

WEEKLY

CURRENT AFFAIRS CAPSULE

04TH NOVEMBER – 10TH NOVEMBER 2018

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Awards & Honours

Swati won 'Press Freedom Award for Courage'

- Journalist Swati Chaturvedi has won the 2018 Press Freedom Award for Courage on 8 November 2018.
- She won the award for her book, 'I am a Troll: Inside The Secret World of The BJP's Digital Army'.
- The award ceremony was organised by the UK chapter of Paris-based Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF) or Reporters Without Borders in London.

Ladakh restoration project wins UNESCO award

- 'The LAMO Center' in Jammu and Kashmir's Ladakh region has won an UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation on 9 November 2018.
- It was chosen for its systematic restoration of an aristocratic house in Ladakh.
- It won in the category of 'Award of Distinction' under UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.

Anand conferred with 'Global Education Award'

- Mathematician and Super 30 founder Anand Kumar was conferred with 'Global Education Award' in Dubai on 8 November 2018.
- He was awarded for his 'pioneering' contributions to the field of education and illuminating the lives of many talented students.
- The award was presented by 'Malabar Gold & Diamonds', a flagship company of Malabar Group, a leading Indian business conglomerate.

France's highest civilian honour conferred

- Jawahar Lal Sarin was conferred with France's highest civilian honour by French Ambassador to India Alexandre Ziegler on 9 November 2018.
- He was given France's highest civilian honour 'Knight of the Legion of Honour'.
- He was awarded for his outstanding contribution to enhancing Indo-French cultural cooperation and promoting the French language.

Namrata Ahuja bagged IPI-India Award

- The prestigious 2018 IPI India Award for excellence in journalism has been given to Namrata Ahuja of 'The Week' magazine.
- She received the award for her exclusive story on Naga underground camps.
- The award comprises a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh, a trophy and a citation.
- The International Press Institute (IPI) is a forum of editors, publishers and senior executives of newspapers and magazines.

Jayant Sawarkar to get Maha lifetime award

- Noted Marathi actor Jayant Sawarkar will be honoured with the Maharashtra government's

'Natvarya Prabhakar Panshikar Lifetime Achievement' award in the field of theatre.

- The 'Sangeetacharya Annasaheb Kirloskar Lifetime Achievement' award will be given to tabla artist Vinayak Thorat.
- Both awards comprise cash prizes of Rs 5 lakh, citation and memento each.

Anupam Kher got 'Distinguished Fellow' award

- Anupam Kher was honoured as a 'Distinguished Fellow' by IndiaGlobal - a leading think-tank that works on issues concerning non-resident Indians.
- The actor was given a fellowship on November 3, 2018 at the 3rd India Global Summit.
- The event was held at the prestigious MIT Sloan School of Management in Boston, and was facilitated by MIT Sloan India Business Club.

Ram Mohan Roy award for N. Ram

- Veteran journalist and The Hindu Publishing Group Chairman N. Ram has been chosen for the prestigious Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award 2018.
- The award is presented by the Press Council of India (PCI) for his outstanding contribution to journalism.
- Ruby Sarkar, the chief correspondent of Deshbandhu, and Rajesh Parshuram Joshte of Daily Pudhari, have been named joint winners for 'Rural Journalism'.

Lilima Minz received 'Ekalabya Puraskar'

- Woman Hockey player Lilima Minz was honoured with the prestigious 'Ekalabya Puraskar' on 4 November 2018.
- She was part of the squad that represented the country in the 2016 summer Olympics.
- The award comprises a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh along with a citation.
- The Ekalabya Puraskar has been instituted by 'IMPACT', the social wing of the Indian Metals and Ferro Alloys.

Days & Events

World Science Day for Peace and Development

- World Science Day for Peace and Development is observed on 10 November every year.
- The day highlights the significant role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues.
- The day aims to ensure that citizens are kept informed of developments in science.
- The theme for 2018 is 'Science, a Human Right'.

West Bengal to observe 'Rosogolla Day'

- The West Bengal government will observe 'Rosogolla Day' on November 14.
- The day will be observed to commemorate the first anniversary of the State's famous sweet getting Geographical Indication (GI) tag as 'Bengal's Rosogolla'.
- On 14 November 2017, West Bengal got the GI tag for 'Bengal's Rosogolla'.
- The GI tag is a sign that identifies a product as originating from a particular place.

'Preventing the environment from War' observed

- The 'International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict' is observed every year on 6 November.
- The aim is to educate people about the damaging effects of war and armed conflict on the environment.
- The day was declared by the United Nations on 5 November 2001.

World Tsunami Awareness Day observed on 5 Nov

- The 'World Tsunami Awareness Day' is observed on 5 November.
- The day is observed in order to raise tsunami awareness and share innovative approaches to risk reduction.
- In 2018, World Tsunami Awareness Day will align with the International Day for Disaster Reduction and the 'Sendai Seven Campaign'.

Ayurveda Day celebrated on 5th November

- Ayurveda Day was observed on 5th November 2018.
- Ministry of AYUSH observes Ayurveda Day every year on 'Dhanawantari Jayanti' (Dhanteras).
- On this occasion, Ministry is organising a 'National Seminar on Entrepreneurship and Business Development in Ayurveda' in association with NITI Aayog on 4th & 5th November 2018.

International Affairs

UNWFP & Alibaba entered into a partnership

- The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and Alibaba Group have entered into a strategic partnership to support efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).
- Alibaba will provide its technology and resources to support the digital transformation of WFP's operations.
- Under the partnership, a digital World Hunger Map to monitor the status of global hunger will be developed.

European defence coalition launched in Paris

- Defence ministers from European countries met in Paris on 7 November 2018 and launched a joint military force known as the 'European Intervention Initiative' or EI2.
- The military force could rapidly be deployed in response to a conflict or natural disaster.
- Germany, Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Portugal, Britain and Finland are part of this initiative.

Pakistan-China luxury bus service launched

- Pakistan and China have launched a luxury bus service passing from Lahore to Kashgar city in China on 5 November 2018.
- It is part of an initiative to connect the two countries via road under the US\$ 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).
- The bus will take 36 hours from Lahore to reach the Xinjiang province in China's far west.

China unveils replica of its space station

- China has unveiled a replica of its first permanently crewed space station.
- The Chinese space station would replace the international community's orbiting laboratory, International Space Station (ISS).
- The station assembly is expected to be completed around 2022 and would have a lifespan of around 10 years.
- The ISS has been in operation since 1998 but is due to be retired in 2024.

China unveiled 'most advanced' stealth drone

- China has unveiled its new-generation stealth combat unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), UAV - CH7, on 5 November 2018.
- The CH7 makes China the second country, following the US, to produce high-altitude long-endurance combat UAVs with advanced penetration capabilities.
- The CH7 can intercept radar electronic signals, and simultaneously detect, verify and monitor high-value targets.

S. Korea, U.S. resumed marine drills

- South Korea and the United States resumed their combined marine drills on 5 November 2018.
- The Korea Marine Exercise Program (KMEP) exercise has been suspended for six months since May 2018 as the two countries engaged in diplomacy with North Korea.
- The two-week KMEP involves some 500 troops, including U.S. Marines from Okinawa, Japan, and military equipment.

UN Pledging Conference held

- The 2018 'United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities' was held on 5 November 2018.
- About 19 countries pledged a total of USD 425.69 million at the Pledging Conference.
- India pledged contributions of USD 13.36 million for the various UN agencies
- India's pledged contributions include \$4.5 million to the UN Development Programme.

Gafur Rakhimov elected president of AIBA

- Uzbek businessman Gafur Rakhimov was elected president of the International Boxing Association (AIBA) on 3 November 2018.
- Rakhimov beat his only opponent, former boxer Serik Konakbayev of Kazakhstan.
- The International Boxing Association (AIBA) is a sports organisation that sanctions amateur (Olympic-style) boxing matches and awards world and subordinate championships.

India allowed to buy Iranian oil: US

- India is one of the eight countries to receive temporary exemptions from U.S. sanctions on Iran that came into effect on 5 November 2018.
- The other countries that have been exempted are China, Italy, Greece, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Turkey.
- U.S. said that each country on the list had demonstrated 'significant reductions' of the purchase of Iranian crude over the past six months.

'Changsha declaration' signed in China

- More than 20 countries have committed to 'Changsha declaration' on agricultural and rural

development in Changsha, China on 2 November 2018.

- The 'Changsha Declaration' aims to ramp up the efforts towards South-South Cooperation, an initiative working to eliminate hunger and malnutrition through the mutual sharing and exchange of good practices, resources.

National Affairs

PM to inaugurate first multi-modal terminal

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the first multi-modal terminal on the Ganga river in Varanasi on 12 November 2018.
- The aim is to promote inland waterways as a cheaper and more environment-friendly means of transport.
- The multi-modal terminals are being built under the Jal Marg Vikas Project.
- The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is the project implementing agency.

Exit polls banned by Election Commission

- The Election Commission imposed ban on holding exit polls from 12 November in Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Telangana, and Rajasthan.
- Under the Representation of People Act, 1951, Election Commission bans exit polls from the time the poll begins till half-an-hour after the polling ends.
- An exit poll is a poll of voters taken immediately after they have exited the polling stations.

Global Cooling Innovation Summit

- Two-day Global Cooling Innovation Summit will be inaugurated by Union Science & Technology Minister, Dr. Harsh Vardhan in New Delhi on 12th November 2018.
- The summit will also see the launching of 'Global Cooling Prize' competition.
- The aim of the competition is to spur the development of a residential cooling solution that has at least five times (5x) less climate impact.

New record created in Ayodhya

- A new world record was set in Ayodhya on 7 **November 2018 with over three lakh 'diya' lit up simultaneously.**
- A total of 3,01,152 diyas were lit up simultaneously for five minutes.
- The record was created at the Deepotsav event on the banks of the Sarayu River.
- The target was to illuminate a total of 3.35 lakh diya on both sides of the ghats at Ram Ki Paidi.

DEPwD to organise Global IT Challenge

- 'Global IT Challenge (GITC) for Youth with Disabilities 2018' will be organised by the from 9 November 2018.

- It is organised by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD) under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- India is hosting the event in collaboration with the Government of Korea and Rehabilitation International.

'Bhubaneswar Me Wi-Fi' launched

- Odisha Government launched the 'Bhubaneswar Me Wi-Fi' project in Bhubaneswar on 5 November 2018.
- The project is implemented by Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL).
- It will initially have 100 hotspots enabled locations with 275 access points.
- One wi-fi hotspot would be able to handle 150 users at a given point of time
- BSCL is a Special Purpose Vehicle incorporated by Odisha Government.

'Mo bus' service launched in Odisha

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the 'Mo bus' service in Bhubaneswar on 6 November 2018.
- The newly-launched buses feature free Wi-Fi, CCTV surveillance, public information display system and on board announcements.
- The bus service will come up with 'Mo Bus' mobile app through which citizens can book their tickets and also get to know the locations of the vehicle.

EC issues order on poll expenses

- According to the Election Commission, the costs incurred on publicising information about the criminal cases against a candidate will be counted as part of poll expenditure.
- The expenses will be borne by the candidate and the political parties.
- The Election Commission said that the FIR cases against a candidate have to be given publicity.

PM to inaugurate various projects in Varanasi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Ring Road Phase-I and Babatpur-Varanasi road in Varanasi on 12 November 2018.
- The Prime Minister will also launch inland waterways terminal on river Ganga.
- It is the first of the four multi-modal terminals being constructed on NW-I (River Ganga) as part of the World Bank-aided Jal Marg Vikas project.

Separate High Court for Andhra Pradesh

- The Supreme Court has given nod for a separate High Court for Andhra Pradesh.
- It will start functioning from 1 January 2019 in Amravati.
- The new court will be the 25th High Court in the country.

- Presently, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have a common High Court situated at Hyderabad.
- The existing court will from 2019 be known as the Telangana High Court.

Tourist Facilitation Counter inaugurated

- K.J. Alphons, Union Minister for Tourism inaugurated the Tourist Facilitation and Information Counter at Indira Gandhi International Airport New Delhi on 5 November 2018.
- The counter will be connected to the 24x7 Helpline '1363' of the Tourism Ministry.
- It shall also cater to non-English speaking tourists.
- It is located at the T3 terminal arrival gates of the IGI Airport.

Seminar on Ayurveda inaugurated

- 'National Seminar on Entrepreneurship and Business Development in Ayurveda' was inaugurated on 4 November 2018.
- This seminar is being organised by the Ministry of AYUSH in association with NITI Aayog in New Delhi.
- The seminar is expected to develop awareness among stakeholders about the business opportunities in the Ayurveda sector.

India & World

PM to visit Singapore on Nov 14-15

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Singapore on 14 November 2018 to attend the 13th East Asia Summit (EAS).
- The EAS is a premier forum in the Asia-Pacific region.
- EAS includes India, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand, United States, Russia and 10 ASEAN member-states.
- It was established in 2005.

India participated in Afghan peace talks

- Russia hosted a conference on Afghanistan bringing together representatives of the Afghan authorities and the Taliban on 9 November 2018.
- India participated in the conference at a 'non-official' level.
- **India's non-official** delegation will comprise two retired diplomats – TCA Raghavan, a former envoy to Pakistan, and Amar Sinha, a former ambassador to Afghanistan.

India loses row over safeguard duty at WTO

- India lost a major trade dispute at the World Trade Organization (WTO) on 6 November 2018.
- A dispute settlement panel **upheld Japan's complaint that India's imposition of safeguard duty on imports of hot-rolled steel flat products during September 2015 and March 2018 violated core global trade rules.**

- Japan launched the dispute settlement proceedings against India in 2017.

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ASEAN member countries offer concession

- Several Asian member countries of the proposed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) have offered India a concession on the extent to which it needs to open up its markets.
- India can now open up 83% of its market against the earlier 92%.
- The RCEP is a proposed trade agreement between the ASEAN countries and the six free trade agreement partners.

Chabahar port work exempted from sanctions

- The United States has exempted India from the imposition of certain sanctions for the development of Chabahar port project in Iran.
- India has committed \$500 million to the project and \$2 billion to build a railway line from Chabahar to Hajigaj in Afghanistan.
- India signed an agreement with Iran and Afghanistan in **May 2016 for the port's development.**

India elected as a Member of the ITU Council

- India has been elected as a Member of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Council for another 4-year term (2019-2022).
- The elections to the council were held during the ongoing ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 at Dubai, UAE.
- The ITU is a specialised agency of the United Nations (UN) that is responsible for issues that concern information and communication technologies.

Naidu launched 'Jaipur Foot' camp in Malawi

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated a 'Jaipur Foot' camp in Malawi on 5 November 2018.
- The camp was launched under the 'India for Humanity' programme, which honours Mahatma Gandhi's service to humanity.
- The Indian government partnered with Bhagwan Mahavir Viklang Sahayta Samiti for 'India for Humanity initiative'.
- The 'India for Humanity' was launched on 2 October 2018.

India to extend USD 310 m loan for Zimbabwe

- India would extend a US\$ 310 million loan to Zimbabwe to finance a rehabilitation project for a thermal power plant that would entail upgrading the station and extending its lifespan.
- Hwange is Zimbabwe's second biggest power plant with an installed capacity of 920 MW.
- The decision was taken during a meeting between Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa.

China's international import expo inaugurated

- India participated in China's first international import expo in Shanghai.
- The six-day China International Import Expo (CIIE) was inaugurated on 5 November 2018 by Chinese President Xi Jinping.
- The Indian delegation was led by Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan.
- The Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) along with relevant government agencies has built India pavilion at the expo.

1st India-Nepal passenger train

- The first passenger train to run on 'broad gauge' between India and Nepal is likely to run from December 2018.
- The train will run from Jayanagar in Bihar to Kurtha in Dhanusa district in south-eastern Nepal.
- An immigration check-post is likely to be established at Jayanagar station.
- No visa will be required for Indian and Nepalese nationals crossing the border through this stretch.

Personalities in News

Bajrang becomes number one in world

- On 10 November 2018, Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia achieved the number one rank in the world in the 65kg category.
- He was placed atop the ranking table with 96 points in the United World Wrestling (UWW) list.
- Alejandro Enrique from Cuba is at number two with 66 points.
- Russia's Akhmed Chakaev is at number three and Takuto Otoguro from Japan is at number four.

Arunima got Honorary Doctorate in UK

- On 6 November 2018, Arunima Sinha has been awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Strathclyde in the United Kingdom for her inspirational achievements.
- On 21 May 2013, Arunima Sinha became the world's first female amputee to climb the Mount Everest.
- In 2015, she was presented with the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian award.

VP embarked on three-day visit to France

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has embarked on a three-day visit to France on 9 November 2018.
- He will attend the Paris Peace Forum being held to commemorate the centenary of the end to the First World War.
- The aim of the Paris Peace Forum is to establish a global platform to reaffirm the importance of multilateralism, international cooperation and reform of global governance institutions.

Tesla names new chair to replace Elon Musk

- Electric carmaker Tesla has appointed Robyn Denholm as the Chairman of the company's board of directors, replacing Elon Musk.
- She will also be leaving her role as CFO and Head of Strategy at Telstra, Australia's largest telecommunications company.
- She has been on the Tesla board as an independent director since 2014.
- Elon Musk will remain the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Tesla.

Samay won the 'Breakthrough Junior Challenge'

- Samay Godika won the 2018 'Breakthrough Junior Challenge' for his video submitted in the life sciences category on circadian rhythms.
- He will receive a \$250,000 college scholarship.
- 'Breakthrough Junior Challenge' is a global science video competition designed to inspire creative thinking about fundamental concepts in the life sciences, physics, and mathematics.

Government Policies & Schemes

Cabinet approves a Central Tribal University

- On 8 November 2018, the Union Cabinet approved setting up of a Central Tribal University in Andhra Pradesh.
- The 'Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh' will be set up in Vizianagaram District as provided under the Thirteenth Schedule to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.
- It also approved the funds of Rs. 420 crore for the establishment of the Central Tribal University.

Mechanism for sale of enemy shares approved

- On 8 November 2018, the Union Cabinet approved the mechanism and procedure for sale of the enemy shares.
- The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management has been authorised to sell the shares.
- According to Enemy Property Act, 1968, 'Enemy property' refers to any property belonging to, held or managed on behalf of an enemy, an enemy subject or an enemy firm.

Filling of Padur strategic reserve approved

- The Union Cabinet has approved the filling of Padur Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) at Padur, Karnataka by overseas National Oil Companies (NOCs).
- The SPR facility at Padur is an underground rock cavern with a total capacity of 2.5 million metric tonnes.
- The filling of the SPR is being undertaken to reduce budgetary support of Government of India.

Six airports set to be privatised

- The Union Cabinet gave an 'in principle' approval for operating, managing and developing six non-metro airports under Public-Private Partnership (PPP).
- The airports which will be privatised are Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram and Mangaluru.
- At present, airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Cochin are managed under the PPP model.

Defence ministry enhanced financial power

- The Defence Ministry has enhanced financial powers to Vice Chiefs of the armed forces.
- The Vice Chiefs will be able to exercise financial powers up to five times more than the existing powers with an enhanced ceiling of 500 crore rupees.
- The move is aimed at expediting the decision-making process involved in the procurements for the Armed Forces.

Meghalaya announces Aqua Mission 2.0

- The Meghalaya Government announced `378 crore **investment in the State's flagship aquaculture** mission named 'Meghalaya State Aqua Mission 2.0'.
- The aim of the mission is to cut down fish imports into the State.
- Under the mission, willing partners will need to contribute only 15% while another 25% will be credit linkages and the rest 60% Government assistance.

Online portal to promote women farmer launched

- The Women and Child Development Ministry have set up an online marketing portal.
- Named 'Mahila-E-Haat', the portal was launched ahead of the 'Women of India National Organic Festival, 2018'.
- The portal is a unique online platform where the women organic farmers and entrepreneurs from across the country can display their products.

Government released funds to six Border States

- The government of India has released over 113 crore rupees to six Border States to meet special development needs of people living in isolated locations.
- The amount was released to Assam, Nagaland, Sikkim, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP).
- BADP schemes include construction of primary health centres, schools, community centres etc.

Guidelines for 'Operation Greens' issued

- Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has approved the operationalisation strategy for Operation Greens.
- Operation Greens was announced in the Budget speech of 2018-19 with an outlay of Rs 500 crores.

- It was launched to stabilise the supply of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) crops and to ensure availability of TOP crops throughout the country round the year without price volatility.

World Toilet Day Contest announced

- Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has announced Swachh Bharat World Toilet Day Contest for districts and States.
- The purpose of the Contest is to encourage all districts in India to re-intensify the sanitation movement with a special focus on Open Defecation Free-ODF Sustainability.
- The Contest does not apply to Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram.

Science & Technology

NASA's Ralph to explore 'Trojan Asteroids'

- **NASA's Ralph and Lucy are all set to explore Jupiter's Trojan asteroids.**
- Ralph is a space instrument that has travelled as far as Pluto, while Lucy is a mission payload.
- The Lucy spacecraft will carry a near-twin of Ralph, **called L'Ralph, which will investigate Jupiter's Trojan asteroids.**
- The mission will be launched in 2021 and would be the very first space mission to study the Trojans.

Study finds that 3 moons orbit the Earth

- A team of astronomers and physicists has confirmed that the dust clouds orbit the Earth.
- These dust clouds move with the Earth and Moon at a stable 4,00,000 kilometres from the Earth.
- The dust clouds is also known as 'Kordylewski' clouds.
- The first glimpse of the clouds was seen only in 1961 by Polish astronomer Kazimierz Kordylewski.

Novel bionic mushrooms can produce electricity

- US researchers have successfully produced electricity from a mushroom covered in bacteria.
- The scientists used 3D printing to attach clusters of energy-producing bugs to the cap of a button mushroom.
- The fungus provided the ideal environment to allow the cyanobacteria to generate a small amount of power.

NASA grants \$7 Million For new life detection

- NASA has awarded nearly \$7 million for a fresh interdisciplinary project to detect new, non-Earth-like life on Mars, Jupiter and Saturn's icy moons.
- The Laboratory for Agnostic Biosignatures (LAB) will lay the groundwork for characterising potential biosignatures, or signs of life.

- The LAB is a consortium of 15 team members from universities and institutions around the world.

- On 8 November 2018, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the strategic sale of government stake in Dredging Corporation of India Ltd (DCIL) to a consortium of four ports.
- The four ports are Vishakhapatnam Port Trust, Paradip Port Trust, Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust and Kandla Port Trust.
- The government of India currently holds 73.44% in DCIL.

RBI may set-up a digital payments ombudsman

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may set-up an ombudsman for digital payments by March 2019 to reduce the burden on banking ombudsman.
- The number of complaints related to digital transactions has increased.
- These complaints are being handled by banking ombudsman.
- At present, RBI is in the process of creating a scheme for establishing offices for the digital payments ombudsman.

China to import raw sugar from India

- India will export raw sugar to China from early 2019.
- Indian Sugar Mills Association and COFCO, a public sector company of China have entered into a contract for exporting 15000 tonnes of raw sugar.
- Raw sugar is the second product after non-basmati rice that China will import from India.
- India is the largest producer of sugar in the world with 32 million tonnes of production in 2018.

Books & Authors

Book on history of women's cricket to be out

- A book on history of women's cricket in India will be released on 30 November 2018.
- The book, titled 'The Fire Burns Blue: A History of Women's Cricket in India', is co-authored by sports journalists Karunya Keshav and Sidhanta Pathak.
- The book explores the biggest moments for the game in the country.

AR Rahman launched his biography

- AR Rahman released his biography, 'Notes of a Dream: The Authorized Biography of AR Rahman', in Mumbai on 3 November 2018.
- The book has been written by author Krishna Trilok.
- AR Rahman has won six National Film Awards, two Academy Awards, two Grammy Awards, a BAFTA Award, a Golden Globe Award, and fifteen Filmfare Awards.

Business & Economy

Sale of government stake in DCIL approved

JNPT planning to host edible oil refinery

- Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) is planning to host an edible oil refinery to maximise revenue and ensure captive cargo.
- The raw material for the refinery will be imported from abroad and a considerable part of the finished products will be sent out through the sea.
- The port already has a liquid cargo terminal in addition to the 4 container terminals.
- The port is situated in Maharashtra

ECB norms for infra firms eased

- The Reserve Bank of India has liberalised the norms governing external commercial borrowings (ECBs) for infrastructure creation.
- The minimum average maturity requirement for ECB in the infrastructure sector has been reduced to three years from earlier five years.
- Additionally, the average maturity requirement for mandatory hedging has been reduced to five years from earlier ten years.

RBI imposed Rs 1 cr fine on Fino Payments Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a fine of Rs 1 crore on Fino Payments Bank for opening new

accounts despite directions not to do so until further order on 5 November 2018.

- This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- Fino Payments Bank started its operations in June 2017.

No anti-dumping duty on PTFE resin

- The US International Trade Commission (USITC) has ruled against putting an anti-dumping duty on the imports of a synthetic fluoropolymer from India and China.
- The fluoropolymer is a key ingredient in the non-stick coating for pans and other cookware.
- A polymer of tetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) is used because of its chemical inertness, heat resistance and electrical insulation properties.

First overseas blockchain payment executed

- HSBC has executed India's first financial transaction using blockchain for a deal involving an export by Reliance Industries to Tricon Energy.
- The blockchain platform integrated with Bolero's electronic Bill of Lading (eBL) platform to issue and manage an eBL.
- This allowed a digital transfer of the title of goods from the seller to the buyer.

RBI starts process to set up PCR

- The Reserve Bank has initiated steps to set up a wide-based digital Public Credit Registry (PCR).
- PCR will capture details of all borrowers, including wilful defaulters and also the pending legal suits in order to check financial delinquencies.
- PCR will also include data from entities like market regulator SEBI, the Corporate Affairs Ministry and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India.

Sports

ATP World Tour Awards 2018 announced

- The 2018 ATP World Tour Awards were announced on 9 November 2018.
- Novak Djokovic won the 'Comeback Player of the Year Award'.
- **Djokovic's coach Marian Vajda was also named ATP Coach of the Year.**
- Rafael Nadal won the 'Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award' for his fair play, professionalism and integrity on and off the tennis court.
- **Roger Federer won the Fans' Favourite player Award.**

Manu-Saurabh won gold in shooting

- Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary won the gold medal in the 10-meter air pistol mixed team event at

the 11th Asian Airgun Championships on 9 November 2018.

- This was also Saurabh's third gold medal in two days, having won the team and individual 10m Air Pistol events on 8 November 2018
- India's junior shooting squad thus ended the championship with a tally of 11 medals, including four gold.

Saurabh won gold at Asian Airgun Championships

- Saurabh Chaudhary won the gold medal in the 10m air pistol junior men's event of the Asian Airgun Championship held in Kuwait city, Kuwait on 8 November 2018.
- He won the gold medal in shooting at the Asian Games in August 2018.
- He also won gold medal at the World Shooting Championships in September 2018 and the Youth Olympic Games in Argentina in October 2018.

Elavenil-Hriday won gold in shooting

- **India's Air Rifle mixed team junior pairing of Elavenil Valarivan and Hriday Hazarika won the gold medal at the 11th Asian Championship in Kuwait City on 6 November 2018.**
- A second Indian pair of Mehuli Ghosh and Arjun Babuta also won bronze in the same event.
- The silver medal was won Chinese pair of Shi Mengyao and Wang Yuefeng.

Angad Vir Singh won gold medal in shooting

- Angad Vir Singh Bajwa won the gold medal in the men's skeet final of the 8th Asian Shotgun Championship on 6 November 2018.
- He became the first Indian skeet shooter to win a gold medal at any continental or world level event.
- Di Jin of China won the silver medal while Saeed Al Maktoum of UAE won the bronze medal.

Rohit is India's highest run-scorer in T20Is

- Rohit Sharma has become India's highest run-scorer in T20 international cricket.
- He has scored 2203 runs in 86 T20 matches.
- Virat Kohli, who has scored 2102 runs in 62 T20 matches, held the record previously.
- Rohit Sharma has also scored 4 centuries in T20I format.
- He also scored three double hundreds in one-day internationals.

Elavenil Valarivan won bronze medal

- Elavenil Valarivan won the bronze medal at the 11th Asian Shooting Championship in Kuwait on 6 November 2018.
- **Elavenil shot 227.9 in the corresponding Women's event to claim the bronze medal.**
- Shi Mengyao of China won the gold medal while Xu Hong won the silver medal at the event.

Divyansh won silver medal in men's shooting

- India's junior shooter Divyansh Singh Panwar won a silver medal in the 11th Asian Shooting Championship in Kuwait city on 6 November 2018.
- Divyansh shot 251.4 in the final of 10m Air Rifle Junior Men's event.
- Wang Yuefeng from China won the gold medal, who shot a Junior World and Asian record score of 252.3.

Subhankar Dey won SaarLorLux Open

- In Badminton, Subhankar Dey has won the SaarLorLux Open at Saarbrücken in Germany on 5 November 2018.
- He defeated Rajiv Ouseph of Britain in finals.
- This is Subhankar's first title of 2018.
- In March 2018, he had finished runner-up in the Kabal International tournament at the Czech Republic.

Karen Khachanov won Paris Masters title

- Russia's tennis player Karen Khachanov won the Paris Masters title on 4 November 2018.
- He defeated Novak Djokovic in the finals.
- He also won the Kremlin Cup in Moscow in October 2018.
- He is currently ranked at 18.

Luksika Kumkhum won first WTA title

- Tennis player Luksika Kumkhum from Thailand won the L&T Mumbai Open on 4 November 2018.
- She defeated Irina Khromacheva from Russia in the finals.
- It was her maiden Women's Tennis Association (WTA) title.
- She received a cash prize of US\$ 20000.

Defence

HAL trainer 'HTT-40' clears spin test

- HTT-40, the indigenously-built basic trainer aircraft built by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL), cleared its first spin test on 9 November 2018.
- A spin test is the most crucial phase in developing a safe and airworthy aircraft.
- The Defence Acquisition Council has approved buying of 70 HAL-built basic trainers for the Indian Air Force.
- R. Madhavan is the Chief Managing Director (CMD) of HAL.

SIMBEX will begin from 10 November

- The 'Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise' (SIMBEX) is scheduled from 10th to 21st November 2018.
- The 2018 edition marks the Silver Jubilee of SIMBEX.

- The exercise will have two phases: Sea phase and Harbour phase.
- The initial harbour phase will be held at Port Blair from 10 to 12 November 2018 and followed by Sea Phase from 12 to 16 November 2018 in the Andaman Sea.

New artillery guns inducted in Army

- The Indian Army inducted its first new pieces of artillery on 9 November 2018.
- The 'M777 howitzer' and 'K9 Vajra-T' were formally inducted into service at the Deolali field firing ranges in Maharashtra.
- M777 howitzers are US-made lightweight guns, the K9 Vajras are South Korea-made self-propelled artillery guns.
- This is the first major induction since the Bofors were inducted in the 1980s.

INS Arihant completes Nuclear Triad

- **INS Arihant, India's first nuclear-powered submarine, successfully completed its first deterrence patrol.**
- This means that INS Arihant is now prowling the deep seas carrying ballistic missiles.
- Ship Submersible Ballistic Nuclear (SSBN) submarine is part of **Indian Navy's Eastern Naval Command.**
- **The vessel has been designed by the Indian Navy's Submarine Design Bureau.**

Polity

No double jeopardy bar if there was no trial

- The Supreme Court has held that the bar of double jeopardy does not arise if an accused was discharged of a criminal offence on the basis of an invalid sanction for prosecution.
- Article 20 of the Constitution mandates that a person cannot be prosecuted or punished twice for the same offence.
- The judgment is based on an appeal filed by the State of Mizoram.

Proposed Ganga bill bans ports, jetties

- **According to a proposed 'Ganga Act', the government has banned the construction of jetties, ports or 'permanent hydraulic structures' in the Ganga River.**
- The Bill lays down a host of restrictions to ensure the 'uninterrupted, ecological flow' of the river.
- The proposed act is formally called the National River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Conservation and Management) Bill, 2018.