

**WEEKLY**

# CURRENT AFFAIRS CAPSULE

**07TH OCTOBER – 13TH OCTOBER 2018**

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## Awards & Honours

### ESIC wins 'ISSA GOOD Practice Award 2018'

- The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has won the 'ISSA Good Practice Award' at the "Regional Social Security Forum for Asia and the Pacific" held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- The award recognizes the measures taken by ESIC for the administrative solution for Coverage Extension.
- ISSA (International Social Security Association) is an organization for Social Security Organizations.

### William, Paul won Nobel Prize for Economics

- The 2018 Nobel Prize for Economics has been awarded to William Nordhaus and Paul Romer of the United States for their work on sustainable growth.
- The research of the two US economists focuses on how climate change and technology have affected the economy.
- Prof Nordhaus was the first person to create a model that described the interplay between the economy and the climate.

## Days & Events

### International Day for Disaster Reduction

- The International Day for Disaster Reduction was started in 1989, after a call by the United Nations General Assembly for a day to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction.

- It is held every year on 13 October.
- The 2018 theme continues as part of the "Sendai Seven" campaign, centred on the seven targets of the Sendai Framework.

### World Egg day celebrated

- The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries organized "World Egg Day" on 12 October.
- A booklet on poultry entrepreneurs' success stories was released.
- International Egg Commission has declared the second Friday of October every year as World Egg Day.
- This is a unique opportunity to help raise awareness of the nutritional benefits of eggs.

### World Arthritis Day observed on October 12

- World Arthritis Day is observed on the 12th of October every year.
- The theme of World Arthritis Day 2018 is "It's in your hands, take action".
- World Arthritis Day was launched by the Arthritis Foundation.
- The objective of the day is to spread awareness about arthritis, and how it affects the lives of those that suffer with it.

### International Day of the Girl Child: 11 October

- International Day of the Girl is observed on 11 October 2018.
- The day aims to highlight and address the needs and challenges girls face while promoting girls' empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights.
- The theme for 2018 is 'With Her: A Skilled Girl Force'.
- October 11, 2012, was the first International Day of the Girl Child.

### Goa Maritime Symposium – 2018

- The Indian Navy will host the 'Goa Maritime Symposium' on 16 October 2018.
- The event is a follow-on to the maiden Goa Maritime Conclave held in 2017.
- The theme for the one day symposium is "Building Stronger Maritime Partnerships in Indian Ocean Region".
- The focus of the symposium is on capacity building among Indian Ocean Region navies to tackle emerging maritime threats,

### 'Workshop on Int Arbitration' inaugurated

- In an effort to strengthen dispute resolution mechanisms, a workshop was organised on 'Best Practices in International Arbitration' in New Delhi on 10 October 2018.
- The workshop was organised by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the International Court of Arbitration.

- The workshop covered basic concepts of international arbitration, selection of arbitrators, and enforcement of arbitral award.

#### 'Conference on Medical Products' inaugurated

- '2nd World Conference on Access to Medical Products - **Achieving the SDGs 2030**' was inaugurated on 9 October 2018 in New Delhi.
- The conference was organized by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare with the support of the World Health Organization.
- The main objective of the 2nd World Conference 2018 is to take forward the recommendations from the 1st World Conference 2017.

#### World Mental Health Day - 10 October

- World Mental Health Day 2018 is observed on October 10 across the world.
- The goal of World Mental Health Day is to increase awareness about mental health and the importance of mental health in the overall health of a person.
- The theme of World Mental Health Day 2018 is "Young people and mental health in a changing world."

#### World Post Day observed on 9 October

- World Post Day is celebrated every year on 9 October.
- On 9 October, the Universal Postal Union was established in 1874 in Bern, Switzerland.
- The Posts in many countries use the event to introduce or promote new postal products and services.
- It was declared World Post Day by the UPU Congress held in Tokyo, Japan in 1969.

#### India celebrates its 86th Air Force Day

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) celebrated its 86th anniversary as October 8 to commemorate the official foundation day of the force.
- To mark the IAF day a grand parade-cum-investiture ceremony held at Air Force station Hindan, Ghaziabad.
- Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa, Chief of the Air Staff, reviewed the parade.
- The IAF is the 4th largest air force in the world after the US, Russia, and China.

### International Affairs

#### Hurricane Leslie heading to Portugal, Spain

- Hurricane Leslie is heading toward Portugal and Spain.
- The Category 1 storm was about 910 km southwest of Lisbon, Portugal, and about 320 km northwest of Madeira, the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said.

- Leslie is moving northeast at 36 mph and it has maximum sustained winds of 80 mph.
- The storm is expected to pass north of Madeira.

#### WB to provide \$195 million to Nepal

- The World Bank (WB) has announced that it will provide around US\$195 million concessional loans to Nepal.
- The loan amount will be used by Nepal to reform the country's financial and energy sectors.
- An agreement to this effect was reached during the ongoing annual meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) at Bali in Indonesia.

#### Malaysia abolishes capital punishment

- Malaysia's cabinet has agreed to abolish the death penalty and halt pending executions.
- Capital punishment in Malaysia is currently mandatory for murder, kidnapping, possession of firearms and drug trafficking, among other crimes.
- In April 2017, human rights group Amnesty International ranked Malaysia 10th in the use of the death penalty.

#### Pak successfully test-fired Ghauri missile

- Pakistan successfully test-fired 'Ghauri' ballistic missile on 8 October 2018.
- The missile is capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads up to a distance of 1,300 kilometers.
- In April 2018, Pakistan successfully test fired an enhanced version of the indigenously-built Babur cruise missile, which has a range of 700 kilometres.

#### Nikki Haley resigned from United Nations

- Indian-American Nikki Haley has resigned as the US Ambassador to the United Nations.
- She was governor of South Carolina when President Donald Trump offered her the job of ambassador to the UN.
- Haley was the first female governor of South Carolina.
- On November 23, 2016, Haley was nominated for the position of U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations.

#### China launched two remote sensing satellites

- China successfully launched two remote sensing satellites to conduct electromagnetic environmental probes.
- The satellites, both belonging to the Yaogan-32 family, were launched by a Long March-2C rocket.
- Remote sensing generally refers to the use of sensor technologies to detect objects.
- The remote sensing satellites collect data by detecting the energy reflected from the Earth.

#### Ukraine launched large-scale air exercises

- Ukraine began large-scale air force exercises with the United States and other NATO countries.
- The "Clear Sky 2018" war games, which will run until 19 October 2018, are being held in western Ukraine.
- The aim is "to enhance regional capabilities to secure air sovereignty and promote peace and security through cooperation.

## National Affairs

### PM Modi to visit Japan for India-Japan Summit

- Modi will visit Japan on 28-29 of this month for the 13th India-Japan Annual Summit.
- This will be the fifth Annual Summit meeting between Modi and the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and their twelfth meeting overall since 2014.
- **Prime Minister's visit will reaffirm the traditional bonds of friendship between the two countries and strengthen their multifaceted cooperation in diverse fields**

### 13th convention of CIC inaugurated

- Shri Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the 13th Convention of the Central Information Commission in New Delhi.
- The Convention will deliberate on three specific subjects - Data privacy and Right to Information, Amendment in the RTI Act and Implementation of the RTI Act.
- The Central Information Commission set up under the Right to Information Act is the authorised body, established in 2005.

### India remains polio-free: UNICEF, WHO

- The UNICEF and the WHO reiterated India's status as a polio-free country.
- This came after some oral polio vaccine vials were found contaminated with the type-2 polio virus last month.
- India has a high routine immunisation coverage and so the risk of children getting vaccine-derived polio virus was "minimal", said the two global organisations in a joint statement.

### India's biggest Zika outbreak in Jaipur

- Fifty cases of Zika have been confirmed in Jaipur in India's biggest outbreak of the disease with 11 pregnant women among them.
- The mosquito-borne virus puts the unborn child at risk of microcephaly, a birth defect where the baby's head is smaller than normal.
- The symptoms include high fever, rash, joint and muscle pain, headache and conjunctivitis.

### Over 900 prisoners get special remission

- As part of the commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, over 900 prisoners have been released in the first phase of the Government's scheme for grant of special remission to specific categories of prisoners.
- The decision was taken by the Union Cabinet on July 18, 2018.
- The prisoners will be released in three phases- October 2, 2018, April 6, 2019, and October 2, 2019.

### Silver Jubilee celebrations of NHRC began

- Silver Jubilee celebrations of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) began on 12 October 2018.
- **The Commission will organize a 'Human Rights Mela' and 'Human Rights Street Theatre Festival'.**
- NHRC is an autonomous public body responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights.
- Retired Justice HL Dattu is the Chairperson of NHRC.

### Centre for 4th Industrial Revolution launched

- The World Economic Forum launched its new Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution in India.
- The centre would be based in Maharashtra.
- It has selected drones, artificial intelligence and blockchain as the first three project areas.
- The WEF has also entered into partnerships with the Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh governments for the new initiative

### Space centre to be set up at Jammu University

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed a MoU with the Central University of Jammu (CUJ) in Jammu for setting up of the Satish Dhawan Center for Space Science in the University.
- The centre will take care of the emerging geospatial and space technology requirements for the development of the region.
- Apart from this, the disaster management centre will also be set up.

### AIM & IBM India design Internship Programme

- NITI Aayog and IBM India announced a first-of-its-kind internship programme for students selected by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).
- The Atal Innovation Mission conducted the Atal Tinkering Marathon in 2017.
- The students will be equipped with the skills in areas like artificial intelligence, Internet-of-Things, cybersecurity, cloud computing and blockchain.

### 32nd conference of WUWM inaugurated

- Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Purushottam Rupala inaugurated the 32nd world conference of 'World Union of Wholesale Markets' (WUWM).

- The Conference was held at Gurugram, Haryana on 11 October 2018.
- The theme of the conference is 'The Wholesale Markets in the Digital Era: Challenges and Opportunities'.

#### IWAI launched Ro-Ro service to Majuli Island

- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) started Roll on-Roll off (Ro-Ro) facility in collaboration with the Government of Assam for Majuli Island.
- IWAI has procured a new vessel 'MV Bhupen Hazarika' for the new Ro-Ro service.
- Majuli is one of the biggest riverine islands in the world located on river Brahmaputra in Assam.

#### BPCL to commission 2G ethanol plant

- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) plans to commission its second generation (2G) ethanol bio-refinery at Odisha's Bargarh district by December 2020.
- The Bargarh bio-refinery will utilize about 0.2 million tonnes of rice straw annually as feedstock.
- The plant is based on a zero-liquid discharge plant (ZLD) technology where all the water will be recycled back into the plant.

#### Cyclone Titli intensifies near Odisha-AP coast

- Cyclonic storm 'Titli' moved towards Odisha-Andhra Pradesh coast.
- **Cyclone 'Titli' is expected to intensify further into a Severe Cyclonic Storm.**
- It will cross east coast of India between Kalingapatnam (north Andhra Pradesh) and Gopalpur (south Odisha) in the morning of 11th October 2018.
- The Met department has issued a red in some coastal districts of Odisha.

#### Army Commanders' Conference began in Delhi

- Army Commanders' Conference began in New Delhi on 9 October 2018.
- The last Army Commanders' Conference was held in April 2018.
- A large number of issues ranging from operational challenges, administrative issues, logistics to human resource related issues was discussed during the conference.

#### Statue of Sir Chhotu Ram unveiled in Rohtak

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a 64-Foot tall statue of Deenbandhu Sir Chhotu Ram at Sampla in Rohtak district.
- Sir Chhotu Ram was a prominent leader in the Punjab Province.
- He belonged to Jat community and worked ceaselessly for the welfare of farmers.
- Prime minister also laid the foundation stone of the Rail Coach Repair Factory at Badhi in Sonapat district.

#### Jharkhand to become partner state at GIFF

- Goa International Film Festival (GIFF) from 20th to 28th of November 2018 will have Jharkhand as a partner state.
- This will allow Jharkhand to showcase its culture and favourable film making incentives announced by the state government.
- The film festival is conducted jointly by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Directorate of Film Festivals and the Government of Goa.

#### Investor summit inaugurated in Dehradun

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first Uttarakhand Investors Summit in Dehradun on 7 October 2018.
- The Uttarakhand government expects and investment of Rs 20,000 crore in sectors including food processing, horticulture and floriculture, tourism and hospitality among others.
- The state had also organised a roadshow in five cities to attract investment in the state.

#### Vaccination of Gir lions against deadly virus

- The Gujarat forest department started vaccination of lions in the Gir sanctuary to protect them from a deadly virus.
- As many as 23 lions have died in Gujarat's Gir sanctuary.
- Most of them have succumbed to Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) and protozoa infections.
- CDV is mainly found in wild dogs, jackals and wolves.
- The disease is contracted by lions if they eat any animal infected by it.

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#### Task Force launched to address skill gaps

- Union Ministry of Skill and Development and Entrepreneurship has launched 'Closing the Skill Gap Task Force' in India.

- The task force will develop an action plan to address skills gaps in India.
- It has been launched in collaboration with the World Economic Forum.
- It will be co-chaired by Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Infosys MD and CEO Salil Parekh.

#### EC announced election dates for 5 states

- The Election Commission of India on 6 October 2018 announced dates for assembly polls in five states -- Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Mizoram and Telangana.
- With the announcement of dates for assembly elections in five states, the Model Code of Conduct comes into play with immediate effect.
- Results for all the five states will be out on December 11.

#### Government of India reconstituted EPCA

- The Government of India has reconstituted the Supreme Court-empowered Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA).
- EPCA is tasked with taking various measures to tackle air pollution in the National Capital Region.
- The tenure of the last EPCA expired on 3 October 2018.
- Bhure Lal continues to be the Chairman of EPCA.

#### 'India Skills 2018' concludes

- The country's biggest skill competition 'India Skills 2018' has concluded in New Delhi.
- It was the 2nd edition of the nationwide competition organized by the Ministry of Skill Development.
- The event is organised to identify, recognize, promote and reward the talents in various skills.
- Some winners of the event will represent India at the 45th World Skills Competition at Russia in 2019.

#### Foundation stone of key railway projects laid

- Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal and the state Chief Minister Raman Singh laid the foundation stone of two key railway projects in Chhattisgarh.
- The two projects are- The construction of a 295km railway line connecting Katghora-Mungeli-Kawardha-Dongargarh.
- And, a railway gauge conversion project connecting Kendri (Raipur) to Dhamtari and Abhanpur to Rajim.

### India & World

#### India-Azerbaijan signed protocol

- The 5th meeting of India-Azerbaijan Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade and Economic, Science and Technology Cooperation (IA-IGC) was held on 11-12 October 2018 in New Delhi.

- Both sides agreed to take measures to enhance trade relations and expand business relations.
- Novruz Mammadov is the PM of Azerbaijan.

### First IIIC Opened in Bengaluru

- **The country's first India-Israel Innovation Centre (IIIC)**, an entrepreneurial technology hub, was launched in Bengaluru.
- The IIIC is a significant step towards facilitating penetration of Israeli companies in India.
- It aims to forge local partnerships and joint ventures between companies from the two countries.
- It will provide an ecosystem to support entrepreneurship.

### India elected to UNHRC

- India has been elected to the United Nations' Human Rights Council with the highest vote among all candidates.
- It secured 188 votes in the Asia-Pacific category for a period of three years beginning January 1, 2019.
- In the Asia Pacific category, India got 188 votes followed by Fiji with 187 and Bangladesh 178 votes.

### Nirmala on a 3-day visit to France

- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman began a three-day visit to France on 11 October 2018.
- Ms Sitharaman will hold wide-ranging talks with her French counterpart Florence Parly on ways to deepen strategic cooperation between the two countries.
- Ms Sitharaman will also take stock of progress in the supply of 36 Rafale jets by Dassault to the Indian Air Force under a Rs. 58,000 crore deal.

### Sushma Swaraj to attend SCO meeting

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj participated in the 17th Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.
- The meeting was held in Tajikistan on 11 October 2018.
- This is the second CHG meeting since India became a full member of SCO in June 2017.
- In 2017, CHG meeting was held in Sochi, Russia.

### India, Tajikistan signed several MoUs

- President Ram Nath Kovind met his Tajikistan counterpart Mr Emomali Rahmon.
- On this occasion, India and Tajikistan signed several MoUs in the field of political relations, strategic research, agriculture, renewable energy, traditional medicine, space technology, youth affairs, Culture and Disaster Management.
- India has offered a grant of \$20 mn to Tajikistan for development projects.
- When their multifaceted cooperation in diverse fields

## Government Policies & Schemes

### Online portal for grant of IEM and IL

- Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion has developed a new online portal for facilitating the filing of online applications for IEM and Industrial Licence (IL) under Arms Act as well as Industries (Development & Regulation) [(D&R)] Act, 1951 at <https://services.dipp.gov.in>.
- This portal will be available for public with effect from 16th October 2018 for filing application.

### Centre approved land pooling policy for Delhi

- The government of India has approved a land pooling policy for Delhi.
- The policy was approved by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) under the chairmanship of Lt Governor Anil Bajjal in September 2018.
- Under the policy, agencies will develop infrastructures like roads, schools, hospitals, community centres and stadia on part of the pooled land.

### Punjab govt released 3 apps

- Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh launched three mobile apps aimed at checking crop residue burning.
- The apps also aim to create awareness about the effects of crop residue burning on the environment and human health.
- The three Android mobile applications have been developed by Punjab Remote Sensing Centre (PRSC).
- The three apps are i-Khet Machine, e-PEHaL and e-Prevent.

### Govt package for footwear and leather sector

- The Central Government has approved a special package for employment generation in leather and footwear sector.
- The package involves implementation of Central Sector Scheme - Indian Footwear, Leather & Accessories Development Programme (IFLADP) with an approved expenditure of Rs. 2600 Crore for 2017-20.
- The scheme aims at development of infrastructure for the leather sector.

### Online Assurances Monitoring System Inaugurated

- Minister of State (MoS) for Parliamentary Affairs Vijay Goel inaugurated the Online Assurances Monitoring System (OAMS).
- OAMS has been developed by the Parliamentary Affairs Ministry.
- This system has made the information regarding assurances given on the floor of the Houses of Parliament paperless and available in digital format.



### Cabinet approved the merger of NCVT & NSDA

- The Union Cabinet has approved the merger of the regulatory institutions in the skills space - National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) and the National Skill Development Agency (NSDA).
- The new merged will be named as National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET).
- NCVET will regulate the functioning of entities engaged in vocational education and training.

### Govt sets 'minimum river flows' for the Ganga

- The government of India had notified the minimum 'environmental flows' for Ganga river.
- Environmental flows are the acceptable flow regimes that are required to maintain a river in the desired environmental state or predetermined state.
- The upper stretches of the Ganga would have to maintain 20% of the monthly average flow between November and March.

### 'India for Humanity' initiative launched

- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) launched 'India for Humanity' initiative.
- Under the initiative MEA will partner with a charitable organisation for holding artificial limb fitment camps in various countries.
- The camps will initially be held in 12 countries identified through Indian missions.
- MEA is partnering with Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti known for its 'Jaipur Foot'.

### Mobile Health app launched by IAF

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has launched an innovative **mobile health App named 'MedWatch'**.
- The app is conceived by the doctors of IAF and developed in house by Directorate of Information Technology (DIT).
- **'MedWatch' will provide correct, scientific and authentic health information to air warriors and all citizens of India.**

### K'taka govt unveils 'Unnati' scheme

- Karnataka Social Welfare Minister Priyank Kharge unveiled the 'Unnati Scheme'.
- The scheme will identify and promote entrepreneurs from SC and ST background.
- The govt will invest up to Rs 20 crore to create the end-to-end support infrastructure for startups and entrepreneurs
- The department will provide up to Rs 50 lakh to winning entrepreneurs to develop tech-based solutions.

### Govt Issued Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme

- The government of India has decided to issue Sovereign Gold Bond- 2018-19.

- The scheme retains the incentives offered in the earlier tranche—2.5% interest rate and capital gains tax exemption on redemption.
- The tenor of the bond will be for a period of 8 years with an exit option in the 5th, 6th and 7th year.
- The gold bonds will be sold every month from October 2018 to February 2019.

### Arunachal govt launched scheme for farmers

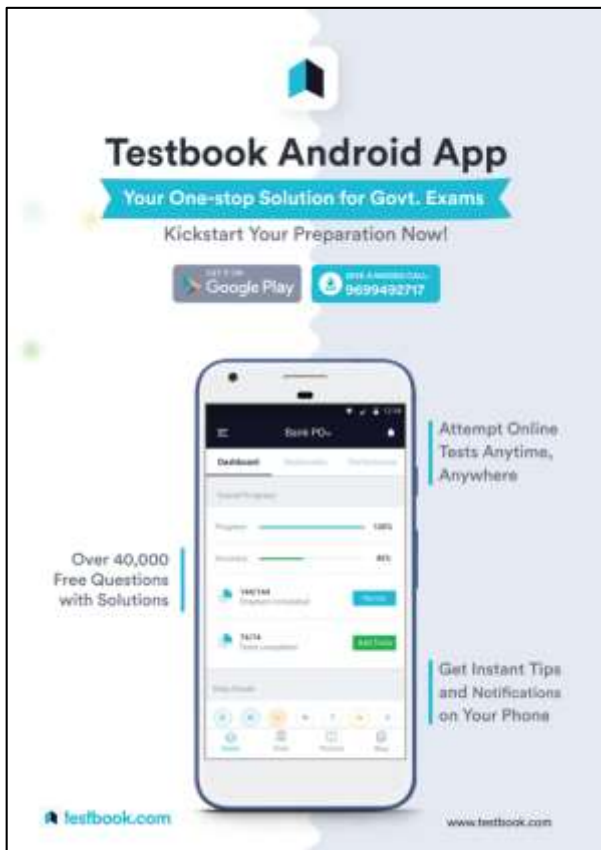
- Arunachal Pradesh government launched two schemes for farmers to increase production and their income on 8 October 2018.
- The two schemes are the Chief Minister's Sashakt Kisan Yojana (CMSKY) and the Chief Ministers Krishi Samuh Yojana (CMKSY).
- The CMSKY would subsume three programmes - Employment Generation Scheme, Agri-Mechanization Programme and Flagship Programme on Tea and Rubber.

### Odisha launched 'Nirman Kusuma' programme

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched 'Nirman Kusuma' programme on 6 October 2018.
- It will provide financial assistance to the children of the construction workers for their education in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and polytechnics.
- An ITI student will be entitled to get financial assistance of Rs. 23,600, a diploma student to get Rs. 26,300 per annum.

### Crop damaged by animal attacks under PMFBY

- The government has decided to cover damages to crops in wild animal attacks under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna in select districts on an experimental basis.
- The government also brought certain horticultural crops on an experimental basis under the PMFBY.
- Also, damage to crops in events like water logging, landslide, hailstorms etc are also being covered now under new provisions.



## Science & Technology

### 'Bioelectronic medicine' which repair nerves

- Researchers at Washington University have developed the first bioelectronic medicine.
- The medicine is an implantable, biodegradable wireless device that speeds nerve regeneration and improves the healing of a damaged nerve.
- The device provides therapy and treatment over a clinically relevant period of time and directly at the site where **it's needed**.

## Books and Authors

### Sushil Modi released book 'Lalu Leela'

- Bihar deputy chief minister Sushil Kumar Modi has come out with a nearly 200-page book titled "Lalu Leela".
- The book documents "benami" land deals allegedly involving the RJD national president, Lalu Prasad Yadav and his family members.
- The preface has been penned by another Union minister, Ravi Shankar Prasad.

## Environment

### Cyclone Luban in Oman

- Oman has closed schools and ports in the southern part of the country while Yemen's local authorities prepared health facilities ahead of cyclone Luban.

- Luban is currently a category one cyclone, which is likely to develop into a Category 2 cyclone within the next 48 hours.
- Luban is travelling northwest, and cloud bands of the cyclone are currently 327 kilometres away from the coast of Oman.

### 'Oldest flying squirrel fossil found'

- Scientists have discovered the oldest flying squirrel fossil ever.
- The 11.6-million-year-old fossil was discovered in Spain.
- The discovery of the fossil has unearthed new insight into the origin and evolution of these airborne animals.
- Flying squirrels are the most successful group of mammals that adopted the ability to glide.

## Committees & Recommendations

### Govt sets up key panel under NSA

- The government has set up a Strategic Policy Group (SPG) to assist the National Security Council.
- The SPG will be chaired by National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval.
- SPG will undertake a long-term strategic review of the country's security affairs.
- National Security Council advises the prime minister on matters of national security and strategic interests.

## Business & Economy

### SBI signed MoU with Nepal's NBI

- State Bank of India has signed an MoU with Kathmandu-based National Banking Institute (NBI) for the development of human resources of the latter.
- Under the MoU, the strategic training unit of SBI will impart education, training and development to facilitate transformation of NBI's HR department.
- SBI signed the three-year MoU with NBI to establish a mutually beneficial strategic alliance.

### NSE signed a pact with Uttarakhand

- Leading stock exchange NSE has signed a pact with the Uttarakhand government to provide access to capital to MSMEs.
- This which will fuel the growth of such entities in the state.
- The bourse will play an active role in nurturing the SMEs and start-ups by increasing awareness.
- NSE's SME Platform has currently 182 companies listed, which together raised over Rs 2,850 crore.

### Govt hiked import duty on electronic items

- The government has increased basic customs duty on electronic and telecom equipment to 20% from the current 10%.
- The items that will face customs duty hike include smartwatches, optical transport equipment and voice over internet protocol equipment.
- The hike will come into effect on 12 October 2018.
- **Restricting imports is a part of the government's strategy to arrest the rupee's fall.**

#### SBI comes to the aid of NBFCs

- State Bank of India (SBI) will triple its target of buying standard loans from Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) to up to ₹15,000 crore in FY19.
- The move is expected to give an additional liquidity cushion to NBFCs who will benefit by selling these loans on full-cash basis.
- A bank typically purchases loans from NBFCs to meet the shortfall in priority sector lending.

#### Foreign entities allowed in commodity market

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) permitted foreign entities having actual exposure to Indian commodity markets to participate in the commodity derivative segment.
- Such foreign entities will be known as Eligible Foreign Entities.
- Currently, foreign entities are not permitted to directly participate in the Indian commodity derivatives market.

#### Govt. hikes interest for gratuity funds to 8%

- The government of India has notified a higher interest rate of 8% for the non-government provident, superannuation, and gratuity funds, effective from October 1 2018.
- The interest rate on these funds has been raised from 7.6%.
- This hike will help private sector employees who have enrolled for these provident funds gains extra returns.

#### NHB raised refinance limit for HFCs

- National Housing Board (NHB) has raised refinance limit for housing finance companies to Rs 30,000 crore for the period from July 2018 to June 2019.
- The regulator to housing finance companies (HFCs) had set an initial limit of Rs 24,000 crore, towards refinancing eligible institutions.
- NHB is the principal agency to promote housing finance institutions.

#### Flipkart enters into insurance segment

- Walmart-backed e-commerce marketplace Flipkart mark its entry into insurance segment
- It will be offering a complete protection plan to customers who buy smartphones on its platform.

- Flipkart has secured a corporate agency licence from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA).
- Flipkart has partnered with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance for the scheme.

## Sports

#### Archer Harvinder Singh clinched gold

- Archer Harvinder Singh notched up the men's individual recurve gold, while track-and-field athletes added a silver and a bronze to India's tally in the Asian Para-Games in Jakarta.
- Harvinder defeated China's Zhao Lixue 6-0 in the W2/ST category final to claim the top honours and take India's gold tally to seven.
- Monu Ghangas claimed the silver in the men's discus throw F11 category.

#### Saurabh clinched gold in 10-m air pistol

- Pistol shooter Saurabh Chaudhary bagged the Gold Medal in the 10-metre air pistol event in the ongoing Youth Olympic Games in Argentina.
- In Buenos Aires, the 16-year old blew the field away in the final as he finished a massive Seven and a half points ahead of his closest rival.
- **It is India's 3rd gold in the history of Youth Olympic Games and all 3 have come in this edition in Buenos Aires.**

#### Deepa clinched bronze in Asian Para Games

- At the Asian Para Games in Jakarta, Rio Paralympics medallist Deepa Malik bagged her second medal as **she clinched a bronze in the women's F51/52/53 discus throw event.**
- Deepa produced her best effort in her fourth attempt, a 9.67 metre to claim the third spot.
- Elnaz Darabian of Iran took home the gold and set a new Asian record with her best throw of 10.71 meters.

#### ICC launched women's T20I ranking

- In the newly launched ICC global Women's T20I Team Rankings, India is placed fifth while three-time champions Australia topped the 46-team table.
- The ICC's move to launch the women's T20I rankings follows its decision earlier this year to award international status to all T20 matches.
- An ICC release in Dubai said all women's T20 matches between members have international status.

#### 5 gold for India on penultimate day

- India grabbed 5 gold medals on the penultimate day of the Asian Para Games at Jakarta.
- K Jennitha Anto clinched the gold in women's individual rapid P1 chess event while Kishan Gangolli

got the better of Majid Bagheri in the men's individual event to claim the top spot.

- In para-badminton, Parul Parmar notched up a victory over Wandee Kamtam to win the gold medal in the women's singles event.

#### 'Olly' made Hockey World Cup mascot

- **Turtle 'Olly' has been declared as the official mascot for the Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup.**
- Hockey World Cup is scheduled to be held at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar from November 28 to December 16, 2018.
- 'Olly' represents the endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles.
- Olly was also the mascot for Asian Athletics Championships held in 2017.

#### Sundar Singh won silver in javelin throw

- Indian javelin thrower Sundar Singh Gurjar won a **silver medal in the men's F46 category of the Asian Para Games** in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- The F46 category of disability covers upper limb deficiency, impaired muscle power or impaired range of movement.
- Gurjar won the silver medal with an effort of 61.33m in his fifth attempt.

#### Saurabh Chaudhary won gold in 10m air pistol

- Indian shooter Saurabh Chaudhary clinched the gold medal in the 10m air pistol event at the Youth Olympic Games on 10 October 2018.
- Saurabh also won gold medal in the Asian Games and Junior ISSF World Championship.
- **This is India's third gold medal in Buenos Aires and the fourth medal overall for the shooting contingent.**

#### IOC creates refugee team for Tokyo 2020

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has announced there will be an Olympic team made up of refugees at the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.
- In the 2016 Rio Olympics, a refugee team was created which comprised ten refugee athletes from Ethiopia, South Sudan, Syria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- The 32nd Summer Olympic Games will take place from 24 July to 9 August 2020 in Tokyo.

#### Senegal will host the youth Olympics in 2022

- In 2022, Senegal will host the fourth summer youth Olympic Games.
- Senegal has thus become the first African country to host an Olympic event.
- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) unanimously made the decision in Buenos Aires.
- The 2022 Youth Olympics will take place in Senegal between May and June.

#### Manu Bhaker won gold in shooting

- Manu Bhaker won gold medal in 10m Air Pistol shooting at the Youth Olympic Games on 9 October 2018.
- **She became India's first Youth Olympic Games Gold medalist in the sport of shooting.**
- **This was India's third medal from shooting in three days**, with Shahu Mane and Mehuli Ghosh bagging silver medals on the first two days.

#### India's first Olympic medal in judo

- Thangjam Tababi Devi became India's first judo medallist at the Olympic level in Youth Olympic Games 2018 at Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- She won a silver medal after losing to Venezuela's Maria Gimenez in the finals of the women's 44kg event.
- India has never won an Olympic medal in judo either at the senior or the youth level.

#### Jeremy Lalrinnunga won gold in weightlifting

- Weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga won gold medal in the men's 62 kg category at the Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- The silver medal was won Turkey while Colombia won the bronze medal.
- In early 2018, Lalrinnunga claimed a silver medal (youth) and a bronze medal (junior) in the Asian Championships.

#### Javelin thrower Sandeep won gold medal

- Javelin thrower Sandeep Chaudhary won India's first gold medal at the Asian Para Games in Indonesia.
- Sri Lanka won silver medal while Iran won bronze medal.
- Chaudhary's disability falls in the F42-44/61-64 category, which relates to limb deficiency, leg length difference, impaired muscle power or impaired range of movement.
- The athletes in this category compete without prosthesis.

#### Keerthana won girls' title in IBSF World U-16

- India's Keerthana Pandian has won the girls' title in the IBSF World Under-16 Snooker Championships.
- In the final match played at St Petersburg, Russia she defeated her Belarussian rival Albina Leschuk by 3-1.
- It is the Indian girl's maiden international crown.
- In the corresponding boys' category, Ben Martens of Belgium won the title.

#### Caroline Wozniacki won China Open

- In tennis, Caroline Wozniacki won the China Open on 7 October 2018.
- She defeated Latvia's Anastasija Sevastova in the final match of China Open.
- It is her third WTA title of the year.

- Wozniacki won her maiden Grand Slam title at the Australian Open 2018.
- It is her second China Open title as she also won it in 2010.

### Five medals in Asia Junior Championships

- Meghana Reddy and Tasnim Mir won the girls doubles crown at the Badminton Asia Junior (U-17 and U-15) Championships at Mandalay, Myanmar.
- Indian shuttlers also bagged four bronze, to bring their overall medal tally to five in the championships.
- In the final match, the Indian pair defeated the Korean duo of Yeo Jin Gong and Da Yeon Jeong.

### India won U19 Asia Cup 2018 title

- India beat Sri Lanka by 144 runs to clinch the Under-19 Asia Cup 2018 title in Dhaka.
- India is the most successful team in the youth Asia Cup history winning 6 titles.
- Indian bowler Harsh Tyagi's won the Man of the Match award in the final played at Sher-e-Bangla Stadium.
- Indian opener, Yashasvi Jaiswal (318 runs) won the man-of-the-tournament award.

### Shooter Tushar Mane won silver medal

- Tushar Mane won silver medal in the men's 10m air rifle in Youth Olympic Games on 7 October 2018.
- Russia won the gold medal and Serbia won the bronze medal at the event.
- India is being represented by 46 athletes in 13 sports in the prestigious event.
- This is India's largest ever contingent at the Youth Olympics.

## Defence

### INS & Aircraft reach for IND-INDO CORPAT

- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kulish and an Indian Dornier (naval maritime time patrol aircraft) from Andaman and Nicobar command entered Belawan harbour, Indonesia
- INS Kulish and Indian Dornier will attend the 32nd edition of 'India – Indonesia coordinated patrol' (IND-INDO CORPAT).
- IND-INDO CORPAT began on 11 October 2018 and will end on 27 October 2018.

### JIMEX exercise began in Visakhapatnam

- JIMEX-18, a bilateral maritime exercise between India and Japan, began in Visakhapatnam on 7 October 2018.
- JIMEX-18 is aimed to enhance interoperability, improve understanding and imbibe the best practices of each other.

- The Indian Navy was represented by INS Satpura, INS Kadmatt and INS Shakti.
- The last edition of JIMEX was conducted in Dec 2013 off Chennai.

## Polity

### President Kovind approves Telangana Bill

- President Ram Nath Kovind has given assent to the Telangana Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Dacoits, Drug-Offenders, Goondas, Immoral Traffic Offenders and Land-Grabbers (Amendment) Bill, 2017.
- The new bill will replace 1986 Act.
- The 1986 Act had jurisdiction for the undivided Andhra Pradesh but could not punish offenders of present-day financial frauds.

The advertisement features a smartphone displaying the app's interface. The screen shows a news article with a blue header and text in Hindi. To the right of the phone, there are two callouts: 'Relevant News in Short' and 'Save Important News'. Above the phone, the text reads 'Download Top Rated Current Affairs App For all competitive exams'. Below this, there are icons for 'GET IT ON Google Play' and 'GIVE A MISSED CALL: 9699492717'. At the bottom, it says '☆ 20 lac Students downloaded already ☆'. The Testbook logo and website URL are at the bottom corners.