

WEEKLY

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28TH OCTOBER – 3RD NOVEMBER 2018

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Table of Contents

Awards & Honours	3
Days & Events	3
International Affairs	4
National Affairs	5
India & World	6
Personalities in News	6
Environment	7
Government Policies & Schemes	7
Science & Technology	8
Committees & Recommendations	8
Business & Economy	9
Sports	10
Defence	10

Awards & Honours

Mukundan selected for 'Ezhuthachan award'

- Noted Malayalam novelist and short story writer M Mukundan has been selected for the Kerala government's highest literary award 'Ezhuthachan Puraskaram' for 2018.
- The award, named after Ezhuthachan, the father of Malayalam literature, carries a cash prize of Rs five lakh and a citation.
- 'Kesavante Vilapangal' and "Delhi Gadhakal" are among his popular works.

Couple honoured with 'Roy M Huffington Award'

- Marie and Vijay Goradia received the 'Roy M Huffington Award' for 2018 in the US.
- They were awarded for making significant contributions to the areas of literacy, education and healthcare in India.
- The Huffington Award is the highest honour granted by the Asia Society Texas Centre (ASTC).
- Vijay Goradia is the founder and Chairman of Vinmar International.

Punjab Police bagged CCTNS award

- The Punjab Police bagged the Union Home Ministry's 'Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems' (CCTNS) award on 31 October 2018.
- They were awarded for the development of the Digital Criminal Intelligence Gazette and the generation of the State Crime Record Bureau (SCRB) reports.
- CCTNS was launched in 2018 to keep digitised records of FIRs and information on crimes and criminals.

Malala to be honoured by Harvard University

- Malala Yousafzai will be honoured by Harvard University for her work promoting girls' education.
- She will be conferred with the '2018 Gleitsman Award' at a ceremony on 6th December 2018.
- The Gleitsman Award provides US\$125,000 for activism that has improved quality of life around the world.
- Malala Yousafzai is the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014.

Days & Events

Int day to end Impunity for Crimes observed

- The 'International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists' is observed on 2 November every year.**
- The day draws attention to the low global conviction rate for violent crimes against journalists and media workers.

- It is observed in commemoration of the assassination of two French journalists in Mali on 2 November 2013.

Clean Air Week from 1st November 2018

- A 'Clean Air Week' campaign would be organised from 01 to 05 November, 2018.
- It is being organised in collaboration with the Government of Delhi and the four major NCR cities to control the air pollution.
- For this, 52 teams have been formed to ensure compliance and safety and take quick action.
- Delhi will have 44 teams and the cities in NCR region shall have two teams each.

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International Affairs

Mandela Internship programme established

- The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) has established the Nelson Mandela 'Be the Legacy' internship programme on 3 November 2018.
- The programme is aimed at empowering young people under the age of 30 years from IORA member states with work experience in their chosen fields of study.
- The programme will be launched on 18 July 2019.

Paleontologists discover new Sauropod species

- Paleontologists have discovered the remains of a dinosaur that lived 110 million years ago in Argentina.
- The remains came from three separate dinosaurs from the herbivorous group of sauropods, the best known of which are the Diplodocus and Brontosaurus.
- This new species has been named Lavocatisaurus agrioensis.

'Little India Gate' inaugurated in Indonesia

- 'Little India Gate' was inaugurated in northern Indonesia on 27 October 2018.
- It recognises the contribution of the Indian community in the development of Medan city, Indonesia.
- The new structure was inaugurated jointly by India's ambassador to Indonesia and Timor Leste Pradeep Kumar Rawat and Mayor of Medan H T Dzulmi.
- Medan city is the fourth largest city in Indonesia.

Seychelles launched sovereign blue bond

- The Republic of Seychelles has launched the world's first sovereign blue bond.
- Sovereign blue bond is a financial instrument designed to support sustainable marine and fisheries projects.
- Proceeds from the bond will support the expansion of marine protected areas, improved governance of priority fisheries and the development of the Seychelles' blue economy.

China-France launched oceanography satellite

- China has launched an 'Oceanography Satellite' on 29th October 2018.
- The 'China-France Oceanography Satellite' (CFOSAT) is the first satellite jointly built by China and France.
- The satellite will help scientists to predict dangerous cyclones and climate change by monitoring ocean surface winds and waves.

1st UAE-made satellite launched from Japan

- The United Arab Emirates' first locally made satellite was launched from Japan on 29th October 2018.
- The 'KhalifaSat Earth observation satellite' was launched by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).
- UAE also aims to send its first two astronauts to the International Space Station in 2019.

Michael Higgins re-elected as Irish President

- Michael D Higgins has been re-elected as Irish President after receiving 56% of the country's electoral vote.
- Businessman Peter Casey came second with 23.1% votes.

- The President is Ireland's 'first citizen', but has limited power - the role is mainly symbolic and he or she cannot get involved in daily politics.

National Affairs

1st Annual Senior Care Conclave organised

- 1st 'Annual Senior Care Conclave - Igniting Industry for India's Ageing Sector' was held in New Delhi on 1 November 2018.
- It was organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- A report titled, 'Igniting Potential in Senior Care Services' was released at the event.
- Anupriya Patel, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare delivered the keynote address at the event.

Indian Railways eliminated UMLCs

- Twelve Zonal Railways on Broad Gauge route have now become free from Unmanned Level Crossings.
- As on 1 April 2018, there were 3479 Unmanned Level Crossings on Broad Gauge routes and total 3402 UMLCs have been eliminated.
- All Unmanned level crossings on routes having speed more than 130KMPH and on Sub-urban routes have been eliminated.

Tourist Police & Suraksha App launched

- The Arunachal Pradesh Police launched the 'Arunachal Pradesh Tourist Police' and the 'Arunachal Suraksha App' to help the citizens during emergencies.
- The mobile app, first of its kind for the state police, would help users to find the nearest police stations and the contact details.
- It has also the capacity to send SOS message to emergency contacts.

INS Viraat to become a floating museum

- The Maharashtra Cabinet approved the conversion of decommissioned carrier INS Viraat into a floating museum on 2 November 2018.
- The carrier will be housed on a concrete foundation near Nivati Rocks in Sindhudurg in Konkan region of Maharashtra.
- The project will be implemented through public-private-partnership (PPP).
- INS Viraat was decommissioned in March 2017.

NMCG & UN-Habitat organise a policy dialogue

- A policy dialogue - 'Urban Cafe: River for Habitat' was organised in New Delhi on 31 October 2018.
- It was organised by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) along with UN-Habitat.
- It was organised on the occasion of World Cities Day 2018 which is observed on 31 October every year.

- Rajiv Ranjan Mishra is the Director General of NMCG.

Renaming of Jharsuguda Airport approved

- The Union Cabinet has approved renaming of Jharsuguda Airport, Odisha as 'Veer Surendra Sai Airport, Jharsuguda' on 1 November 2018.
- Veer Surendra Sai is a well-known freedom fighter of Odisha.
- Jharsuguda airport was formally dedicated to the nation and UDAN flight operated by Air Odisha was flagged off by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 22 September 2018.

4th NITI Aayog- DRC Dialogue held in Mumbai

- The 4th Dialogue of the NITI Aayog - Development Research Centre (DRC) of the State Council, Peoples' Republic of China was held in Mumbai on 1 November 2018.
- The Chinese delegation was led by Mr. Li Wei, President of DRC and the Indian delegation was led by Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog.
- The 5th edition of the NITI - DRC Dialogue will be held in Wuhan, China in November 2019.

'SMiLE Virtual Tour Guide' launched in Kerala

- The Kerala Tourism Department has launched 'SMiLE Virtual Tour Guide'.
- A 'SMiLE Virtual Tour Guide' links tourists with their places of attraction and providers of experiential services.
- The 'SMiLE' guide renders information on 40 Malabar attractions.
- It has been conceived and executed by Bekal Resorts Development Corporation (BRDC).

Foundation stone for tech facility centre laid

- Minister of DoNER, Dr Jitendra Singh laid the foundation stone of new Science Centre, the 'Technology Facility Centre' on 29 October 2018 in Jorhat, Assam
- The facility will be established in the premises of the CSIR-North East Institute of Science & Technology (NEIST).
- The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) will bear the cost of setting up of this new Science Centre.

Statue of Unity inaugurated

- The Statue of Unity has been inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Gujarat on 31 October 2018.
- **It is dedicated to India's first Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.**
- It is 182 meters tall and is located near the Sardar Sarovar Dam on the Narmada River.
- It was designed by the sculptor Ram V. Sutar.
- It was built by the by Larsen & Toubro Ltd.

Clean Air Week from 1st November 2018

- A 'Clean Air Week' campaign would be organised from 01 to 05 November, 2018.
- It is being organised in collaboration with the Government of Delhi and the four major NCR cities to control the air pollution.
- For this, 52 teams have been formed to ensure compliance and safety and take quick action.
- Delhi will have 44 teams and the cities in NCR region shall have two teams each.

SC allowed States to fix 2 hour duration

- The Supreme Court on 30th October 2018 modified its order fixing a slot of 8 pm to 10 pm for bursting firecrackers on Diwali.
- SC said that the timing will be changed in places such as Tamil Nadu and Puducherry but not exceed two hours a day.
- It also clarified that green crackers are mandatory only in the National Capital Region.

Supreme Court bans old vehicles in NCR

- The Supreme Court has prohibited the plying of 15-year-old petrol and 10-year-old diesel vehicles in Delhi NCR due to the prevailing pollution situation.
- Such vehicles would be impounded if found on the roads in Delhi-NCR.
- SC directed that a list of 15-year-old petrol and 10-year-old diesel vehicles be published on the website of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

National Summit on Public Health Care begins

- The 5th 'National Summit on Good and Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Health Care Systems in India' began at Kaziranga in Assam on 30 October 2018.
- The summit was organised by the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- The objective of the summit is to share and learn the good practices being implemented by states and organisations for the betterment of the health sector.

First container movement on inland waterways

- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) transported container cargo belonging to food and beverage giant 'PepsiCo' from Kolkata to Varanasi (National Waterway-1).
- **This would be India's first container movement on the inland vessel.**
- The vessel, called MV RN Tagore will take 9-10 days to reach Varanasi.
- National Waterway-1 runs from Haldia to Allahabad on river Ganga.

EWDS system launched by Odisha CM

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the Early Warning Dissemination System (EWDS) and the mass message system.
- EWDS was launched on the occasion of Odisha Disaster Preparedness Day, which is observed on 29th October 2018.
- The EWDS will warn the people residing along the coast in the state through the alert siren system from towers installed at 122 locations.

India's largest Dry Dock to come up at Cochin

- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation for India's largest dry dock at Cochin Shipyard in Kerala on 30th October 2018.
- The dock will be able to build specialised and technologically advanced large vessels like LNG Carriers, drillships, jack-up rigs, large dredgers, and aircraft carriers for the Indian Navy.
- The project is expected to be completed by May 2021.

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Conference on Cyber Security organised

- Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) organised a conference on Innovation in Cyberspace, Cyber Security - Challenges and Innovations on 29th October 2018.

- The conference focused on the current trends, need and future requirements of innovation in the field of cyber security.
- The conference brought the stakeholders working in the area to showcase their innovations.

Mega Food park inaugurated in Gujarat

- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the first Mega Food Park in Gujarat on 29th October 2018.
- It is promoted by Gujarat Agro Infrastructure Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd
- The Park is located at Village Shah and Vasravi, District Surat, Gujarat.
- A 2nd Mega Food Park has been sanctioned in Mehsana District of Gujarat.

CSIR develops 'Less Polluting Firecrackers'

- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) have developed less-polluting firecrackers.
- The crackers have been named as Safe Water Releaser (SWAS), Safe Minimal Aluminium (SAFAL) and Safe Thermite Cracker (STAR).
- It has a unique property of releasing water vapour and air as a dust suppressant and diluent for gaseous emissions.

Arunachal, British Council signed MoU

- The Arunachal Pradesh government signed a MoU with the British Council to strengthen educational and cultural cooperation.
- As per the MOU, as many as 50 faculty members from government higher education institutions will be trained by the British Council every year, starting from December.
- 50 students of higher and technical education institutes will be trained in English language skills.

Trials of 'Train 18' began

- Train 18, the country's first engine-less train, was unveiled on 29th October 2018.
- Train 18 will undergo short runs near Chennai's Integral Coach Factory (ICF) for five days for testing its braking system, the on board air conditioning and other systems.
- The train can travel up to the speed at 160 kilometres per hour (kmph) as against 130 kmph of Shatabdi Express.

1st robotic dinosaurs gallery inaugurated

- India's first gallery on robotic dinosaurs was inaugurated on 27th October 2018 at the Pushpa Gujral Science City in Kapurthala, Punjab.
- The new gallery will display the story of birth and evolution of dinosaurs.
- A total of 7 moving dinosaurs, made from steel and silica gel with durable motors, have been added to the exhibition.

India Mobile Congress 2018 concluded

- India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2018 concluded on 27 October 2018.
- The theme for IMC 2018 was 'New Digital Horizons – Connect. Create. Innovate'.
- Delegations from 20 countries participated in the event, which saw more than 300 companies showcasing their latest and best technologies, products, services, and applications.

India & World

India Pavilion Inaugurated at Videocittà 2018

- India Pavilion was inaugurated at Videocittà 2018 in Rome on 2 November 2018.
- India was partner country at Videocittà 2018.
- Videocittà 2018 is an event focussing on Virtual Reality, Video gaming, Animation, Film Making, etc.
- **India's participation at Videocittà 2018, Rome was** organized by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

India and Japan signed a Loan Agreement

- India and Japan signed a loan agreement for the construction of the Turga Pumped Storage in West Bengal on 2 November 2018.
- The Project will strengthen the capability to respond to the fluctuation in supply and demand of power.
- It will also improve the stability of the power supply.
- This will contribute to the Industrial Development and Living Standard Improvement in West Bengal.

BRICS nations signed a declaration

- The BRICS nations have signed a declaration to accelerate creative and sustainable cultural cooperation on 31 October 2018.
- The declaration will see Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) cooperating in fashion, culture and animation.
- South Africa hosted an inaugural BRICS Fashion Show and Fashion Business Forum on 24 October 2018.

UN tourism organisation meet in Bahrain

- The 109th session of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) Executive Council was held in Manama, Bahrain.
- The UNWTO Executive Council began on 30 October 2018.
- Union Tourism Minister K J Alphons is leading the Indian delegation at the UNWTO Executive Council.
- India will be the chair of the 'programme and budget committee' of UNWTO Executive Council till 2021.

India-US Dialogue on IP began

- The first ever India-US Dialogue on Intellectual Property (IP) was launched on 31 October 2018 to

deepen bilateral strategic cooperation on IP policy in New Delhi.

- The dialogue was launched by US Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC) and FICCI in partnership with the US-India Business Council.
- The US-India Business Council is a business advocacy organisation.

Japan joined International Solar Alliance

- Japan announced joining the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and submitted the instrument of ratification on 29th October 2018.
- As of now, there are 70 countries that have signed the ISA Framework Agreement (ISA FA) and 47 countries that have ratified it.
- Japan will be the 71st country to sign and 48th country to ratify the ISA FA.

UP government to develop 'food value chain'

- The Uttar Pradesh government in assistance from Japanese government will develop 'Food Value Chain' in the state.
- The UP Cabinet presided over by UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath cleared a proposal in this regard.
- Under the agreement, in the first five years, Japanese companies will invest in agri-related and food-related industries.

Vice President Naidu on a three nation visit

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on 31 October 2018 embarked on a three-nation visit to Botswana, Zimbabwe and Malawi.
- In Botswana, the Vice President will inaugurate the Global Expo Botswana 2018.
- The Capital of the following countries is Zimbabwe: Harare; Botswana: Gaborone and Malawi: Lilongwe.

Netherlands will be the Partner Country

- The Kingdom of Netherlands will be the Partner Country for the 25th DST – CII Technology Summit.
- The Summit will be organised in 2019.
- The first CII Technology Summit was organised in 1995 with an aim to facilitate global technology collaborations.
- CII became a partner with the Department of Science & Technology in organising these Summits since 2004.

India, Japan signed currency swap agreement

- India and Japan signed a currency swap agreement worth \$75 billion on 29th October 2018.
- A currency swap involves the exchange of interest and sometimes of principal in one currency for the same in another currency.
- Interest payments are exchanged at fixed dates through the life of the contract.

India, Qatar to establish joint commission

- India and Qatar decided to establish a Joint Commission (JC).
- The JC will be co-chaired by the ministers of external affairs and foreign affairs of the two countries.
- The JC will be tasked to strengthen the relations between the two countries particularly in the economic, commercial, cultural, scientific, technological, information technology and educational fields.

India donated 3 lakh Dollars for peacekeeping

- The Indian government donated about US\$ 300,000 for the 'Pipeline to Peacekeeping Command Programme'.
- The programme will, over a period of three years, help develop the capacity of future commanders and managers to lead by example and raise awareness of UN standards.
- India is one of the largest troop-contributing countries to UN peacekeeping missions.

India-Japan Summit to be held in Tokyo

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the Thirteenth India-Japan Bilateral Summit in Tokyo on 29 October 2018.
- The two sides will also be exploring ways of boosting defence and strategic partnership further.
- In the summit, the leaders of both nations will review the progress made since 2017 in various agreed areas and projects under implementation with Japanese assistance.

Personalities in News

Rahul Dravid inducted in ICC Hall of Fame

- Rahul Dravid became the fifth Indian to be inducted in the 'ICC Hall of Fame' on 1 November 2018.
- Rahul Dravid, along with Ricky Ponting and England women wicketkeeper Claire Taylor, were announced as the new inductees in the Hall of Fame.
- Dravid has scored 23, 208 international runs for India across formats.
- He has scored the runs at an average of 45.41.

Bolsonaro won Brazilian Presidency

- Former army captain Jair Bolsonaro was elected President of Brazil on 28 October 2018.
- He defeated leftist opponent Fernando Haddad.
- Bolsonaro was declared the winner by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal after 94% of the votes were counted.
- Bolsonaro will take office on 1st January 2019.

Government Policies & Schemes

Cabinet approved to open ISA membership

- The Union Cabinet gave ex-post facto approval for opening up the International Solar Alliance (ISA) membership to all countries that are members of the United Nations on 1 November 2018.
- It will move a resolution in the first assembly for amending the framework agreement of the ISA.
- The ISA is an alliance of more than 121 countries initiated by India.

Over 1.2 cr subscribers join APY

- More than one crore twenty lakh subscribers have joined Atal Pension Yojana (APY).
- More than 27 lakh new subscribers have joined the scheme during the current financial year.
- States, such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka are the top contributors in the Atal Pension Yojana enrollment.

Ordinance to amend Companies Act approved

- The government of India has promulgated the Companies Amendment Ordinance, 2018 to promote Ease of Doing Business with better corporate compliance.
- President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to the promulgation of the Ordinance.
- The main amendments in the Act include shifting of the jurisdiction of 16 types of corporate offences from the Special Courts to in-house adjudication.

'Soura Jananidhi' scheme launched in Odisha

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the 'Soura Jananidhi' scheme on 30 October 2018.
- Its aim is to increase the use of solar energy for helping farmers in irrigating their land.
- 'Soura Jananidhi', is a dug well based solar pump irrigation system in convergence mode.
- 5000 solar pumps will be given to Odisha farmers at a subsidy of 90% to irrigate 2,500 acres of land.

PM launched 'Support and Outreach' initiative

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Central governments 'Support and Outreach' initiative for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) on 2 November 2018.
- The 'Support and Outreach' programme will run for the next 100 days, covering the entire country.
- It is expected to provide greater synergy to the efforts being made for MSME sector.

MHA approves 'Safe City Project' for Lucknow

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) approved a 'Safe City project' for Lucknow at a total cost of Rs.194.44 crore under the Nirbhaya Fund Scheme.

- The Safe city proposal for Lucknow will be implemented by Uttar Pradesh Police, assisted by the Municipal bodies and city transport authorities.
- The Safe City project for Lucknow also envisages gender sensitization awareness campaigns.

FP-LMIS inaugurated in Haryana

- The Family Planning Logistics Management Information System (FP-LMIS) has been inaugurated in Haryana on 31 October 2018.
- It will ensure availability, supply and monitoring of family planning services from the state level to the Accredited Social Health Activists' (ASHA) level.
- It would provide online information about medicines and family planning commodities.

'Saubhagya Rathes' inaugurated in J&K

- Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik flagged off 'Saubhagya Rathes' for 20 districts to identify households without electricity on 31 October 2018.
- Officials onboard these 'Saubhagya Rathes' will survey areas in their respective jurisdiction with an aim to achieve 100% electrification of households.
- 'Saubhagya Rathes' will traverse each district for one month till November 30, 2018.

New telecom policy notified by government

- The government of India has notified the new telecom policy on 29th October 2018.
- It has renamed the Telecom Commission as the 'Digital Communications Commission'.
- Under the new telecom policy, the government plans to optimally price spectrum, review levies such as license fees and spectrum usage charge.
- Among the chief aims of the policy is data security of the country.

Electoral bonds sale to begin from November 1

- The sixth phase of sale of electoral bonds will take place from 1 November to 10 November 2018.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has been authorised to issue and encash electoral bonds through its 29 authorised branches.
- These bonds have a life of 15 days from the date of issue.
- Eligible political parties are allowed to encash electoral bonds only through their bank accounts.

Science & Technology

China launched new high-orbit satellite

- China successfully launched a high orbit satellite to boost its home-grown 'BeiDou' global satellite navigation system on 2 November 2018.
- It is the first BeiDou-3 satellite in high orbit, about 36,000 km above the Earth.

- The satellite is meant to serve countries in the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

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India's first microprocessor developed

- Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IITM) have designed and booted up India's first microprocessor, 'Shakti'.
- The Shakti microprocessor can be used in low-power wireless systems and networking systems.
- The Shakti family of processors was fabricated at Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL), Indian Space Research Organizations (ISRO) in Chandigarh.

New AI bot can recognise galaxies

- An Artificial Intelligence (AI) programme used to recognise faces on Facebook can also identify galaxies in deep space.
- The AI bot named 'ClaRAN' scans images taken by radio telescopes.
- It can spot radio galaxies that emit powerful radio jets from supermassive black holes.
- ClaRAN grew out of an open source version of **Microsoft and Facebook's object detection software.**

Indian, US satellites found black hole

- A black hole in the binary star system '4U 1630-47' has been found that spins close to the maximum possible rate.
- **Scientists used data from India's first dedicated astronomy satellite, AstroSat, and NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory for finding out the black hole.**
- Astronomical black holes are characterised by only two properties, mass and spin rate.

NASA probe gets closest to the sun

- **NASA's Parker Solar Probe, mankind's first mission to 'touch' the sun, has set a new record for closest approach to the sun by a human-made object.**
- Parker Solar Probe was launched on 12 August 2018.
- The previous record for closest solar approach was set by the German-American Helios 2 spacecraft in April 1976.

NASA's Kepler mission has come to an end

- NASA's Kepler Space Telescope has run out of fuel, and its mission has come to an end.
- The unmanned space telescope was launched in 2009.
- The unmanned space telescope revealed that billions of hidden planets are in space.
- The Kepler mission was named in honour of 17th-century German astronomer Johannes Kepler, who discovered the laws of planetary motion.

Web-based tool to monitor fake news

- Scientists have developed a web-based tool to help monitor the prevalence of fake news on social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter.

- The tool uses a Platform Health Metric called the Iffy Quotient, which draws data from two external entities: NewsWhip and Media Bias/Fact Checker.
- NewsWhip, a social media engagement tracking firm, collects URLs of sites every day.

Committees & Recommendations

19th Meeting of FSDC held

- The Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) held a meeting in New Delhi on 30 October 2018.
- The meeting was presided over by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.
- It reviewed the progress in setting up a Computer Emergency Response Team in the financial sector under a statutory framework.
- The FSDC Sub-Committee is Chaired by the Governor of Reserve Bank of India.

Governors' panel submits report

- A committee of governors set up by President Ram Nath Kovind, submitted its report on doubling farm income on 26 October 2018.
- It recommended developing climate-resilient and input-efficient crop varieties.
- It has made 21 major recommendations for doubling the income of farmers.
- Uttar Pradesh Governor Ram Naik is the head of the panel.

Business & Economy

Kirloskar group got RBI's nod for NBFC biz

- Kirloskar Capital has received a licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to start a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).
- Kirloskar Capital is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Kirloskar Oil Engines (KOEL).
- It will be headed by Vimal Bhandari.
- Prior to joining Kirloskar Capital, Vimal Bhandari was the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Indostar Capital.

RBI allowed banks to provide PCE to NBFCs

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) permitted banks to provide partial credit enhancement (PCE) to NBFCs and HFCs on 2 November 2018.
- PCE will be provided to bonds issued by systematically important Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) and Housing Finance Companies (HFCs).
- The proceeds from the bonds backed by PCE from banks will be utilised for refinancing the existing debt of the NBFC/HFCs.

IPO timeline to be cut to 3 days

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has initiated the process to reduce the timeline for public issues from the current 6 days to 3 days.
- It made mandatory for intermediaries to provide retail investors the option of bidding through the Unified Payments Interface.
- The new guidelines would be applicable for all companies that file their documents on or after 1 January 2019.

GST revenue crosses Rs. 1 lakh crore

- Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections crossed the barrier of Rs.1 lakh crore in October 2018, coming in at Rs. 1,00,710 crore.
- The collections in October 2018 were 20.8% higher than the Rs. 83,346 crore seen in October 2017.
- States which achieved strong growth in total taxes collected from State assesseees include Kerala (44%), Jharkhand (20%), Rajasthan (14%) and Uttarakhand (13%).

Axis Sec launched commodity derivatives

- Axis Securities has launched trading in commodity derivatives with the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) on 31 October 2018.
- In August 2018, it had launched trading in commodity derivatives with the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX).
- Arun Thukral is the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Axis Securities.

Core sector growth slows down 4.3%

- Growth of eight core infrastructure sectors slowed down to 4.3% in September 2018 as production of crude oil and natural gas declined.
- Previously, the lowest growth rate was in May 2018, when the core sectors expanded at 4.1%.
- Infrastructure sectors of coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilizers, steel, cement and electricity grew by 4.7% in September 2017.

NIIF acquired IDFC Infrastructure Finance

- The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) of India had acquired IDFC Infrastructure Finance Limited (IDFC-IFL).
- IDFC-IFL is a non-banking finance company registered with the Reserve Bank of India as an infrastructure debt fund.
- The government had set up the NIIF in 2015 as an investment vehicle for funding Greenfield, brownfield and stalled infrastructure projects.

RBI to inject Rs 12,000 cr liquidity

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will inject Rs 12,000 crore into the system through the purchase of Government securities (g-secs) on 1 November 2018.

- RBI has decided to conduct the purchase of the following g-secs under Open Market Operations (OMO).
- The RBI sells g-secs to take out liquidity from the system and buys back g-secs to infuse liquidity into the system.

SBI, Hitachi Payments form JV

- State Bank of India (SBI) formed a Joint Venture (JV) with Hitachi Payment Services Pvt Ltd to create a digital payment network
- Hitachi Payments will invest 26% in SBI Payment Services Pvt Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of SBI.
- The JV agreement is subject to requisite regulatory approvals.
- The JV will provide various payment options to customers and merchants.

Sports

Mary Kom is the brand ambassador

- Boxer Mary Kom was named as the brand ambassador of the 10th edition of the Women's World Boxing Championship on 31 October 2018.
- India is hosting the 10th edition of the Women's World Boxing Championship from 15 November 2018.
- Since the inception of the **Women's World** Championship in 2001, India had hosted the tournament once in 2006.

Vietnam will host the F1 race in 2020

- Vietnam will host a Formula One race in April 2020.
- The race will be hosted in the capital Hanoi.
- Vietnam will be the third Southeast Asian country to host a Formula One race in history after Malaysia and Singapore.
- Hanoi will be the second Southeast Asian city to host a race in 2020 along with Singapore.

2019 World Corporate Games in Qatar

- Qatar will host the 23rd edition of the World Corporate Games in 2019.
- The games will provide an opportunity for corporations around the world to showcase their competitive prowess through sports.
- The World Corporate Games aims to bring together, the local, regional and international business sporting community.
- The last edition was held in Houston in the US in 2017.

TATA steel is the partner for hockey world cup

- Steel manufacturing giant Tata Steel was named as an official partner for the 2018 Men's hockey World Cup on 29 October 2018.

- The hockey world cup will be held here from 28 November 2018 to 16 December 2018 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- Tata Steel is the 10th-largest steel producer in the world.

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Arunachal to host 'Rally Championships'

- The third round of the Indian National Rally Championships, the country's premier motorsports event, will be held in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The event will be organised from 2 November 2018 to 4 November 2018.
- The rally that is being hosted by the Motorsports Club of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The rally teams from major automotive companies will be participating in the race.

Pankaj Advani won Asian Snooker Tour title

- Pankaj Advani won the Asian Snooker Tour on 31 October 2018 in Jinan, China.
- He defeated China's Ju Reti 6-1 in the final.
- He became the first Indian to win an Asian Snooker Tour event.
- The Government of India has awarded him Padma Bhushan in 2018.

North East Olympic Games concluded

- The 1st edition of 'North East Olympic Games' concluded in Imphal on 28th October 2018.
- Manipur secured the top spot in the medal tally followed by Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
- Athletes from the eight northeastern states competed in 12 different disciplines at the sporting event that began on October 24.
- The 2nd edition of North East Olympic Games will be held in Arunachal Pradesh in 2019.

Roger Federer won Swiss Indoors

- Roger Federer won Swiss Indoors title in Basel on 28th October 2018.
- He defeated Marius Copil in the final.
- It is his 99th career title.
- The Swiss Indoors is a professional men's tennis tournament played on indoor hard courts.
- Since 2009 it has been part of the World Tour 500 Series of the ATP Tour.

Khalin Joshi won Panasonic Open

- Indian golfer Khalin Joshi clinched the Panasonic Open India title at the Delhi Golf Club on 28th October 2018.
- Joshi became the seventh Indian to win the Panasonic Open India.
- It was also his maiden Asian Tour title.
- With this success, Joshi joined the list of 25 Indians who have so far accounted for 87 international titles.

India & Pakistan declared joint winners

- In Men's Hockey, India and Pakistan were declared joint winners of the Asian Champions Trophy at Muscat in Oman on 28th October 2018.
- The tournament director declared both teams as winners after the match was called off due to heavy rain.
- Before this edition, both India and Pakistan had won the tournament twice each.

Ayhika Mukherjee won silver medal

- Indian table tennis player Ayhika Mukherjee won the silver medal in the under-21 women's singles category of the ITTF Challenge Belgium Open.
- She lost to Korea's Youjin Kim in the final.
- In the semifinals, Ayhika had defeated Hong Kong's Chengzhu Zhu to enter the finals.

Defence

Patrol vessel 'ICGS Varaha' launched

- A new offshore patrol vessel called ICGS Varaha was launched by Indian Coast Guard in Chennai on 3 November 2018.
- The vessel has been designed and built indigenously.

- ICGS Varaha will soon be fitted with advanced navigation and communication equipment, sensors and machineries.
- It also carries pollution response equipment to contain the oil spill at sea.

India-Japan military exercise begins

- Armies of India and Japan began their first-ever joint military exercise 'Dharma Guardian-2018' at a jungle warfare school in Mizoram on 1 November 2018.
- The focus of the two-week-long exercise will be to enhance tactical skills against global terrorism and increase inter-operability between the two forces.
- The Indian contingent is represented by 6/1 Gorkha Rifles.

Successful night trial of Agni-1 missile

- A night trial of India's indigenously developed nuclear-capable Agni-1 ballistic missile was successfully conducted on 30 October 2018 from a test range off Odisha coast.
- It has a strike range of 700 km.
- The missile can carry payloads up to 1000 kg.
- Agni-1 missile has a specialised navigation system which ensures it reaches the target with a high degree of accuracy and precision.

INS Tarangini returns after Voyage

- The sail training ship of Indian Navy 'INS Tarangini' returned to its naval base in Kochi on 30 October 2018 after a seven-month-long voyage.
- The voyage named 'Lokayan 18' was flagged off on 10 April 2018 from Kochi.
- It also participated in the culminating event of the 'Three Festival Tall Ships Regatta' at Bordeaux in France and the 'Tall Ships Races Europe 2018'.

Upgradation of 17 Dornier Aircraft approved

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) gave approval for the mid-life Upgrade of 17 Dornier Aircraft of Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
- The upgrades will be carried out by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- The ICG has a fleet of Dornier aircraft which play a pivotal role in maritime surveillance.
- DAC is chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Polity

Section 7 of RBI Act: Explained

- Under Section 7 of the RBI Act of 1934, the government of India can give directions to the RBI to take certain actions 'in the public interest'.
- Till now, the government has never invoked section 7 of RBI Act.

- The issue of invoking Section 7 (1) of the RBI Act came up during the hearing of Allahabad high court in a case filed by the Independent Power Producers Association of India.

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