

WEEKLY

CURRENT AFFAIRS CAPSULE

11TH NOVEMBER – 17TH NOVEMBER 2018

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Awards & Honours

FSSAI sets up 'Eat Right' awards

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has instituted the 'Eat Right Awards'.
- The award has been instituted for food related start-ups to reward innovation and promote entrepreneurship in the area of food safety and applied nutrition.
- A jury of eminent professionals and experts in the food sector will select the winners.

AIM & UNICEF announced Young Champions Awards

- The NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and UNICEF have announced 'UNICEF – Atal Tinkering Labs Young Champions Awards' on 14 November 2018.
- The awards were presented to the top six most innovative solutions from across the country, which was shortlisted through the Atal Tinkering Marathon.
- AIM and UNICEF have also launched a 72-hour 'Tinkering Hackathon' from 14 to 17 November 2018.

Dr. Martha received lifetime achievement award

- Late Dr Martha Farrell has been honoured with the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' at the 6th Indian Social Work Congress in New Delhi on 13 November 2018.

- Dr Martha is being recognised for her lifelong work towards gender equality, women's empowerment and prevention of sexual harassment at workplace.
- In 1991, she co-founded the NGO named Creative Learning for Change.

UASG conferred award to Rajasthan CM

- Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) conferred 'Universal Acceptance Thought Leader Award' to Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje on 13 November 2018.
- She was awarded for 'Rajmail project' that enables access to the email address to people in the state in local script.
- The technology for the project was developed by Rajasthan based firm 'Data XGen Technologies'.

Six professors won Infosys Prize 2018 - II

- Kavita Singh was awarded in the field of Humanities.
- Roop Mallik was awarded in the field of Life Sciences.
- Nalini Anantharaman was awarded in the field of Mathematical Sciences.
- SK Satheesh was awarded in the field of Physical Sciences.
- Sendhil Mullainathan was awarded in the field of Social Sciences

Six professors won Infosys Prize 2018 - I

- Six eminent professors have been awarded the 'Infosys Prize 2018' across different categories of science and research.
- The prize has been constituted by the 'Infosys Science Foundation' (ISF).
- The annual award includes a pure gold medal, a citation and a prize purse worth US\$ 100,000.
- Navakanta Bhat was awarded in the field of Engineering and Computer Science.

Dr Debabhuson won the 'Munin Barkotoki Award'

- Dr Debabhuson Borah won the prestigious 'Munin Barkotoki Literary Award 2018' on 12 November 2018.
- He won the award for his book on literary criticism titled 'Nirbochon'.
- The award carries a cash prize of Rs 50,000 along with a citation and a plaque.
- The award was named after the renowned writer, critic, and journalist Munin Barkotoki.

Days & Events

National Press Day observed on 16 November

- National Press Day is observed on 16 November every year.
- On this day, Press Council of India (PCI) started functioning as a moral watchdog.

- The PCI was first set up in the year 1966 by the Parliament on the recommendations of the 'First Press Commission'.
- The PCI has been mandated by Parliament to improve the standards of journalism and maintain its freedom.

South Asian Regional Conference inaugurated

- The conference on 'Urban Infrastructure: New Approaches to Public & Private Partnerships and Municipal Finance Innovations' was inaugurated in New Delhi on 15 November 2018.
- The conference was organised by NITI Aayog, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the Asian Development Bank.
- Key issues of the Urban Infrastructure were discussed at the conference.

International Day for Tolerance: 16 November

- The 'International Day for Tolerance' is annually observed on 16 November.
- The aim of the day is to educate people about the need for tolerance in the society and to help them understand the negative effects of intolerance.
- The United Nations has launched a new global campaign named 'TOGETHER' to promote tolerance, respect and dignity across the world.

26th COCSSO began in Himachal Pradesh

- 26th 'Conference of Central and States Statistical Organisations' (COCSSO) began from 15 November 2018 at Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh.
- The conference is organised by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- The theme of the conference is 'Quality Assurance in Official Statistics'.

'World Philosophy Day' observed on 15 November

- 'World Philosophy Day' is annually observed on the third Thursday of November to honour the philosophical reflections around the world.
- The aim of the day is to raise public awareness of the importance of philosophy.
- It also aims to underline the importance of the universalisation of philosophy-teaching for future generations.
- 'World Philosophy Day' was introduced in 2002 by UNESCO.

India International Trade Fair inaugurated

- Culture Minister Dr Mahesh Sharma inaugurated the 38th India International Trade Fair (IITF) at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi on 14 November 2018.
- The theme of the fair for 2018 is 'Rural Enterprises in India'.
- For the year 2018, Afghanistan is the Partner Country, while Nepal is the Focus Country.

- Jharkhand is participating as a Partner State in the event.

WCO's regional meet began in Jaipur

- A four-day regional meeting of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) began in Jaipur on 14 November 2018.
- Representatives of 33 member countries of Asia are attending the meeting.
- The participants will discuss and deliberate upon the amended Kyoto protocol, digital customs, e-commerce among other issues.
- WCO is an intergovernmental organisation headquartered in Brussels, Belgium.

Children's Day celebrated on 14 November

- Children's Day is celebrated on 14 November every year.
- It is celebrated on the birth anniversary of the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.
- The day is celebrated across the country to increase awareness of the rights, care and education of children.

'Global Digital Content Market' hosted by DIPP

- A conference on 'Global Digital Content Market' (GDCM) 2018 is being hosted by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) on 14 and 15 November 2018 in New Delhi.
- The focus of GDCM 2018 is on the Asia Pacific region.
- The aim of GDCM 2018 is to give industry stakeholders a platform to come together and discuss new avenues in the films, music, gaming and creative industry.

World Diabetes Day observed on 14 November

- World Diabetes Day is observed on 14 November every year.
- The theme of World Diabetes Day 2018 is 'The Family and Diabetes'.
- The aim of World Diabetes Day theme is to raise awareness about the impact of diabetes on the family.
- Diabetes is a major cause of blindness, kidney failure, heart attack, stroke, and lower limb amputation.

International Affairs

Tajikistan launched a hydro-electric project

- Tajikistan inaugurated a US\$ 3.9 billion 'Rogun hydro-electric project' on 16 November 2018.
- It has been built on the Vakhsh River in southern Tajikistan.
- The project will enable Tajikistan to eliminate domestic energy shortages and export electricity to Afghanistan and Pakistan.

- The first of six turbines in the Rogun hydroelectric dam went online on 16 November 2018.

World Bank provides US\$155.7 million to Nepal

- The World Bank provided over US\$ 155 million in financial assistance to Nepal on 14 November 2018.
- The first project comprising a credit of US\$ 133 million will finance the improvement & maintenance programme targeting around 477 bridges along Nepal's strategic roads network.
- The second project in the form of a grant of US\$ 22.7 million to support the Food & Nutrition Enhancement Project.

Africa's first ever high speed train unveiled

- French President Emmanuel Macron and Morocco's King Mohammed VI have inaugurated Morocco's first high-speed rail line, the first ever such line in Africa.
- The king Mohammed VI named the first line as 'Al Boraq'.
- It will connect the economic hubs of Tangier and Casablanca.
- The \$2 billion project was launched in September 2011.

'Toxic' declared Oxford Word of the Year

- Oxford Dictionary has declared the adjective 'toxic' as the Word of the Year 2018.
- The adjective toxic is defined as 'poisonous' and first appeared in English in the mid-seventeenth century from the medieval Latin 'toxicus'.
- The Oxford Word of the Year is a word or expression that is judged to have lasting potential as a term of cultural significance.

UNSC agreed to lift sanctions against Eritrea

- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has agreed to lift sanctions against Eritrea after nine years.
- An arms embargo, asset freeze, and travel ban were imposed in 2009 amid claims that Eritrea supported militancy in Somalia.
- The resolution was drafted by the United Kingdom and backed by the United States and its allies.

India voted against UNGA draft resolution

- India has voted against a United Nations General Assembly draft resolution on the use of death penalty.
- India said that it goes against the statutory law of the country where an execution is carried out in the 'rarest of rare' cases.
- The draft resolution, taken up in the 3rd Committee (Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural) of the General Assembly, was approved on 13 November 2018.

Sunscreens banned in Palau

- Palau is set to become the first country to impose a widespread ban on sunscreen in an effort to protect its vulnerable coral reefs.
- The government has signed a law that restricts the sale and use of sunscreen and skincare products that contain a list of ten different chemicals.
- The ban comes into force in 2020.

'Quad' to meet in Singapore on 14 November

- Officials from Australia, India, Japan and the United States will hold the third 'Quadrilateral' or Quad meeting in Singapore on 14 November 2018.
- The meeting will be held on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit.
- The meeting will focus on infrastructure projects, maritime security cooperation and discuss regional challenges including development.

NASA spotted new iceberg in Antarctica

- NASA has spotted an enormous new Antarctic iceberg while on a mission to survey the region's shifting sea ice and glaciers.
- **NASA's Operation IceBridge flight spotted the giant** berg which broke off from Pine Island Glacier in October 2018.
- The US National Ice Centre estimates the iceberg named B-46, is 66 square nautical miles (87 square miles) in size.

ASEAN countries inked 1st e-commerce agreement

- Economic ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on 12 November 2018 signed an agreement to facilitate cross-border e-commerce transactions within the region.
- The agreement is the grouping's first agreement on e-commerce.
- It also aims to deepen cooperation among ASEAN member states so as to spur the use of e-commerce as a way of driving regional economic growth.

WEF Global Future Councils began in Dubai

- The two-day annual meeting of World Economic Forum's (WEF) **Global Future Councils began in Dubai** on 11 November 2018.
- The objective of the Annual Meeting of the Global Future Councils is to convene the world's best network of experts to identify new ideas and models that can be applied to critical global challenges.
- The theme of the meeting is 'Globalisation 4.0'.

33rd ASEAN summit began in Singapore

- The 33rd edition of the ASEAN Summit began in Singapore on 11 November 2018.
- Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Hsien Loong is the Chairman of the Summit.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to attend the East Asia Summit and Associated meetings of

ASEAN on 14th and 15th November 2018 in Singapore.

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FinTech festival kicks off in Singapore

- The 3rd edition of the FinTech Conference was inaugurated in Singapore alongside the ASEAN summit on 12 November 2018.
- The Conference will focus on themes including Artificial Intelligence, AI in Finance, ASEAN FinTech Opportunities; Cyber-Security, Financial Inclusion; Future of Banking; Future of Money.
- Singapore FinTech Festival 2018 is organised by the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

National Affairs

Tribunal to decide on ban on 2 militant groups

- The Government of India has set up a tribunal for adjudicating whether or not two Tripura-based militant outfits should be declared banned organisations under the law.
- The two militant outfits are National Liberation Front of Tripura and All Tripura Tiger Force.
- The tribunal will be headed by Delhi High Court Judge Justice Suresh Kait.

'Himalayan State Regional Council' constituted

- NITI Aayog has constituted the 'Himalayan State Regional Council' to ensure sustainable development of the Himalayan region.
- The 'Himalayan State Regional Council' will be chaired by the NITI Aayog member Dr VK Saraswat.
- The council will also consist of the Chief Secretaries of the Himalayan States as well as the Secretaries of key Central Ministries, and senior officers of NITI Aayog.

First Ramayana Express flagged off

- First 'Ramayana Express' was flagged off from Delhi on 14 November 2018.
- The Ramayana Express will make its first stop in Ayodhya followed by Hanuman Garhi Ramkot and Kanak Bhawan temple.
- The trains will make stops at Nandigram, Sitamarhi, Janakpur, Varanasi, Prayag, Shringaverpur, Chitrakoot, Nasik, Hampi and Rameshwaram.

Rs 75 commemorative coin to be released

- The government of India will release a Rs 75 commemorative coin on the occasion of 75th anniversary of the hoisting of Tricolour for the first time by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at Port Blair.
- The coin will bear the portrait of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose saluting the flag on the background of cellular jail.
- The coin will be composed of 50% silver, 40% copper, and 5% each of nickel & zinc.

Renaming of two divisions in UP approved

- The Uttar Pradesh government approved the renaming of Faizabad and Allahabad divisions as Ayodhya and Prayagraj respectively on 13 November 2018.
- Prayagraj division will comprise Prayagraj, Kaushambi, Fatehpur and Pratapgarh districts.
- Ayodhya division will include Ayodhya, Ambedkarnagar, Sultanpur, Amethi and Barabanki districts.

Cyclone Gaja to cross Tamil Nadu & Andhra

- A deep depression in the Bay of Bengal has intensified into a cyclonic storm named Cyclone Gaja.
- It is likely to cross the north Tamil Nadu and south Andhra Pradesh coast on 15 November 2018.
- It is moving at a speed of 12 kmph is likely to intensify into a 'severe cyclonic storm'.
- The coastal areas of north Tamil Nadu would experience moderate rainfall and heavy rainfall.

Voting began in Chhattisgarh

- The voting for the first phase of the assembly election in Chhattisgarh began on 12 November 2018.
- The Election Commission has set up five all-women polling booths called 'Sangwari' booths in various constituencies of Chhattisgarh.
- This will encourage women voters to exercise their franchise in the Assembly elections.
- These women friendly booths are being manned by all-female staff.

Power Minister inaugurated INSPIRE 2018

- R K Singh, Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy inaugurated the 'International Symposium to Promote Innovation & Research in Energy Efficiency' (INSPIRE 2018) on 11 November 2018.
- It is being organised by Energy Efficiency Services Limited and World Bank.
- It will focus on enhancing grid management, e-Mobility, and technologies for energy efficiency in India.

Global IT Challenge for Youth concluded

- The three-day event of Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities- 2018 concluded in New Delhi on 11 November 2018.
- This year 96 youth with disabilities from 18 countries including India, Indonesia, China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Philippines, UK and UAE participated in it.
- On occasion, 55 awards were presented to youth with disabilities.

India & World

9th Annual Defence & Security Dialogue held

- India and China held the '9th Annual Defence and Security Dialogue' in Beijing on 13 November 2018.
- The Indian delegation was headed by Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra and Chinese delegation was headed by Deputy Chief of Joint Staff Department of the Central Military Commission.
- Both sides agreed on enhancing defence exchanges and interactions at different levels between the two militaries.

9th Session of the India - Kyrgyz IGC held

- The 9th Session of the India-Kyrgyz Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation (IK-IGC) was held on 15 and 16 November 2018 in New Delhi.
- Both sides agreed to hold business to business forums between Kyrgyz and Indian companies.
- The parties agreed to hold the tenth meeting of IK-IGC in Bishkek, the Kyrgyz Republic in 2019.

'ASEAN-India Breakfast Summit' held

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the 'ASEAN-India Breakfast Summit' in Singapore on 15 November 2018.
- He reaffirmed cooperation in maritime domain and centrality of trade and investment towards prosperity of Indo-Pacific
- He also held separate bilateral meetings with the premiers of Singapore, Australia and Thailand.

'India-Singapore Hackathon' winners awarded

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi felicitated the six winning teams of the first 'India-Singapore Hackathon' on 15 November 2018.
- 'India-Singapore Hackathon' is a platform for the youth of the two countries to harness and showcase their innovations.
- The winning teams from India were IIT Kharagpur, NIT Trichy, and MIT College of Engineering, Pune.

PM Modi attended 13th East Asia Summit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 13th East Asia Summit (EAS) in Singapore on 15 November 2018.
- It was Prime Minister Modi's 5th East Asia Summit.
- The members of EAS consists of 10 ASEAN nations (Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, The Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Brunei and Laos), Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia and the US.

Prime Minister Modi launched APIX technology

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the APIX (Application Programming Interface Exchange) in Singapore on 14 November 2018.
- APIX is a banking technology platform designed to reach nearly two billion people worldwide who are still without bank accounts.
- APIX will support banks to reach out to those without bank accounts in 23 countries including the 10 ASEAN members countries.

7th RCEP Ministerial Meeting concluded

- The two-day 7th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Inter-Sessional Ministerial Meeting concluded in Singapore on 13 November 2018.
- Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu led the Indian delegation to the meeting.
- The Minister for Trade and Industry of Singapore Mr Chan Chun Sing was the Chair of the meeting.

2nd Startup India Investment Seminar organised

- '2nd Startup India Investment Seminar' was organised in Beijing on 12 November 2018.
- It was organised by the Embassy of India in China in partnership with Startup India Association (SIA) and Venture Gurukool.
- The event was planned to expose Chinese investors to the promising Indian startups.
- The 1st Startup Indian Investment event was organised in November 2017.

Statue commemorating Indian soldiers unveiled

- A new statue commemorating the role of Indian soldiers in World War I was unveiled in France on 11 November 2018.
- The seven-foot bronze statue commemorates over 4,700 soldiers and labourers from British India who lost their lives on the Western Front during World War I.
- Another memorial was inaugurated by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu at Villers Guislain in France on 10 November 2018.

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Government Policies & Schemes

Odisha govt announced new Biotechnology Policy

- Odisha government announced a new 'Biotechnology Policy 2018' to attract investments in the sector at the Make in Odisha Conclave on 15 November 2018.
- As per the policy, all biotechnology units shall be allotted land at a concessional rate as per the Industrial Policy Resolution of the state government.
- An additional subsidy of 25% shall be available to reputed anchor tenants.

'Gau Samridhi scheme' launched in Kerala

- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched the 'Gau Samridhi Plus Scheme' on 16 November 2018.
- The government subsidised scheme will give insurance coverage to dairy farmers at low premium rates.
- The farmers belonging to the general category will be getting 50% subsidy on premiums while those belonging to scheduled caste & scheduled tribe category would get a 70% subsidy on the premium.

1,023 fast track courts to be set up

- The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development has decided to use 'Nirbhaya Fund' to set up 1,023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) to dispose of pending cases of rape of children and women.
- In the first phase, 777 FTSCs may be set up in nine states, and in the second phase, 246 FTSCs will be set up.
- The 'Nirbhaya Fund' was announced by the Government of India in 2013.

2 North East Circuits inaugurated in Arunachal

- Two projects under Swadesh Darshan Scheme were inaugurated in Arunachal Pradesh on 15 November 2018.
- These projects are 'Bhalukpong- Bomdila - Tawang Project' & 'Nafra- Seppa- Pappu, Pasa, Pakke Valleys- Sangdupota- New Sagalee- Ziro- Yomcha Project'.
- Swadesh Darshan scheme is the flagship schemes of the Ministry of Tourism for the development of thematic circuits in the country

Delhi Police launched e-learning site 'NIPUN'

- Delhi Police commissioner Amulya Patnaik has launched the e-Learning portal of Delhi Police called 'NIPUN' on 14 November 2018.
- The e-learning portal aims to give online training and information through specialised courses designed by experts in the field.
- The website will also act as a tool for feedback mechanism and bridge communication gap.

Scheme for cooperative startups launched

- Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh launched 'Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme' on 14 November 2018.
- The aim is to provide cheaper loans to startups in the cooperative sector and those having innovative projects costing up to Rs 3 crore.
- The scheme will be implemented by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

LEAP & ARPIT initiative launched by MHRD

- On 13 November 2018, Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched two new initiatives: Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP) and Annual Refresher Programme In Teaching (ARPIT).
- ARPIT is an initiative of online professional development of 15 lakh higher education faculty.
- LEAP is a 3 weeks flagship leadership development training programme for 2nd level academic functionaries.

Personality in News

Ad-filmmaker Alyque Padamsee passed away

- Prominent ad filmmaker and actor Alyque Padamsee passed away on 17 November 2018 in Mumbai.
- As a film actor, he was known for his role in Richard Attenborough's film **Gandhi where he played Muhammad Ali Jinnah**.
- He was known as the Father of modern Indian advertising.
- He was conferred with Padmashri Award in 2000 and he also received Sangeet Natak Akademi Tagore Ratna in 2012.

President Kovind to visit Vietnam & Australia

- President Ram Nath Kovind will visit Vietnam and Australia from 18 to 24 November 2018 with an aim to strengthen ties with the Indo-Pacific nations.
- He will be in Vietnam in the first leg of his trip.
- The President's second leg of the visit will be in Australia from 21 to 24 November 2018.
- This is the first visit by an Indian President to Australia.

Yes Bank chairman Ashok Chawla resigned

- Ashok Chawla has resigned as the Non-Executive (Independent) Chairman of Yes Bank on 14 November 2018.
- He has also been serving as the Chairman of National Stock Exchange, a quasi-regulator under the SEBI Act, since 2016.
- Former finance secretary Ashok Chawla had also worked as the Chairman of CCI or Competition Commission of India.

Hima Das appointed as Youth Ambassador

- **Hima Das has been appointed as UNICEF India's Youth Ambassador.**
- She will work towards supporting various initiatives by UNICEF.
- She will also work towards raising awareness about the rights and needs of the children.
- She won the gold medal in Women's 4 x 400 m Relay event at the 2018 Asian Games.

Neomi Rao to replace Kavanaugh on DC Circuit

- U.S. President Donald Trump has nominated Indian-American Neomi Rao to replace Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh on the DC Circuit Court of Appeals.
- The powerful U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit is considered next to the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Ms. Rao is currently the administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA).

Flipkart CEO Binny Bansal quits

- Flipkart co-founder, Binny Bansal resigned as the **company's Group CEO on 13 November 2018** following an independent investigation into allegations of serious personal misconduct.
- Kalyan Krishnamurthy will continue to be the CEO of Flipkart.
- Ananth Narayanan will **continue as CEO of Flipkart's** fashion arms Myntra and Jabong. He will report to Kalyan Krishnamurthy.

Award given to Aung San Suu Kyi revoked

- Amnesty International revoked the 'Ambassador of Conscience Award' given to Myanmar's leader Aung San Suu Kyi on 13 November 2018.
- She received the award in 2009 when she was living under house arrest.
- The award was revoked because of her failure to speak out for the Rohingya minority.
- She was also stripped of her honorary Canadian citizenship in October 2018.

Mountaineer Satyarup climbed Mt Giluwe

- Indian mountaineer Satyarup Siddhanta became the first Indian to climb Mt Giluwe on 11 November 2018.
- The summit of the mountain is at an elevation of 4,367 metres.
- He had successfully climbed the Mt Everest in June 2016.
- Mt Giluwe is the second highest mountain in Papua New Guinea.
- Mt Wilhelm is the highest mountain of Papua New Guinea.

Science & Technology

Human ancestor fossil discovered in Kutch

- Scientists have discovered a fossilised upper jaw of an eleven million-year-old human ancestor in Kutch, Gujarat.
- The find significantly extends the southern range of ancient apes in the Indian Peninsula.
- Apes, or hominoids, are a group of primates from Africa and Southeast Asia that includes the gibbons and the great apes: chimps, orangutans, gorillas, and humans.

China builds an 'artificial sun'

- China has built an 'artificial sun' that reaches temperature six times that of the core of the sun.
- The reactor named 'Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak' (EAST) is designed to replicate the processes of the sun as part of a project to turn hydrogen into cost-effective green energy.
- It involves fusion of hydrogen atoms together to form heavier elements, such as helium.

Massive meteorite impact crater discovered

- Scientists have discovered a 31-kilometre wide meteorite impact crater buried beneath the ice-sheet in the northern Greenland.
- The crater was formed when a kilometre-wide iron meteorite smashed into northern Greenland.
- The crater was first discovered in July 2015.

'Super-Earth' discovered by scientists

- An international team of scientists has discovered a cold 'super-Earth' exoplanet orbiting around the red dwarf Barnard, the second closest star system to Earth.
- **The new planet has been named 'Barnard's star b'** (or GJ 699 b).
- It orbits its red star every 233 days near the snow-line, a distance where water freezes.
- **Barnard's star is six light-years** away from earth.

Ghost galaxy spotted next to Milky Way

- Scientists of the European Space Agency (ESA) has discovered a massive and very faint galaxy near the Milky Way.
- The name of the galaxy is Antlia 2 or Ant 2 and is known as a dwarf galaxy.
- The Galaxy was discovered with the help of Gaia satellite.
- Despite its size, the galaxy has very few stars.
- Ant 2 is 10,000 times fainter, meaning that it has about one 10,000th the number of stars.

Largest brain-like supercomputer switched on

- **The world's** largest supercomputer designed to work in the same way as the human brain has been switched on for the first time.
- The 'Spiking Neural Network Architecture' (SpiNNaker) machine is capable of completing more than 200 million actions per second.

- The SpiNNaker machine has been designed and built in the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom.

ISRO to launch communication satellite GSAT-29

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch 'GSLV MkIII-D2' mission on 14 November 2018.
- The mission will carry India's high throughput communication satellite 'GSAT-29'.
- 'GSAT-29' is a multibeam, multi-band communication satellite weighing 3,423 kgs.
- The satellite will be carried by Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mark III.

Scientists discovered two planets

- Astronomers have discovered two new rogue planets that do not have stars to orbit.
- Researchers found the planets in the regions called the Galactic bulge and disk.
- As planets don't orbit stars and are 'free-floating,' it's difficult to determine the size.
- One planet could be similar in size to Earth, while another one may be similar to Jupiter.

ISRO invites foreign experiments

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has taken its first step towards its mid-2023-planned mission to Venus.

- It issued an announcement of opportunity (AO) to the international space community to propose their scientific payloads to be carried on the mission.
- This AO for space-based experiments to study Venus is open to international scientists from various space agencies.

ISRO looking at pool of 10 experiments

- After the announcement of Gaganyaan mission, ISRO has now drawn up a list of experiments to be conducted ahead of the mission.
- ISRO is looking at a pool of 10 experiments to be conducted in low earth orbit, where it plans to send astronauts.
- The experiments could include testing of medical equipment to micro-biological experiments such as biological air filters and biosensors.

Business & Economy

India's first interactive credit card launched

- IndusInd Bank has announced the launch of 'IndusInd Bank Nexxt Credit Card'.
- The card empowers customers with a choice of payment options such as EMI, Reward Points or Credit at the push of a button, on the card, at the point of sale (POS).
- The bank claims it to be **the nation's first interactive credit card with buttons**.

Mobile banking transactions tripled in Sept

- According to the monthly data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the number of transactions on mobile banking apps grew almost 3.5 times at 447 million in September 2018.
- The value of such transactions also grew more than 2.4 times at ₹.07 lakh crore.
- Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) also grew moderately in both volume and value terms at 357 million and ₹7,700 crore.

Exports grew by 17.86% in October 2018

- According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India's exports grew by 17.86% to 26.98 billion dollars in October 2018.
- India's exports stood at 22.89 billion dollars in October 2017.
- The sectors which recorded healthy growth includes petroleum, engineering, chemicals, pharma and gems and jewellery sector.

Fitch retains rating for India at 'BBB-minus'

- **Fitch Ratings retained India's sovereign rating at 'BBB-minus'**.
- 'BBB-minus' is the lowest investment grade rating.
- Fitch forecasts India's growth to rebound to 7.3% in FY19 and 7.5% in FY20.

- The Fitch Ratings added that a recent analysis conducted by it found that India had the highest medium-term growth potential among the largest emerging markets.

Sunil Mehta panel formed 'Sashakt India AMC'

- Sunil Mehta panel has formed an Asset Management Company (AMC) for resolving large bad loans.
- The AMC will be called as 'Sashakt India Asset Management'.
- The panel is now working towards identifying potential investors for an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) which will fund the AMC.
- Sunil Mehta panel is working for the faster resolution of stressed assets in public sector banks.

WPI inflation in October jumps to 5.28%

- Wholesale inflation based on the wholesale price index (WPI) stood at 5.28% in October 2018.
- Wholesale inflation in primary articles, which include food articles, cereals, paddy, onions, food, and milk, among others, rose by 1.79% in October 2018.
- WPI is computed by the Office of the Economic Advisor, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, and Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Retail inflation softens to 3.31% in October

- According to the Central Statistics Office data, **India's retail inflation eased to 3.31%** in October 2018 driven by cheaper food items.
- The retail inflation number is the lowest since September 2017
- Vegetable prices declined by 8.06% in October 2018.
- Retail inflation, measured by Consumer Price Index (CPI), stood at 3.7% in September 2018 and 3.58% in October 2017.

NTPC, 3 other PSUs included in CPSE ETF

- The Finance Ministry has rearranged the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) Exchange Traded Fund (ETF).
- It has included in the basket the scrips of four State-owned companies NTPC, SJVN, NLC and NBCC.
- The Ministry has removed GAIL, Engineers India Ltd. (EIL) and Container Corporation of India in the ETF basket.

Sports

Gukesh, Savitha won gold medals in Chss

- Gukesh D and Savitha Shri B won gold medals in U-12 Open and **girls'** category respectively at the World Cadets Chess Championship in Spain on 16 November 2018.
- The Championship was held for the age groups U-8, U-10 and U-12, girls and Open.

- The 2nd and 3rd places were won by Murzin Volodor of Russia and Chasin Nico of the USA in the open category.

Lewis Hamilton won Brazil Grand Prix

- Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton won the Brazilian Grand Prix on 11 November 2018.
- The win was Hamilton's 10th of the season and 72nd of his career.
- Hamilton's win helped Mercedes secure the constructors' championship.
- Verstappen finished second while Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen took third.

Defence

Indian Navy completes refit of Maldivian ship

- Maldivian Coast Guard Ship (MCGS) Huravee successfully completed refit at the naval dockyard Visakhapatnam.
- The MCGS Huravee was originally commissioned as INS Tillanchang, a Trinkat-class patrol vessel built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata in March 2001.
- It was gifted to the Maldives by the Government of India in April 2006.

'Tall ships sail together' expedition began

- Chief of Indian Navy, Admiral Sunil Lanba flagged off a 'tall ships sail together' expedition on 14 November 2018.
- The expedition will cover a distance of 1,200 nautical miles from Kochi to Muscat to retrace the trade links that existed between the erstwhile Malabar coast and the Persian Gulf.
- The event is held as part of the 10th-anniversary celebrations of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium.

'EXERCISE INDRA' to be conducted from 18 Nov

- The joint military exercise between India and Russia named 'EXERCISE INDRA 2018' on combating insurgency will be conducted from 18 November 2018.
- The exercise is being held under the aegis of United Nations (UN) at Babina Field Firing Ranges in Madhya Pradesh.
- The aim of the exercise is to practice joint planning and conduct to enhance the interoperability of the two Armies.

'Samudra Shakti' exercise inaugurated

- Indian and Indonesian Navy's Bilateral Exercise 'Samudra Shakti' is being held from 12 to 18 November 2018.
- The aim of the exercise is to strengthen bilateral relations, expand maritime co-operation, enhance interoperability and exchange best practices.

- INS Rana of the Eastern Fleet based at Visakhapatnam under the Eastern Naval Command is participating in the exercise.

Polity

Government delegated powers to local bodies

- The Government of India has delegated powers to local bodies to ensure compliance of environmental conditions for buildings, construction and area development projects
- Local bodies such as Municipalities, Development Authorities and District Panchayats shall stipulate environmental conditions.
- The conditions include natural drainage, water conservation and among others.