sanjeev Sanyal, Principal Economic Advisor.

Govt sets up panel to review CSR framework

- The government of India has formed an 11-member committee to look into the existing framework for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities under the companies law.
- The committee will be headed by Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas.
- Additional Solicitor General PS Narasimha, Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran, Prakash Padukone are part of the 11-member committee.

Govt forms Lokpal search committee

- The government has set up an 8 member Lokpal Search Committee under the Chairmanship of former Supreme Court Judge, Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai.
- The panel will recommend the names for the Chairperson and Members of the Lokpal
- Prasara Bharati Chairman A Surya Prakash, former SBI Chief Arundhati Bhattacharya and Justice Sukha Ram Singh Yadav among others will be members of the panel.

Business & Economy

RBI cracks down on Bandhan Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cracked the whip on Bandhan Bank freezing the remuneration of its MD and CEO Chandra Shekhar Ghosh for violating norms.
- The action taken is **for not bringing down promoters' shareholding** in the bank to 40% within 3 years of operations as mandated by it while granting the bank license.
- RBI had also barred the Kolkata-based lender from opening new branches.

RBI eases cash reserve rules

- The Reserve Bank of India eased mandatory cash **requirement rules for banks to provide "durable liquidity"** to the economy.
- RBI said that banks could 'carve out' up to 15% of holdings under the Statutory Liquidity Reserves to meet their Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) requirements as compared to 13% now.
- The relaxation in Statutory Liquidity Ratio requirement with effect from October 1, 2018

BSE can now launch gold, silver futures

- BSE has received regulatory approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch delivery-based futures contract in gold (1 kg) and silver (30 kg).
- The exchange will launch trading in these contracts on October 1 2018.

- The delivery centre of gold and silver futures contract will be BSE designated vaults at Ahmedabad initially.

Finance Minister launches web portal

- The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Arun Jaitley launched a web portal as a transformative initiative in MSME credit space.
- The web portal www.psbloansin59minutes.com will enable in principle approval for MSME loans up to Rs. 1 crore within 59 minutes from SIDBI and 5 PSBs.
- The majority stake of is with SIDBI & 5 PSBs- SBI, Bank of Baroda, PNB, Vijaya and Indian Bank.

Microsoft, Adobe, SAP in data alliance

- Microsoft, Adobe Systems and SAP have formed an alliance to offer a unified view of data on their respective end-customers.
- The partners announced the Open Data Initiative at a Microsoft conference in Florida.
- The initiative will enhance interoperability and data exchange between their platforms like- Adobe Experience Cloud, Microsoft Dynamics 365 and SAP C/4HANA through a common mode.

5 IT firms shortlisted to implement RBI's CIMS

- The RBI has shortlisted 5-IT firms for implementation of a Centralised Information and Management System for seamless data collection and validations.
- The 5 firms are- Capgemini Technology Services India, IBM India, Infosys, Larsen & Toubro Infotech and Tata Consultancy Services.
- The CIMS also include Centralised Analytics Platform to facilitate the creation of RBI Data Sciences Lab.

Tariffs on non-essential imports finalised

- The government has finalised the list of non-essential items on which it will be imposing import tariffs.
- The list would include electronics, gems, and select items of steel that are also manufactured in India, imported apples, and almonds, among others.
- The imposition of tariffs on the import of non-essential items is expected to help in stabilising the rupee's level.

Fitch raises India growth forecast

- Global research agency Fitch raised India's growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7.8% from the earlier 7.4%.
- Fitch has revised the forecast for current fiscal 'on the back of the better-than-expected 2018 outturn'.
- Fitch's latest projection for the current fiscal is higher than what is estimated by the Reserve Bank of India (7.4%) and even the Government (7.5%).

BSNL signs deal with Softbank, NTT

- BSNL has inked a pact with Japan's Softbank and NTT Communications to roll out 5G and Internet of things (IoT) technology in India.
- Under the agreement with Softbank, BSNL will look at collaborating with the NTT Communications for its satellite constellation to provide high speed internet services.
- BSNL has signed an agreement with Nokia and Cisco as well for developing 5G ecosystem.

Sports

India lift Asia Cup for 7th time

- Indian team has lifted the Asia Cup for the 7th time by defeated Bangladesh by 3 wickets in the final match played at Dubai.
- Liton Das was named the man of the match for scoring 121 runs off 117 balls.
- Player of the series: Shikhar Dhawan (342)
- Participants: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Hong Kong.

2nd Hornbill's Flight International Race

- The 2nd edition of the cycle race, 'Dalmia MTB Arunachal; Hornbill's Flight International Race' will be held on 14-22 November.
- The cycling track extends from Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh to Mechuka in the West Siang district about 650 km away.
- More than 100 cyclists from over 10 countries will participate.
- The total prize money for the race is of Rs 22.5 lakhs.

Asian Yoga Sports Championship in Kerala

- The 8th Asian Yoga Sports Championship organised by Asian Yoga Federation was inaugurated on 27 September 2018 in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- The event have around 500 participants representing 14 Asian countries showcasing their yoga skills.
- Yogaratna Awards will be given away to foreign delegates who were instrumental in popularising yoga in their respective countries.

Sharmila won gold in women's javelin's throw

- Sharmila Kumari clinched a gold medal at the 58th National Open athletics championships in the women's javelin throw at Bhubaneswar, Orissa.
- Sharmila threw a personal best throw of 54.81m to beat former Asian Games bronze medallist Annu Rani.
- Kumari improved on her previous personal best of 54.21m that she had registered at the National Inter-State Championships in Guwahati.

Sinisuka and Carolina Won China Open

- Indonesia's Anthony Sinisuka Ginting defeated Japan's Kento Momota to win the Men's singles China Open title.
- Spain's Carolina Marin defeated **China's** Chen Yufei to win the Women's singles title.
- The men's doubles title won by the Danish duo of Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup, who defeated Chinese duo of Han Chengkai and Zhou Haodong.

India won medals in Serbia Junior & Cadet Open

- In Table Tennis, India won the team titles in the girls and cadet boys category at the 2018 Serbia Junior and Cadet Open.
- India won gold in the Cadet Boys' singles, Cadet Boys' Team and Junior Girls' Team events.
- India won the silver medal in the Cadet Boys and Girls' team, the Cadet Boys' Doubles and Girls' Doubles categories.
- Payas Jain won the gold medal in Serbia Junior and Cadet Open

India won silver in Snooker Championship

- India won the silver medal in the final of the Asian Team Snooker Championship.
- India was defeated by Pakistan in final.
- The team India consisted of Pankaj Advani and Malkeet Singh.
- Pankaj Advani is a 19-time World Champion English billiards and snooker player from India.
- He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 2018.

Deepak Punia won silver medal in wrestling

- India's Deepak Punia won a silver medal at the junior world wrestling championship in Slovakia.
- He was defeated by Turkey's Arif Ozen.
- India ended the championship with six medals, including three silvers and three bronze medals.

Defence

Successful flight test of Astra Missile

- Astra missile was successfully test fired by the Indian Air Force, on 26 September 2018 from Air Force Station, Kalaikunda.
- Astra is the indigenously developed Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM).
- Astra, deemed to be the best in class weapon system, has undergone more than 20 developmental trials.

Parakram Parv from 28-30 Sept

- The Indian Armed Forces will observe '**Parakram Parv**' from September 28 - 30 to mark the second anniversary of the surgical strikes across the Line of Control.

- Stories of the recipients of the highest gallantry award, **the Param Veer Chakra** will also be highlighted during the Parv.
- **53 locations in 51 cities** across the country will host events highlighting the **valour of Indian Armed Forces**.

Naravane appointed as Eastern Army Commander

- Lt. Gen. M.M. Naravane has been appointed as the next **Eastern Army Commander**.
- Naravane is currently heading the Shimla-based **Army Training Command (ARTRAC)**.
- Naravane will be the **senior most officer** in the army after the current army chief, **General Bipin Rawat**.
- Also, **Air Marshal Anil Khosla** who is currently the **Eastern Air Force Commander** has been appointed as the **Vice Chief of IAF**.

Procurement of 1000 engines for T-72 tanks

- The **Defence Acquisition Council** has approved procurement of **1,000 engines** for fitment in **T-72 tanks** of the Army.
- The engines will enhance **mobility, agility, and acceleration** of T-72 tanks making them **more effective in the battlefield**.
- Most of these engines will be manufactured by **Ordnance Factories Board**.
- The DAC has also approved amendments to **Defence Procurement Procedure 2016**.

INS Kochi 'affiliated' to J&K Light Infantry

- INS Kochi was affiliated to the Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry Regiment (JAK LI) on 24 September 2018.
- An 'affiliation' between units is aimed at the synergy, coordination and 'jointness' between the services to ensure better coordination.
- The affiliation between naval and army units is an ongoing process and this is the 31st affiliation of an Indian Naval unit.

Prithvi interceptor missile test successful

- India successfully conducted an interceptor missile test off the Odisha coast.
- This Prithvi Defence Vehicle (PDV) mission is for engaging the targets in the exo-atmosphere region at an altitude above 50 km of the earth's atmosphere.
- The interceptor is guided by high-accuracy Inertial Navigation System (INS) and is supported by a Redundant Micro Navigation System.