

**IMPORTANT**

# **CURRENT AFFAIRS CAPSULE**

**OCTOBER 2018**

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## Awards & Honours

### 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.

### Meenakshi Chaudhary won 1st runner-up title

- India's Meenakshi Chaudhary has been crowned the first runner-up of Miss Grand International 2018 at the sixth edition of the pageant held in Myanmar.
- Chaudhary was narrowly edged out by Paraguay's Clara Sosa for the top honour.
- Sosa succeeds Miss Grand International 2017 Maria Jose Lora of Peru.
- She has been the winner of fbb Colors Femina Miss Grand India 2018 title earlier.

### Roopam won World Health Summit Startup Award

- Roopam Sharma, a 23-year old Indian scientist, won the World Health Summit Startup award, 2018.
- He won for his invention, Manovue – **the world's first** intelligent personal assisting system for the visually impaired.
- He is the youngest person to be recognized as one of the top innovators under 35 by the MIT Tech Review in 2016.

### Asma Jahangir won UN Human Rights Prize

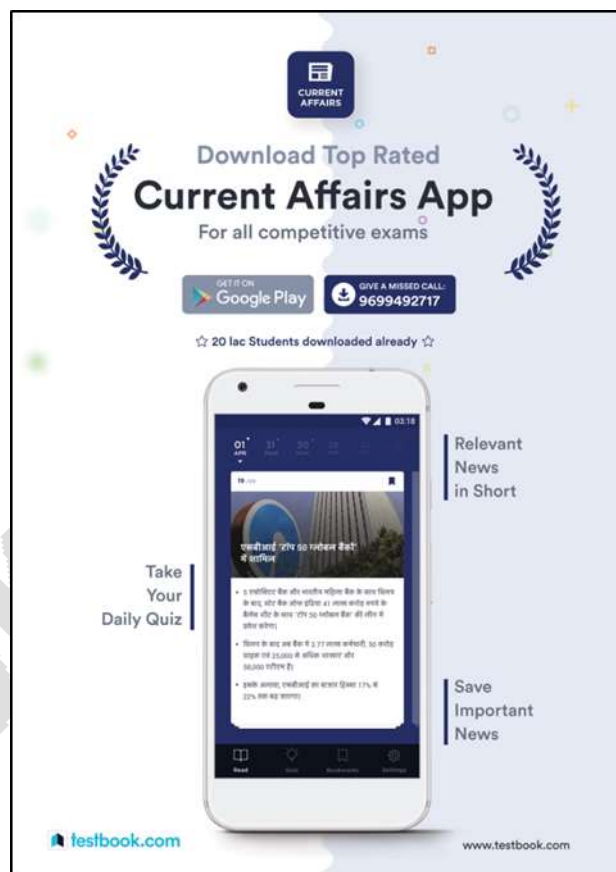
- Pakistan's** human rights activist and lawyer Asma Jahangir has been posthumously awarded the UN Prize along with three other winners.
- Rebeca Gyumi of Tanzania, Brazil's first indigenous lawyer Joenia Wapichana and Ireland's human rights organisation Front Line Defenders** are the other winners of the prize.
- The Prize is an honorary award given for outstanding achievement in human rights.

### BEML received Top Challengers' Award

- Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), a Mini Ratna Public Sector Undertaking, under the Ministry of Defence, **received the prestigious 'Top Challengers Award 2018'**.
- It won the prize for the excellent performance during the financial year 2017-18 and Best Seller in Crawler Equipment-Dozers and Rigid Dump Truck segment for mining sectors.
- The award is instituted by ASAAP Information Global Group.

### Sakharov prize awarded to filmmaker Sentsov

- The European Parliament awarded the prestigious Sakharov human rights prize to jailed Ukrainian filmmaker Oleg Sentsov on 25 October 2018.
- The Sakharov Prize was set up in 1988.
- It is awarded every year to individuals or organizations that have made an important contribution to the fight for human rights or democracy.



### 'Unnayan Banka' won CAPAM award for 2018

- 'Unnayan Banka' has won the Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management's (CAPAM) international innovation award for 2018.
- It is an online and offline education project started in Banka, Bihar.
- CAPAM is an organisation that promotes good governance and knowledge exchange amongst governments from Commonwealth countries.

### Tagore awards for cultural harmony announced

- 'Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony' for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 were announced on 25 October 2018.
- The awards were given to Manipuri dancer, Rajkumar Singhajit Singh (2014), Chhayanaut (a cultural organisation of Bangladesh) (2015) and sculptor, Ram Vanji Sutar (2016).
- It carries an award prize of Rs 1 crore, a citation in a scroll and a plaque.
- The award jury was headed by PM Modi.

### Malayalam author won first JCB Prize 2018

- Malayalam author Benjamin has bagged the inaugural 'JCB Prize for literature' for his book 'Jasmine Days'.
- The book explores the lives of South Asians in the Middle East.
- Benjamin was awarded a cash prize of ₹25 lakh and a trophy.
- JCB Prize for Literature is an Indian literary award established in 2018 and the award is funded by the construction manufacturing group JCB.

### Tezpur Univ professor won INSA Teachers Award

- Tezpur University professor Ashis Mukherjee has been awarded the prestigious "Indian National Science Academy (INSA) Teachers Award (2018)".
- He has been awarded for his consistent and high-level of teaching, and inspiring and mentoring students to take up careers in Science and Technology.
- The award is one of the highest recognition for science and technology teachers in the country.

### PM Modi awarded Seoul Peace Prize 2018

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been awarded the Seoul Peace Prize 2018.
- He has been awarded for his contribution to high economic growth in India and world through 'Modinomics'.
- The Seoul Peace Prize was established in 1990 to commemorate the success of the 24th Olympic Games held in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

### Invest India won UN award

- 'Invest India' has won the UN Award for excellence in promoting investments in sustainable development.
- The awards are organised by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- Invest India is a non-profit venture of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).
- Deepak Bagla is the CEO of Invest India.

### International honour for scientist

- Agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan will receive the first 'World Agriculture Prize' on 26 October 2018.
- The award has been instituted by the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) with an aim to recognise individuals who have served humanity through agriculture.
- Prof. Swaminathan has been hailed by the United Nations Environment Programme as 'The Father of Economic Ecology'.

### Fali S. Nariman conferred National Award

- Fali S. Nariman was conferred with Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration on 22 October 2018.
- He is a distinguished Indian Constitutional jurist and senior advocate to the Supreme Court of India.
- He has been awarded the Padma Bhushan (1991), Padma Vibhushan (2007) and Gruber Prize for Justice (2002).

### Sujatha Gidla won Shakti Bhatt Prize

- Sujatha Gidla has won the 2018 Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize.
- She won the award for her book, 'Ants Among Elephants: An Untouchable Family and the Making of Modern India'.
- The Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize is funded by the Shakti Bhatt Foundation.
- It was set up in 2008 in memory of writer Shakti.
- It carries a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh.

### Minal Patel awarded at White House

- Minal Patel Davis has been honoured with a Presidential award by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.
- She has been awarded for her extraordinary contribution towards combatting human trafficking in Houston.
- She is the Special Advisor on Human Trafficking to Houston Mayor.
- She is a past speaker at the United Nations World Humanitarian Summit.

### Piyush Goyal received Carnot prize

- Kleinman Center for Energy Policy at the University of Pennsylvania awarded 4th annual Carnot Prize to Union Minister Piyush Goyal.
- **Carnot Prize is the Kleinman Center's annual** recognition of distinguished contributions to energy policy through scholarship or practice.
- Carnot Prize is named after French physicist Nicolas Sadi Carnot.

### Breakthrough Prize winners announced

- The winners of the 2019 Breakthrough Prize were announced on 17 October 2018.
- Nine researchers were awarded a total of \$22 million for their innovations in mathematics, fundamental physics and the life sciences.
- The Breakthrough Prize is sponsored by Sergey Brin, Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg, Ma Huateng, Yuri and Julia Milner, and Anne Wojcicki.

### Suheil Tandon won IOC Grant award

- Suheil Tandon has won the International Olympic Committee's Sport and Active Society Commission's Grant Award.
- The award has been given for his contribution to the development of sports.

- The award ceremony was held at Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- Suheil is the founder of Pro Sport Development (PSD) and Executive Director of Martha Farrell Foundation.

#### Anna Burns won Man Booker Prize

- Author Anna Burns won the Man Booker Prize for her novel "Milkman".
- She has become the first Northern Irish writer and the first woman since 2013 to win the Man Booker Prize.
- Milkman, set in an unnamed city in Northern Ireland during the Troubles, is a coming-of-age story about a young girl's affair with a married man.

#### Khayyam named for Hridaynath Award

- Mohammed Zahur Khayyam Hashmi has been named for 2018 Hridaynath Award for Lifetime Achievement.
- The Award has been instituted by the Hridayesh Arts and carries a cash prize of Rs 100,000 and a memento.
- He is famously known as 'Khayyam' and is a composer, lyricist and writer.
- The other past recipients of the awards are Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, Amitabh Bachchan.

#### IAF to hold competition for drones technology

- **The Indian Air Force (IAF) has announced India's first competition in the defence sector, the Mehar Baba Prize.**
- The IAF is holding a competition for participants to build a swarm of 50 drones.
- The IAF will pick up to three winners, each of whom will get Rs. 10 lakh in prize money.
- The Mehar Baba Prize has been named after Commodore Mehar Singh, DSO MVC, who was often called Mehar Baba.

#### Prema won social entrepreneurship award

- Prema Gopalan, founder of Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), was awarded the 8th Social Entrepreneur of the Year award, 2018.
- **She was awarded for her work in promoting women's entrepreneurship at the grassroots and ensuring rural livelihood.**
- The award was jointly founded by Jubilant Bhartia Foundation and Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship in 2010.

#### H M Pernal gets Vishwa Konkani book award

- 'Beeg Ani Beegath', a collection of short stories in Konkani by well-known writer, journalist and critic H M Pernal has bagged the prestigious 'Vimala V Pai Vishwa' Konkani best book award for the year 2018.
- Konkani poet Sharathchandra Shenoy won the Vishwa Konkani best poetry award for his book 'Idam Na Mama'.

- Each award carries a purse of Rs one lakh each, a certificate, memento and shawl.

#### Conde won alternative Nobel

- Maryse Conde won an alternative award formed in protest to the Nobel Literature Prize which got cancelled in 2018.
- Maryse Condé won the New Academy prize in literature.
- The New Academy was founded by more than 100 Swedish writers, artists and journalists.
- Condé is the author of some 20 novels, including Desirada, Segu and Crossing the Mangrove

#### Sikkim won '100% Organic State' UN Award

- Sikkim has won 2018 UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's Future Policy for Gold Award.
- The award was given for its achievement in becoming the world's first totally organic agriculture state.
- Sikkim was declared fully organic state in 2016 after phasing out chemical fertilisers and pesticides

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

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

#### William, Paul won Nobel prize for economics

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

#### Nobel Prize Peace prize to Mukwege and Nadia

- The Nobel Peace Prize 2018 was won by Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad.
- The award has been presented to the two figures who have brought attention to ending sexual violence in armed conflict.
- Mukwege is a gynecologist helping victims of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Nadia is a Yazidi rights activist and survivor of sexual slavery by Islamic State.



### Maruti Suzuki gets the National Safety Award

- Maruti Suzuki has been awarded the 'National Safety Award' by Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- The award is for excellence in industrial safety in the automobile category for the year 2016.
- The prestigious award is given annually in recognition of outstanding safety performance of industrial establishments.
- Maruti Suzuki has developed a three-tier safety governance structure.

### Rail Min won 'Swachhta Hi Seva' award

- The Ministry of Railways has been declared the best department for its contribution to "Swachhta Pakhwada" under the "Swachhta Hi Seva" category of awards.
- The award was presented to the Railway Ministry, on the fourth anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- The 'Swachhta Hi Seva' campaign was launched in 2017.

### Nobel prize in chemistry awarded

- The 2018 Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded to Frances H. Arnold, George P. Smith and Sir Gregory P. Winter on 3 October 2018.
- They were awarded for their work on harnessing the power of evolution to develop new proteins used in drugs and medical treatments.
- Frances H Arnold, George P Smith and Gregory P Winter will share the prize of 9 million Swedish kronor.

### Lilima to receive Ekalabya Puraskar, 2018

- Hockey player Lilima Minz from Odisha has been selected for the prestigious Ekalabya Puraskar, 2018.
- The annual award is instituted by the charitable wing of Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys (IMFA) comprises of a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh along with a citation.
- Ekalabya Puraskar has been instituted to promote literature, sports, the arts, culture, and other socially meaningful activities.

### PM Modi received UNEP Champions of the Earth

- PM Narendra Modi received the United Nations highest environmental honour, the UNEP Champions of the Earth award at New Delhi.
- The award is presented by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.
- The award was announced on 26th Sept, on the sidelines of 73rd UN GA in New York.
- The annual prize is awarded to leaders from government whose actions had a positive impact on the environment.

### Ashkin, Mourou, Strickland won Nobel prize

- Scientists Arthur Ashkin, Gerard Mourou and Donna Strickland won the 2018 Nobel Prize for Physics.

- They were awarded for their work in the field of lasers used for surgery as well as scientific study.
- **Ashkin invented optical "tweezers" that could grab particles, atoms, viruses and other living cells.**
- Mourou and Strickland separately created the shortest and most powerful laser pulses ever.

### NALCO CMD conferred with NIPM Ratna award

- NALCO CMD Dr Tapan Kumar Chand was conferred with the 'NIPM Ratna Award' at the 37th NIPM Annual National Conference (NATCON-2018).
- He was given the award for his contribution to People Management & Strategic Leadership.
- National Institute of Personnel Management (NIPM) is the highest body of HR professionals in India.
- NIPM organized the NATCON-2018 at Pune.

### Nobel prize for medicine

- Two immunologists, James Allison of the US and Tasuku Honjo of Japan won the 2018 Nobel prize in medicine.
- They won the prize for the discovery of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation.
- They will receive their prize at a formal ceremony in Stockholm on 10th December.
- Allison and Honjo also have won the Tang Prize in 2014 for their research.

### VP to give "Vayoshreshtha Samman-2018"

- The Vice President of India M. Venkiah Naidu gave "Vayoshreshtha Samman-2018" to senior citizens on October 1, 2018.
- The award is given to eminent senior citizens and institutions in recognition of their services towards the cause of the elderly persons.
- Vayoshreshtha Samman is a Scheme of National Awards instituted by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

## Days & Events

### 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.

### World Day for Audiovisual Heritage

- The 2018 World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is celebrated on October 27.
- **Its theme is "Your Story is Moving".**

- The General Conference of UNESCO approved the commemoration of a World Day for Audiovisual Heritage in 2005 as a mechanism to raise general awareness of the need to preserve and safeguard important audiovisual material for future generations.

#### Vigilance Awareness Week 2018

- Vigilance Awareness Week 2018 will be observed by the Central Vigilance Commission from 29 October to 3 November 2018.
- The theme for Vigilance Awareness Week 2018 is 'Eradicate Corruption-Build a New India'.
- 'Awareness Gram Sabhas' are also organised for the dissemination of awareness in Gram Panchayats (in rural and semi-urban areas) to sensitise the rural citizens.

#### United Nations Day observed on 24 October

- United Nations Day is observed every year on 24 October.
- United Nations day has been in observance since 1948.
- The day commemorates the anniversary of the UN Charter that came into force in 1945.
- With the ratification of UN Charter by the majority of its signatories, the UN officially came into being.

#### World Development Information Day: 24 October

- The United Nations' (UN) World Development Information Day is observed every year on October 24.
- The aim is to draw the attention of the world to development problems and the need to strengthen international cooperation to solve them.
- The General Assembly in 1972 established World Development Information Day.

#### World Osteoporosis Day observed on 20 October

- World Osteoporosis Day 2018 is observed on October 20.
- The day is meant to raise awareness about osteoporosis, a condition which causes the bones to become weak and brittle.
- World Osteoporosis Day 2018 calls for global action in order to improve bone health and prevent fractures caused by osteoporosis.
- The day is organized by the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF).

#### Int Day for the Eradication of Poverty

- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed every year on 17 October.
- The theme for 2018 is "Coming together with those furthest behind to build an inclusive world of universal respect for human rights and dignity".

- The aim is to promote **people's awareness of the** need to eradicate poverty and destitution worldwide, particularly in developing countries.

#### World Food Day observed on 16 October

- World Food Day is held annually on the 16th of October.
- This day is dedicated to tackle the problem of global hunger.
- The theme for the year 2018 is "Our Actions Are Our Future".
- Every year World Food Day is celebrated in the honour of the founding date of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- FAO was launched by the United Nations in the year 1945.

#### Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas: 15 Oct

- Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas is observed on 15 October in India.
- The day is being celebrated to increase the active participation of women in agriculture.
- In 2016, the Ministry of Agriculture had decided to observe 15th October as Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas.
- The Ministry will discuss the challenges that women farmers face in crop cultivation, animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries.

#### International Day of Rural Women on 15 Oct

- International Day of Rural Women is observed on 15 October every year.
- **The day recognizes rural women's importance** in enhancing agricultural and rural development worldwide.
- **The theme for the year 2018 is "Sustainable infrastructure, services and social protection for gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls".**

#### International Day for Disaster Reduction

- The International Day for Disaster Reduction was started in 1989, after a call by the United Nations General Assembly for a day to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction.
- It is held every year on 13 October.
- The 2018 theme continues as part of the "Sendai Seven" campaign, centred on the seven targets of the Sendai Framework.

#### Word Egg day celebrated

- The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries organized **"World Egg Day"** on 12 October.
- **A booklet on poultry entrepreneurs' success stories** was released.
- International Egg Commission has declared the second Friday of October every year as World Egg Day.

- This is a unique opportunity to help raise awareness of the nutritional benefits of eggs.



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### World Arthritis Day observed on October 12

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

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

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

### Goa Maritime Symposium – 2018

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

### 'Workshop on Int Arbitration' Inaugurated

- In an effort to strengthen dispute resolution mechanisms, a workshop was organised on 'Best Practices in International Arbitration' in New Delhi on 10 October 2018.
- The workshop was organised by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the International Court of Arbitration.
- The workshop covered basic concepts of international arbitration, selection of arbitrators, and enforcement of arbitral award.

### 'Conference on Medical Products' Inaugurated

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

### World Mental Health Day - 10 October



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

#### World Post Day observed on 9 October

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

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

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

#### Indian Int Science Festival Inaugurated

- A four-day India International Science Festival (IISF) 2018 was inaugurated in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on 5 October 2018.
- The theme of this edition of Science Festival is "Science for Transformation".
- Another feature of IISF-2018 was 'Mega Science and Industry Expo' that highlighted the outstanding contributions of India in the field of science, technology, and industry.

#### World Teachers' Day observed on October 5

- World Teachers' Day, also known as International Teachers Day, is held annually on October 5.
- International Teachers Day is observed to commemorate the "Teaching in Freedom" pact signed on October 5, 1966 in Paris.
- The theme for 2018 is 'The right to education means the right to a qualified teacher'.
- Every year, UNESCO celebrates the day to promote the teaching profession.

#### World Animal Day: 4 October

- October 4th marks the World Animal Day, an international day of action for the rights and welfare of animals that is celebrated all around the world.

- The main focus of the Animal Day is to protect the endangered species, natural habitat and welfare of the animals
- The day started in 1931 in Florence, Italy to highlight the difficult state of endangered species.

#### Birth anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri

- The nation celebrates the 114th birth anniversary of **India's second Prime Minister** Lal Bahadur Shastri on October 2.
- He was the 2nd Prime Minister of India and a senior leader of the Indian National Congress political party.
- Prime Minister visited the Vijay Ghat to pay tributes to the former prime minister.
- Shastri **coined the slogan 'jai jawan jai kisan'**.

#### Int Day of Non-Violence observed on Oct 2

- The International Day of Non-Violence is observed on 2 October in honor of the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi.
- The International Day of Non-Violence is a global observance that promotes non-violence through education and public awareness.
- On 15 June 2007 the United Nations General Assembly establish 2 October as the International Day of Non-Violence.

#### Int Day of Older Persons observed on 1st Oct

- International Day of Older Persons is observed on 1st October every year.
- The theme for 2018 is 'Celebrating Older Human Rights champions'.
- The objective of the International Day for Older Persons is to recognise the contributions of older persons and to examine issues that affect their lives.

### International Affairs

#### '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.

#### 2nd Int. Conference On Primary Health Care

- JP Nadda, Minister for Health and Family Welfare addressed the **'Second Plenary Session of '2nd International Conference on Primary Health Care towards UHC & SDGs', at Astana, Kazakhstan**.
- The conference aims to renew the commitment to primary health care to achieve universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Mr Nadda spoke on the theme "The Future of Primary Health Care"**.

#### Mahinda Rajapaksa became new PM of Sri Lanka

- Former President Mahinda Rajapakse was sworn in as the new Prime minister of Sri Lanka.
- He replaced Ranil Wickremesinghe.
- Mr. Rajapaksa was administered the oath by the President Maithripala Sirisena at his office in Colombo.

#### Soyuz rocket successfully launched by Russia

- On 25th October 2018, Russia successfully launched a Soyuz rocket for the first time since the failure of a similar rocket on 11th October 2018.

- Soyuz-2.1B rocket has successfully carried a satellite for the Russian military.
- It was the third launch of a Soyuz rocket from **Russia's northern Plesetsk launch pad in 2018**.

#### NATO's biggest peacetime drill launched

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) biggest military exercise, 'Trident Juncture 2018', since the Cold War has started in Norway on 25 October 2018.
- The exercise brought together around 50,000 personnel from all 29 NATO allies, plus partners Finland and Sweden.
- The exercise will run till 7 November 2018 in central and eastern Norway, the North Atlantic and the Baltic Sea.

#### Ethiopia appointed first female President

- Ethiopia's parliament has appointed the country's first female President, Sahle-Work Zewde.
- Sahle-Work has been Ethiopia's ambassador to France, Djibouti, Senegal, and the regional bloc, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.
- Just prior to her appointment as President, she was the UN's top official at the African Union.
- As President she is expected to serve two six-year terms.

#### Sakharov prize awarded to filmmaker Sentsov

- The European Parliament awarded the prestigious Sakharov human rights prize to jailed Ukrainian filmmaker Oleg Sentsov on 25 October 2018.
- The Sakharov Prize was set up in 1988.
- It is awarded every year to individuals or organizations that have made an important contribution to the fight for human rights or democracy.

#### Military exercise 'Iron Magic 19' begins

- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the US on 21 October 2018 kicked off a two-week military exercise named 'Iron Magic 19'.
- The exercise seeks to reinforce cooperation, joint actions and exchange of expertise in military areas.
- The last 'Iron Magic' military exercise was held in 2017.

#### European Parliament bans single-use plastics

- The European Parliament has voted for a complete ban on a range of single-use plastics in an effort to tackle pollution in seas, fields and waterways.
- Items such as plastic straws, cotton swabs, disposable plastic plates and cutlery would be banned by 2021.
- There are also measures to ensure that 90% of plastic bottles are recycled by 2025.

#### World's oldest known shipwreck has been found

- An ancient Greek trading ship dating back more than 2,400 years has been found virtually intact at the bottom of the Black Sea.
- The vessel is one of more than 60 shipwrecks identified by the Black Sea Maritime Archaeology Project.
- Researchers used specialist remote deep-water camera systems to map the sea floor.

#### Pakistan & Russia have begun military drills

- Pakistan and Russia have begun annual joint military drills named 'Druzhba-III' in Pakistan on 22 October 2018.
- This is the third joint military drill between Pakistan and Russia under the bilateral training cooperation agreement.
- Russia and Pakistan have been holding the 'Friendship' drills since 2016.
- In October 2016, they held their first-ever joint military exercise in Pakistan.

#### US will pull out of nuclear arms treaty

- The US announced that it is pulling out of the 'Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty' with Russia.
- The treaty was signed in 1987.
- The treaty prohibits the US and Russia from possessing, producing or test-flying a ground-launched cruise missile with a range of about 480 to 5,470 kilometres.
- The treaty also offered a blanket of protection to the United States' European allies.

#### Hurricane Willa approaching towards Mexico

- Hurricane Willa has grown rapidly into an 'extremely dangerous' near-Category 5 storm in the eastern Pacific and is moving towards Mexico's western coast.
- The hurricane was recognised as 'life-threatening' by the US National Hurricane Center (NHC).
- It has maximum sustained winds of about 130 miles per hour (209 km).

#### Climate fund approved US\$ 1 Billion

- A UN-backed Green Climate Fund (GCF) has approved more than \$1 billion for 19 new projects to help developing countries tackle climate change.
- The funding has been approved for the projects linked to geothermal energy in Indonesia, greener cities in Europe and West Asia, and protection for coastal communities in India.
- The GCF is based in the Incheon, South Korea.

#### 2019 Military World Games in China

- The 2019 Military World Games will be held in China.
- It will for the first time include badminton, tennis, table tennis and men's gymnastics.

- The Military World Games is a multi-sport event for the armed forces being organised by the International Military Sports Council every four years since 1995.
- India hosted the games in 2007.

#### Amphibious plane completed maiden flight test

- China's indigenously designed and built amphibious aircraft 'AG600' successfully carried out its first take-off and landing tests on 20 October 2018.
- The aircraft has been developed and built by Aviation Industry Corporation of China.
- The aircraft code-named 'Kunlong' was piloted by four crew members.
- It will be mainly used for maritime rescue, fighting forest fires and marine monitoring.

#### World's longest bridge to be opened on 24 Oct

- The world's longest sea bridge 'Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge' will be opened on 24 October 2018.
- The 55-kilometre-long bridge is situated in the Lingdingyang waters of the Pearl River Estuary.
- The bridge connects the cities of Hong Kong, Macau and Zhuhai across the South China Sea.
- The construction of the bridge begun in December 2009.

#### China & ASEAN will hold joint naval exercises

- China and Southeast Asian Nations will hold their first joint maritime exercises from 22 October 2018.
- The navies of China and ASEAN countries will hold 'ASEAN-China Maritime Exercise' in the South China Sea.
- The exercise with China's navy will include operations like maritime safety, medical evacuation, and search and rescue procedures.

#### Druk Nyamrup to form new govt in Bhutan

- The Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa (DNT) will form the new government in Bhutan.
- The party has won 30 seats in 47 member National Assembly.
- DNT President Dr Lotay Tshering won from South Thimphu constituency and he is set to form the new government.
- This is the first time in Bhutan's decade-old parliamentary democracy that a new party has been chosen to form the government.

#### US announced fresh sanctions on Iran

- The United States Treasury has announced fresh sanctions on Iran, targeting banks and investment companies.
- The new sanctions focused on Bank Mellat and Mehr Eqtasad Bank.
- The US is also imposing sanctions on Iran Tractor Manufacturing Company, Steel Company and others linked to investment, commodities and engineering.



### Putin, al-Sisi signed co-operation treaty

- Russian President Vladimir Putin and the President of Egypt Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi have signed a strategic co-operation treaty.
- The treaty, designed to increase trade, military and other ties, was signed on 17 October 2018 in Sochi, Russia.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed on strategic political consultations was signed **between the two countries' foreign ministries.**

### China tests world's largest unmanned drone

- China has successfully tested the world's largest** unmanned transport drone which can carry a payload of 1.5 tonnes.
- A large commercial drone 'Feihong-98 (FH-98)' was developed and modified by China Academy of Aerospace Electronics Technology.
- It was adapted from the prototype of the Shifei Y5B, a China-developed transport plane.

### Cannabis became legal in Canada

- Canada has become the second country to legalise possession and use of recreational marijuana.
- Medical marijuana has been legal in Canada since 2001.
- Uruguay was the first country to legalise marijuana, in 2013.
- For buying marijuana, consumers must be at least 18 years old, and the production, distribution or sale of cannabis products is an offence for minors.

### Palestinians to lead developing country bloc

- The Palestinians will lead the biggest bloc of developing countries at the United Nations.
- On 16 October 2018, the General Assembly voted to grant Palestine temporary rights to act as chair of the 'Group of 77 plus China'.
- A resolution drafted by Egypt was adopted by a vote of 146 to 3 with 15 abstentions.

### Festival of Fulpati celebrated in Nepal

- The festival of 'Fulpati' was celebrated in various parts of Nepal on 17 October 2018.
- Fulpati is observed on the seventh day of Dashain festival.
- Dashain is the biggest festival of Nepal and it began on first day of Navratri.
- The tradition started during the period of King Prithvi Narayan Shah.

### 6th RCEP Ministerial Meeting in Singapore

- The 6th RCEP Inter-sessional Ministerial Meeting (IMM) was held in Singapore on 12-13 October, 2018.
- The Ministers from 16 RCEP countries discussed a modern, comprehensive and mutually beneficial economic partnership agreement among ASEAN and ASEAN's FTA partners.
- Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between ASEAN countries.

### Hurricane Leslie heading to Portugal, Spain

- Hurricane Leslie is heading toward Portugal and Spain.
- The Category 1 storm was about 910 km southwest of Lisbon, Portugal, and about 320 km northwest of Madeira, the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said.
- Leslie is moving northeast at 36 mph and it has maximum sustained winds of 80 mph.
- The storm is expected to pass north of Madeira.

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

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

### Malaysia abolishes capital punishment

- Malaysia's cabinet has agreed to abolish the death penalty and halt pending executions.



- Capital punishment in Malaysia is currently mandatory for murder, kidnapping, possession of firearms and drug trafficking, among other crimes.
- In April 2017, human rights group Amnesty International ranked Malaysia 10th in the use of the death penalty.

#### Pak successfully test-fired Ghauri missile

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

#### Nikki Haley resigned from United Nations

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

#### China launched two remote sensing satellites

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

#### Ukraine launched large-scale air exercises

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

#### Suu Kyi stripped of Canadian citizenship

- Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi became the first person to be stripped of honorary Canadian citizenship on 2 Oct 2018.
- The decision was made over her refusal to call out atrocities by her nation's military against the Rohingya Muslim minority.
- The move was made official after Canada's Senate voted to revoke the symbolic honour.

- The House of Commons granted the privilege to Suu Kyi in 2007.

#### ADB sanctions USD 180 million to Nepal

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has sanctioned a soft loan of \$180 million for the upgradation of Nepal's 1,000 km-long East-West Highway.
- The project will improve and rehabilitate about 87 km between Kanchanpur and Kamala on the East-West Highway.
- The improvement of the road will boost the efficiency of Nepal's transport system.

#### Mount Soputan erupts in Indonesia

- Indonesia's Mount Soputan volcano erupts on the tsunami-hit island of Sulawesi.
- **The authorities raised the volcano's** status to Level III of the four-level national alert system.
- It is about 1,000 km from the town of Palu where a 7.5 magnitude earthquake triggered a tsunami.
- Indonesia is situated on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", where frequent quakes and volcanic activity strikes.

#### Stamps on International Day of Non-Violence

- The UN postal agency issued a new collection of stamps in commemoration of the International Day of Non-violence, marked on Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary.
- Stamps feature artistic interpretation of 'The Knotted Gun', an iconic global sculpture.
- The sculpture was created by the Swedish artist Carl Fredrik Reuterswrd as a tribute to Beatles member John Lennon after his murder.

#### WHO launched global guidelines on sanitation

- The World Health Organization (WHO) launched the first global guidelines on sanitation and health.
- The WHO said that by adopting its new guidelines, countries can significantly reduce diarrhoeal deaths due to unsafe water and poor sanitation and hygiene.
- The new guidelines were developed because current sanitation programmes are not achieving anticipated health gains.

#### U.S., Canada agree on free trade pact

- Canada and the U.S. have agreed on a new free trade pact that will include Mexico.
- The new trade deal will be known as the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).
- USMCA replaces the nearly 25-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).
- The trade pact will come up for review every six years.

### National Affairs

#### 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.

#### 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.

### Railways to build world's highest railway line

- Indian Railways is building the world's highest rail lines that will connect Ladakh with Delhi.
- The location survey of the first phase is complete. The final location survey is expected to be completed in 30 months after which a detailed project report will be finalised.
- The national transporter plans to build a strategically-important Bilaspur-Manali- Leh line along the Indo-China border.

### 24th edition of Technology Summit at New Delhi

- India will host the 24th edition of Technology Summit with Italy as the partner country.
- The two-day summit will be inaugurated on 29th October 2018.
- This is the first time that Italy has been selected as a partner country for this prestigious event.
- The Summit is envisaged to serve as a wide-ranging knowledge-business partnership platform.

### International Arya Mahasammelan inaugurated

- The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the International Arya Mahasammelan on 25 October 2018 in Delhi.
- This is the 11th such international Arya Mahasammelan since 2006.
- Issues such as prevention of superstition, modernisation, women empowerment, tribal welfare, and management of natural calamities will be discussed at the convention.

### KIIFB to list masala bonds

- The Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) will list masala bonds in the London and Singapore Stock Exchanges.
- The bonds are being floated to mobilise resources for infrastructure projects in Kerala.
- KIIFB had obtained clearance from the Reserve Bank of India.
- The KIIFB expects an interest of 9+ or 9- for the rupee-denominated borrowings.

### Kaiga station's Unit-1 created world record

- The 'Kaiga Generating Station' has created a world record for the longest uninterrupted operation of units having Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs).
- Unit-1 of Kaiga Generating Station (KGS-1) completed 895 days of continuous operation.
- The earlier record for PHWRs was held by Unit-7 of Pickering Nuclear Generating Station at Ontario, Canada which operated continuously for 894 days.

### PM Modi inaugurated the 'Krishi Kumbh 2018'

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Krishi Kumbha 2018-a mega farmers' conclave in Lucknow on 26 October 2018.

- The aim of the conclave is to promote modern technique and diversification in agriculture that could help farmers to double their income.
- Israel and Japan are official partners of Krishi Kumbh 2018.
- Haryana and Jharkhand are the partner states for Krishi Kumbha 2018.

#### Gogha- Dahej Ferry service ready to start

- Gogha- Dahej Ro-Pax Ferry service will be inaugurated in Gujarat on 27 October 2018.
- The ferry service is a part of Sagarmala programme of the Ministry of Shipping.
- The ferry service has a carrying capacity of 100 vehicles and 500 passengers.
- The ferry will travel through the sea route by crossing the Gulf in Cambay.

#### Punjab government banned sale of herbicide

- The Punjab government has banned the sale of glyphosate.
- Glyphosate is a herbicide which is extensively used in the State to control a wide variety of weeds in almost all the crops.
- The chemical has been observed to be a Group 2A cancer-causing material.
- This chemical is also known for causing other health problems and has the potential to damage human DNA.

#### Ban on BS-IV vehicles from 2020

- The Supreme Court banned the sale and registration of motor vehicles conforming to the emission standard Bharat Stage-IV in the entire country from April 1, 2020.
- Bharat stage (BS) emission norms are standards instituted by the government to regulate output of air pollutants from motor vehicles.
- The BS IV norms have been enforced across the country since April 2017.

#### STAPCOR – 2018 was inaugurated

- Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the International Conference on Status and Protection of Coral Reefs (STAPCOR – 2018) at Bangaram coral Island in Lakshadweep on 22 October 2018.
- The theme of the conference is "Reef for Life".
- The conference was organised Lakshadweep Administration with the technical support of the Zoological Survey of India

#### Experts' group to cut schoolbag weight formed

- Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) informed the Madras High Court that an Expert Group has been formed to formulate a draft policy on reducing the weight of school bags.
- MHRD had issued an order on 5 October 2018 to formulate a policy on school bags.

- Professor Ranjana Arora of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is the convenor of the Expert Group.

#### Longest river bridge to be built in Assam

- The government of India has announced to build a new bridge over the Brahmaputra river.
- The 19.3 km, the four-lane bridge will be built by 2026-27.
- It will run between Dhubri in Assam and Phulbari in Meghalaya.
- **India's longest river bridge at present, which is 9.15 km long, lies between Dhola and Sadiya in Assam.**

#### No ban on fire crackers: Supreme Court

- The Supreme Court has refused to impose a nationwide blanket ban on the sale of firecrackers.
- It said only 'green firecrackers' will be allowed to be sold.
- It also imposed timing restrictions on burning firecrackers on Diwali.
- The Supreme Court's verdict came in response to a plea seeking a ban on the manufacturing and sale of firecrackers across the country to curb air pollution.

#### 'Harit Diwali-Swasth Diwali' campaign launched

- Environment Ministry has launched 'Harit Diwali-Swasth Diwali' campaign on 22 October 2018.
- This campaign was initiated in 2017-18 wherein a large number of school children participated and took the pledge to minimize bursting of crackers.
- In 2018, the 'Harit Diwali-Swasth Diwali' campaign **has been merged with "Green Good Deed"** movement.

#### Sagar conference inaugurated in Goa

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the 'Sagar' conference at Goa on 23 October 2018.
- It was organised by the Forum for Integrated National Security (FINS).
- The aim of the conference was to highlight the technological, economic and developmental opportunities with opening up of outer space.
- FINS is a Mumbai based think tank working on national security and strategy.

#### Indian Carpet Expo in Varanasi inaugurated

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurated 36th Indian Carpet Expo in Varanasi on 21 October 2018.
- The expo is being organised under the aegis of the Deen Dayal Hastkala Sankul – a trade facilitation centre for handicrafts – at Varanasi..
- The expo has become a world-famous international fair amongst the buyers of Handmade carpets, rugs and other floor coverings.

#### 200 'Nirmal' Ganga projects to be completed



- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said that the government intends to complete 200 projects for ghats and crematoria.
- The government is taking various measures to ensure ecological flow or the minimum quantity of water at different stretches of the Ganga.
- The government had in May 2015 approved Rs 20,000 crore under its ambitious 'Namami Gange'.

#### #MeToo: SC declined urgent hearing of PIL

- The Supreme Court declined urgent hearing on a PIL seeking the registration of FIRs based on allegations of sexual misconduct and assault levelled by women across various sectors,
- **It is a part of what is being referred to as India's #MeToo movement.**
- #MeToo spread virally in October 2017 on social media in an attempt to demonstrate the widespread prevalence of sexual assault and harassment.

#### 27th Fusion Energy Conference inaugurated

- The 27th Fusion Energy Conference (FEC) was inaugurated in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on 22 October 2018.
- The six-day event is organised by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and hosted by the Department of Atomic Energy and Gandhinagar-based Institute of Plasma Research.
- FEC aims to provide a forum for the discussion of key physics and technology issues.

#### NITI Lecture Series on artificial Intelligence

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the fourth edition of the NITI Lecture Series focussed on 'leveraging artificial intelligence for inclusive growth' on 22 October 2018.
- The 2018 theme for the lecture series was 'AI for All: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Inclusive Growth'.
- The lecture series is part of the National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence.

#### Global meet on maternal, child health

- India will be hosting 'The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health' forum in December 2018.
- The meeting will be on issues related to maternal and child health.
- The forum will be hosted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in collaboration with the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health.
- This is the 2nd time India is hosting the forum -- the first was in 2010.

#### Renaming of Allahabad approved by UP Governor

- Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Ram Naik approved the renaming of Allahabad as Prayagraj on 20 October 2018.

- The name of the district has been approved by the Governor under section 6, subdivision 2 of the Uttar Pradesh Revenue Code, 2006.
- The proposal to rename the historic city of Allahabad as Prayagraj was approved by the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet on 16 October 2018.
- National award in Netaji's name announced
- Prime Minister Modi announced an annual award in the name of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose for police and paramilitary forces on 21 October 2018.
- The award will be given to police personnel who do excellent work in relief and rescue operations.
- The award will be announced on January 23, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's birthday.

#### 4 Himalayan peaks named after Atal Bihari

- Four unnamed Himalayan peaks near Gangotri glacier have been named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- The peaks are located at 6,557, 6,566, 6,160 and 6,100 metres on the right flank of Gangotri glacier.
- Located near Sudarshan and Saifi peaks in Raktvan valley, the peaks have been named Atal-1, 2, 3 and 4.

#### First cruise service launched b/w Mumbai & Goa

- India's first luxury cruise ship service was launched between Mumbai and Goa on 21 October 2018.
- India's first ever passenger cruise ship service is a joint venture between Mumbai Port Trust and Angriya Sea Eagle Pvt Ltd.
- The cruise ship Angriya has been named after first the Maratha Navy Admiral Kanhoji Angre.
- The Cruise can accommodate 400 passengers along with 70 crew members.

#### GSI to organise exhibition of rocks, minerals

- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) will organise a two-day exhibition 'Bhusampada 2018' of rocks, minerals and fossils from 22 October 2018.
- Various scientific instruments being used in surveys, mineral exploration, remote sensing, earthquake geology will be displayed at the exhibition.
- The event will provide a suitable platform for students to interact with geo-scientists.

#### Prez Kovind to inaugurate Peace Conference

- President Ram Nath Kovind will inaugurate a three-day 'Vishwa Shanti Ahimsa Sammelan' (peace conference) in Nashik district of Maharashtra on October 22, 2018.
- 'Vishwa Shanti Ahimsa Sammelan' is organised by Bhagwan Rishabhdev Murti Nirmaan Samiti.
- President Kovind will also present the first international 'Bhagwan Rishabhdev Award' to Teerthanker Mahaveer University.

#### WDC meet in Mumbai from Oct. 22

- The World Diamond Council (WDC) will hold its 14th annual general meeting in Mumbai on October 22 - 23, 2018.
- The meeting will be hosted by The Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council.
- The focus will be on reforming the Kimberley Process and WDC System of Warranties.
- Kimberley Process was established in 2000 to **prevent 'conflict diamonds' from entering the mainstream rough diamond market.**

#### 6th meeting of NDMA held

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the sixth meeting of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) at New Delhi on 18 October 2018.
- NDMA is an agency of the Ministry of Home Affairs
- NDMA was established through the Disaster Management Act enacted by the Government of India in May 30 2005.
- The Prime Minister is the ex-officio chairperson of NDMA.

#### Hry to form GST Appellate Tribunal

- Haryana Government has decided to constitute State Bench of Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal in Hisar for speedy settlement of matters related to Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- The State Government would soon send its request to the Central Government.
- Central GST Act, 2017 provides that the Central Government would constitute an Appellate Tribunal known as GST Tribunal.

#### Festival to promote organic farming

- The Women and Child Development Ministry will organise the fifth edition of the 'Women of India Organic Festival' in Delhi.
- It will be held from 26 October 2018 to 4 November 2018.
- The move aims to empower women to boost organic culture and promote women organic farmers and entrepreneurs.
- Women entrepreneurs would be coming together from across the country with their organic products

#### PM Modi to inaugurate Police Memorial & Museum

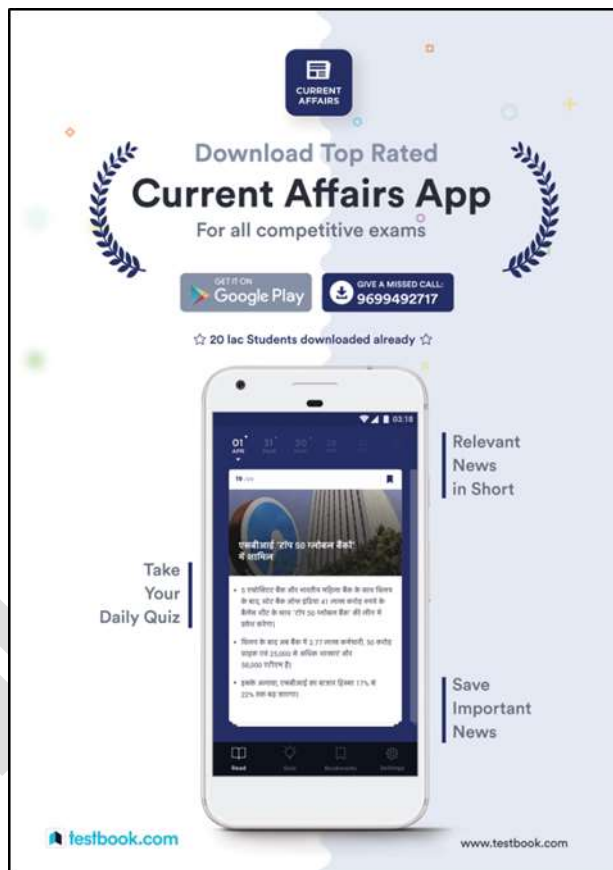
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the refurbished National Police Memorial and museum in Delhi on 21 October 2018.
- The museum will show the history, artefacts, uniform and gear of central and state police forces.
- The museum project is being steered by the Intelligence Bureau (IB) in coordination with the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs).

#### Two apps launched by North Central Railways

- The North Central Railways (NCR) launched two apps - 'NCR RASTA' (Railway assets Summarised

Tracking Application) and 'Yatri RASTA' (Railway Approach to Station Tracking Application).

- The 'NCR RASTA' app is for the use of railway officers and staff and has the exact mapping of all railway assets.
- The 'Yatri RASTA' app will allow the general public to locate the railway stations easily.



#### Conclave on Capital Goods in Steel Sector

- Ministry of Steel will organise a Conclave on "Capital goods in Steel sector: Manufacture in India" in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, on 23 October 2018.
- The conclave is an initiative to promote domestic capacity and capability building and manufacturing of capital goods in the steel sector.
- It is being organized with the support of MECON and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

#### National meet to promote Investment in AYUSH

- The Government of India will organise the 'First National Summit on Invest in AYUSH' on 4 November 2018.
- The aim is to encourage various public sector undertakings and private firms to invest in AYUSH.
- The event is jointly organised by NITI Aayog and Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.

#### 'Statue of Unity' to be unveiled on 31st Oct

- The 'Statue of Unity' dedicated to the 'Iron Man of India' Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is all set to be

unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 31st October 2018.

- 'Statue of Unity' is the world's tallest statue.
- It is situated at Sadhu Bet island on Narmada River in Gujarat.
- The foundation stone of this project was laid on 31st October 2013.

#### Man-animal conflict a State Declared Disaster

- Uttar Pradesh government has announced that the man-animal conflict will now be considered a 'State Declared Disaster'.
- This will bring such incidents under the ambit of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).
- In cases of human death due to man-animal conflict, relief of Rs 5 lakh would be given to the family of deceased.
- Uttar Pradesh has 23 wildlife sanctuaries across 27 districts.

#### Kerala set to become first smoke-free State

- Kerala is set to become the first smoke-free State in the country with public sector oil companies eyeing 100% LPG penetration.
- The target has almost been achieved in most villages, mofussil towns and cities in the State.
- With three bottling plants at Kochi, Kozhikode, and Kollam, LPG is being brought to 49.79 lakh customers through 308 distributors.

#### Shahi litchi of North Bihar gets GI tag

- The Shahi litchi of North Bihar has got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- It is the fourth product from the state after Jardalu mango, Katarni rice and Magahi paan to have got the GI tag.
- Shahi Litchi is mainly cultivated in Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Vaishali, East Champaran and Begusarai and some parts of adjoining areas in agro-climatic areas of the Bihar.

#### Govt launched 'Swastha Bharat Yatra' campaign

- The government launched a national campaign 'Swastha Bharat Yatra' on the occasion of World Food Day on 16 October 2018.
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is leading this campaign to create consumer awareness about eating safe and nutritious food for becoming healthy.
- Under the campaign, cycle rally is being organised to sensitise people about eating safe food.

#### Korean War memorial to be built in Delhi

- A Korean War memorial will be built in New Delhi to **commemorate India's role** in the war which ended in 1953.
- The idea to build the memorial was proposed by the Korean War Veterans Association in India.

- As of now, there are Korean War memorials in about 20 countries around the world which had played a significant role in the war.

#### Bharosa women's centre inaugurated

- 'Bharosa', a 24-hour state-of-the-art centre to support women and children who are victims of violence and in distress, was inaugurated in Hyderabad Police on 16 October 2018 in Hyderabad.
- The centre would help these women along with dealing in POCSO cases.
- The centre is run by all women staff and provides counselling to women who face sexual assault or sexual abuse.

#### Andaman's Restricted Area Permit relaxed

- Foreign tourists can now visit Andaman and Nicobar Islands without any restrictions.
- The step was taken to boost the foreign tourist arrivals in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs had removed 29 inhabited Islands of Andaman and Nicobar Islands under the Foreigners (Restricted Area) Order, 1963 from Restricted Area Permit (RAP) Regime till 31 December 2022.

#### EC launched 'C-vigil' app

- The Election Commission of India is introducing the unique internet based mobile app C-vigil in the upcoming assembly polls.
- The 'C-vigil stands for citizens vigil' and will be operationalized for the first time as a pilot project.
- The C-Vigil mobile application gives the common man the opportunity to click pictures and take videos of violations and send it to concerned election officers.

#### IRCTC launched AI chatbot 'Ask Disha'

- The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) launched a chatbot, Ask Disha.
- It is aimed at facilitating accessibility by answering users' queries pertaining to various services offered by IRCTC.
- Ask Disha- is powered by artificial intelligence (AI).
- The Ask Disha chatbot has been developed by IRCTC and CoRover Private Limited.

#### International Silk Fair to begin on 16 Oct

- 6th edition of India International Silk Fair (IISF) will be inaugurated in New Delhi on October 16, 2018.
- At the event, 108 exhibitors of silk and blended silk will display their products.
- The fair is organised by the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council.
- India is the second largest producer of silk in the world.

#### 46th edition of IHGF-Delhi Fair Autumn-2018

- Minister of State for Textiles Ajay Tamta inaugurated **the 46th edition of world's largest IHGF-Delhi Fair** at India Expo Centre and Mart at Greater Noida on 14 October 2018.
- The fair, IHGF is held biannually and is organised by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts.
- The fair will remain open till 18th October, 2018.

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

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

#### 13th convention of CIC inaugurated

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

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

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

#### India's biggest Zika outbreak in Jaipur

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

#### Over 900 prisoners get special remission

- As part of the commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, over 900 prisoners have been released in the first phase of the

Government's scheme for grant of special remission to specific categories of prisoners.

- The decision was taken by the Union Cabinet on July 18, 2018.
- The prisoners will be released in three phases- October 2, 2018, April 6, 2019, and October 2, 2019.

#### Silver Jubilee celebrations of NHRC began

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

#### Centre for 4th Industrial Revolution launched

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

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

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

#### AIM & IBM India design Internship Programme

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

#### 32nd conference of WUWM inaugurated

- Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Purushottam Rupala inaugurated the 32nd world conference of 'World Union of Wholesale Markets' (WUWM).
- The Conference was held at Gurugram, Haryana on 11 October 2018.



- The theme of the conference is 'The Wholesale Markets in the Digital Era: Challenges and Opportunities'.

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

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

#### BPCL to commission 2G ethanol plant

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

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

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

#### Army Commanders' Conference began in Delhi

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

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

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

#### Jharkhand to become partner state at GIIF

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

#### Investor summit inaugurated in Dehradun

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

#### Vaccination of Gir lions against deadly virus

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

#### Task Force launched to address skill gaps

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

#### EC announced election dates for 5 states

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

#### Government of India reconstituted EPCA

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

#### 'India Skills 2018' concludes

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

#### Foundation stone of key railway projects laid

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

#### Museum of Goa plans 'flying art'

- The Museum of Goa (MoG) Foundation will hold a "colourful flying exhibition" titled "Freedom is in the air" from 10 to 30th November 2018.
- The exhibition is being organised to celebrate the striking down of Section 377 of India Penal Code by the Supreme Court of India.
- An airborne installation in the colours of the rainbow is being planned as part of the event.

#### NGT allowed Chardham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojna

- The National Green Tribunal has cleared the 'Chardham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojna'.
- The project proposes to provide all-weather connectivity to four holy towns of Uttarakhand.
- NGT formed a committee to monitor the project.
- The committee will be headed by former Uttarakhand High Court Judge Justice U C Dhyani to oversee the implementation of Environment Management Plan (EMP) of the project.

#### 'Methanol Cooking Fuel Program' launched

- Northeast and Assam Petro-chemicals Ltd. launched Asia's first canister based and India's first 'Methanol Cooking Fuel Program'.
- 500 households inside the Assam Petro Complex will be the first pilot project.
- This technology handles methanol extremely safely, does not need a regulator or any piping system.

- Ritu Bordoloi became India's first owner of a cooking stove fuelled by methanol.

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### GI Tag for Alphonso from Konkan

- Alphonso from Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Palghar, Thane, and Raigad districts of Maharashtra got Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Alphonso is better known as 'Hapus' in Maharashtra.**
- A GI tag is an indication used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.

### Property worth Rs 2.97 crores stolen from IR

- A recent data released by the Western Railway about the number of items sold from trains should put all of us to shame.
- Last year, passengers riding the trains stole 1.95 lakh towels, 81,736 bed-sheets, 55,573 pillow covers, 5,038 pillows, and 7,043 blankets.
- As per the report, a loss of around Rs 4,000 crores has been incurred by the Indian Railways over the last three fiscals.

### NGT directs railways to submit action plan

- The National Green Tribunal has directed the railways to submit an action plan for maintaining cleanliness on platforms and tracks.
- The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) will conduct its performance audit at regular intervals.
- NGT also directed to follow the 'Swachh Railway Schemes – Standard Operating Procedures' and submit action report.

### Swachh Survekshan Grameen Awards 2018

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave awards to top Ranked State, District and State based on the Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018.
- Haryana was ranked as the best State while Satara District of Maharashtra was ranked as the best district as per the ranking undertaken by Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018.
- Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation had commissioned "Swachh Survekshan Grameen-2018".

### AFSPA extended in 3 districts in Arunachal

- The Union government has extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act in three districts of Arunachal Pradesh declaring them as 'disturbed area'.
- The 3 districts are Tirap, Changlang, and Longding.
- Armed Forces Act, 1958 in these areas has been extended up to March 31, 2019 w.e.f. October 1, 2018.
- AFSPA grants special powers to the Indian Armed Forces in 'disturbed areas'.

### Conference on 'Women in Detention' in Shimla

- First Regional Conference on 'Women in Detention and Access to Justice' was organised in Shimla on 4 October 2018.

- The conference was organised by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) in collaboration with the Prison Department, Himachal Pradesh.
- The Conference will be in the form of panel discussions with keynote speakers who are experts in the domain areas.

### Redevelopment of Railway Stations by IRSDC

- The Union Cabinet has approved the redevelopment of Railway Stations by Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC) as Nodal Agency.
- The redevelopment will be done through simplified procedures adapting various business model and for longer lease tenure of up to 99 years.
- IRSDC is a joint venture between IRCON and RLDA with a 51:49 equity shareholding

### National Khadi Festival 2018 inaugurated

- A month-long National Khadi Festival 2018 has been inaugurated on 2 Oct 2018, by Union MSME minister, Shri Giriraj Singh.
- The fest is being organized by Khadi and Village Industries Commission at Mumbai.
- Various types of Khadi products of different states would be available at the festival.
- Around 100 institutions from all over of the country are participating in the exhibition.

### SIDBI launched 'Udyam Abhilasha' campaign

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), had launched a National Level Entrepreneurship Awareness Campaign, Udyam Abhilasha on 2 October 2018.
- The campaign was launched in 115 Aspirational Districts identified by NITI Aayog.
- The campaign would create and strengthen cadre of more than 800 trainers to provide entrepreneurship training to the aspiring entrepreneurs.

### PM inaugurated first assembly of the ISA

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 1st Assembly of the International Solar Alliance on 2 October 2018 in New Delhi.
- The same event also marked the inauguration of the 2nd IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting, and the 2nd Global RE-Invest (Renewable Energy Investors' Meet and Expo).
- The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Antonio Guterres, was present on the occasion.

### Government took control of IL&FS

- The government of India took control of Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS) on 1 October 2018.
- The government replaced its board and appointed new board members.

- Uday Kotak was named as non-executive chairman of the new board.
- The government moved the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for replacing the IL&FS Board.

### BCCI comes under RTI Act

- Central Information Commission brings The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is covered under the RTI Act.
- CIC directed the BCCI to form, online and offline mechanisms to receive applications for information under the RTI Act within 15 days.
- The BCCI is the national governing body for cricket in India formed in December 1928.

### New LNG terminal at Anjar inaugurated

- The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi inaugurated the Mundra LNG terminal, the Anjar-Mundra Pipeline Project and the Palanpur-Pali-Barmer pipeline project, at Anjar, Gujarat on 30 September 2018.
- The LNG terminal is promoted by Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
- India has two more LNG terminals, Dabhol in Maharashtra and Kochi in Kerala.

### Peace Padyatra in in the Red heartland

- Around 150 people, from various states affected by the Maoist insurgency, will begin a 186-km long 'Peace Padyatra' on 1 Oct.
- The Peace Padyatra will start from the Shabri Gandhi Ashram in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh to the Jagdalpur town of Bastar.
- The padyatris will walk along the National Highway 30, that passes through the Sukma district of Chhattisgarh.

## India & World

### 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.

#### PM Modi on a two-day visit to Japan

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a two-day visit to Japan from 28 October 2018.
- The Prime Minister will attend the 13th India-Japan annual summit.
- He will also hold bilateral talks with Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.
- He will visit Yamanashi prefecture at the foothills of Mount Fuji and also address community function in Tokyo.

#### India and Bangladesh signed three agreements

- India and Bangladesh signed three agreements on 25 October 2018.
- The agreement were signed for enhancing inland and coastal waterways connectivity between the two countries for trade and cruise movements.
- It includes the use Chattogram and Mongla Ports in Bangladesh for goods movement.
- They also signed a standard operating procedure (SOP) for movement of passenger and cruise services.

#### MoU amongst BRICS nations approved

- The Union Cabinet has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among BRICS regarding cooperation in the social and labour sphere.
- The MoU was signed on 3 August 2018 during BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers (LEM) Meeting.
- In the MoU, the parties including India have agreed to cooperate and hold mutual events in the prominent areas viz. labour legislation and enforcement.

#### MoU on on Environmental Cooperation approved

- The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed among the BRICS Nations on Environmental Cooperation.
- The MoU was signed during the 10th BRICS Summit in July 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- The MoU shall facilitate the exchange of experiences, best practices among the BRICS nations.

#### Extradition treaty with Malawi approved

- The Union Cabinet has approved the signing and ratification of the Extradition Treaty between India and Malawi on 24 October 2018.

- The treaty would provide a legal framework for seeking extradition of terrorists, economic offenders and other criminals from and to Malawi.
- Malawi is a landlocked country in Africa.
- The capital of Malawi is Lilongwe and its currency is Malawian kwacha.

#### 45 Indian companies participate in SIAL Paris

- Forty-five Indian companies are participating in the SIAL Paris exhibition – the largest international market place for food service professionals.
- SIAL Paris is the leading exhibition of food service products.
- SIAL Paris is held every two years, and is famous for culinary demonstrations by famous chefs every day.

#### India, Iran, Afghanistan held meeting

- India, Afghanistan and Iran held their first trilateral meeting on Chabahar port project on 23 October 2018 in Tehran.
- The Indian delegation was led by Secretary (Economic Relations) TS Tirumurti.
- The Afghan and Iran delegations were led by respective deputy ministers of Transport.
- The next meeting of the Coordination Council will be held in India in the first half of 2019.

#### India – Czech Joint Commission meeting

- The eleventh session of India – Czech Republic Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation was held on 22 and 23 October 2018 at Prague.
- The Indian delegation was led by Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution, C. R. Chaudhary.
- Various issues like long-term study visa, strengthening of mutual Trade and investment relations were discussed.

#### MoU signed between India and Myanmar

- India and Myanmar signed the MoU for the appointment of a private operator for the operation and maintenance of Sittwe Port on 22 October 2018.
- The Sittwe port in Myanmar **will connect India's** landlocked north-east region to the Bay of Bengal through Mizoram.
- It will also provide an alternate route to Kolkata.

#### India, Croatia signed two agreements

- India and Croatia signed two agreements to strengthen cultural and diplomatic cooperation between the two countries on 22 October 2018.
- The agreements were signed and exchanged by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and her Croatian counterpart Marija Pejcinovic Buric.
- Buric is the first Croatian foreign minister to visit India after 17 years.

#### India,China signed security agreement

- India and China have signed the first-ever agreement on security cooperation on 22 October 2018.
- The agreement will strengthen and consolidate assistance in counter-terrorism, organised crimes, drug control, human trafficking and exchange of information.
- The agreement was signed by Union Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** and China's State Councilor and Minister of Public Security Zhao Kezhi.

### Modi, Wickremesinghe held talks in Delhi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with his Sri Lankan counterpart Ranil Wickremesinghe on 20 October 2018.
- They discussed a range of issues related to bilateral ties, including the progress of India-assisted development projects in the island nation.
- Wickremesinghe is on a three-day visit to India for boosting ties in a range of areas, including trade, investment and maritime security.

### IFC launched \$1 billion masala bond programme

- International Finance Corporation (IFC) has launched a \$1 billion masala bond programme to fund its investment activities in India.
- The first tranche of \$100 million under the programme was issued on London Stock Exchange.
- Masala bonds are rupee-denominated borrowings issued overseas.
- IFC is a member of the World Bank Group.

### Sitharaman to attend ADMM and ADMM-Plus

- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will attend 12th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) and the 5th ADMM-Plus in Singapore on 19 and 20 October 2018.
- The ADMM and ADMM-Plus serve as key Ministerial-level platforms in the regional security architecture, promoting strategic dialogue and practical cooperation between ASEAN and its partners.
- India is a full dialogue partner of the ASEAN.

### Sri Lanka constituted a committee

- Sri Lanka has set up a committee to formulate a strategy to help Sri Lankan businesses invest more into the Indian market.
- The 'Break Into India Strategy Committee' has been appointed by the Sri Lanka's Ministry of Development strategies and International trade.
- The committee is mandated with preparing an interim report and a market entry strategy before the end of 2018.

### India, China to sign agreement on security

- India and China will sign an internal security cooperation agreement on 22 October 2018.
- The proposed pact is expected to cover areas of intelligence sharing, exchange programme, sharing of best practices, cooperation in disaster mitigation.
- This will be the first such agreement between the authorities of India and China which look after internal security of the respective countries.

### Vice President to attend 'Asia Europe Meeting'

- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu left for Brussels in Belgium on 17 October 2018.
- He will lead the Indian delegation at the 12th Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit.
- The theme of 2018 ASEM Summit is "Global Partners for Global Challenges".
- The event is the highest platform for dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe in the areas of trade, investment, security and tourism.

### UAE – India meeting on Investments

- The sixth meeting of the UAE – India High-Level Joint Task Force on Investments ('the Joint Task Force') was held in Mumbai on 15 October 2018.
- India will soon set up a special UAE desk to facilitate investments and resolve any business issues between the two nations.
- The meeting was also attended by Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince's Court, Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

### India and China to train Afghan diplomats

- India and China have launched their first joint programme for Afghanistan to train its diplomats.
- An understanding to launch a joint programme in Afghanistan was reached during an informal summit between India and China in April 2018.
- 10 Afghan Diplomats will be travelling to India for the 1st India-China joint training programme for Afghan diplomats.

#### Important India & World news (8-13 Oct 2018)

- India has been elected to the United Nations' Human Rights Council with the highest vote among all candidates.
- **India's first India-Israel Innovation Centre (IIIC)**, an entrepreneurial technology hub, was launched in Bengaluru.

#### India-Azerbaijan signed protocol

- The 5th meeting of India-Azerbaijan Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade and Economic, Science and Technology Cooperation (IA-IGC) was held on 11-12 October 2018 in New Delhi.
- Both sides agreed to take measures to enhance trade relations and expand business relations.
- Novruz Mammadov is the PM of Azerbaijan.

#### First IIIC Opened in Bengaluru

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

#### India elected to UNHRC

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

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

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

#### Sushma Swaraj to attend SCO meeting

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

#### India, Tajikistan signed several MoUs

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

#### Indian and Russian Railways signed MoC

- A Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) was signed between the Ministry of Railways and joint-stock company Russian Railways.
- It includes the implementation of a speed-upgradation project in the Nagpur-Secunderabad section.
- It also includes setting up of a single traffic-control centre for managing mixed traffic at the local level.

#### India & ADB signed \$110 million loan agreement

- The government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$110 million loan agreement.
- The loan will be used for the upgradation of 2,800 kilometres all-weather rural roads in the State of Madhya Pradesh under the Prime Minister's Rural Roads Program.
- The overall program is aimed at improving rural connectivity, facilitating safer and more efficient access to transportation.

#### India signed \$5.43 billion S-400 missile deal

- India and Russia signed a \$5.43 billion deal for five S-400 missile system on 5 October 2018
- The deal was signed during a summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin.
- The S-400 is one of the world's most advanced long-range air defence systems.
- China was the first nation to buy the S-400 missile system from Russia in 2014.

#### Delhi Declaration on Renewable Energy adopted

- 21 countries in the Indian Ocean Rim Association, IORA, adopted the Delhi Declaration on Renewable Energy in the Indian Ocean Region.

- Delhi Declaration calls for collaboration among IORA member states to meet the growing demand for renewable energy.
- The declaration was adopted at second IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting held in Greater Noida.

#### Operation Samudra Maitri to assist Indonesia

- India has launched 'Operation Samudra Maitri' to assist victims of earthquake and tsunami in Sulawesi Province of Indonesia.
- Two Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft, C-130J, and C-17 departed carrying onboard medical personnel and relief material for Indonesia.
- Three Indian Naval Ships - INS Tir, INS Sujatha, and INS Shardul have also been mobilized to carry out disaster relief.

#### India and ADB Signed \$240 Million Loan

- The government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$240 million loan.
- The loan will be used for providing safe and sustainable drinking water in three districts of the state of West Bengal affected by arsenic, fluoride, and salinity.
- Water contamination due to arsenic and fluoride can lead to health problems including cancer and bone diseases.

### Personalities in News

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### Meenakshi Chaudhary won 1st runner-up title

- India's Meenakshi Chaudhary has been crowned the first runner-up of Miss Grand International 2018 at the sixth edition of the pageant held in Myanmar.
- Chaudhary was narrowly edged out by Paraguay's Clara Sosa for the top honour.

- Sosa succeeds Miss Grand International 2017 Maria Jose Lora of Peru.
- She has been the winner of fbb Colors Femina Miss Grand India 2018 title earlier.

#### Varun became ambassador of ARENA Channel

- Maruti Suzuki India announced Bollywood Superstar Varun Dhawan as the brand ambassador for Maruti Suzuki ARENA channel.
- **The youth icon will be the face of Maruti Suzuki's new marketing campaign 'A destination called you. A feeling called Maruti Suzuki ARENA.'**
- The Car Maker is working on the transformation of its retail network across India.

#### Mahinda Rajapaksa became new PM of Sri Lanka

- Former President Mahinda Rajapakse was sworn in as the new Prime minister of Sri Lanka.
- He replaced Ranil Wickremesinghe.
- Mr. Rajapaksa was administered the oath by the President Maithripala Sirisena at his office in Colombo.

#### Nobel chemistry laureate Shimomura passed away

- Japanese-born Marine biologist Osamu Shimomura, who won the Nobel Prize in chemistry, has died.
- Shimomura and two American scientists shared the 2008 Nobel prize for the discovery and development of a jellyfish protein that later contributed to cancer studies.
- In 1962, Shimomura isolated green fluorescent protein from jellyfish.

#### Arshdeep won 2018 Wildlife Photographer award

- Arshdeep Singh is among the winners of the 2018 Wildlife Photographer of the Year award in the 10-years-and-under category.
- He won the award for his **'Pipe Owls' photograph**.
- The Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition is **organised by the Britain's Natural History Museum**.
- Arshdeep recently won the Junior Asian Wildlife Photographer of the Year award.

#### US Army gets first woman chief

- Lieutenant General Laura J. Richardson has become the first woman Commanding General of the United States Army Forces Command (FORSCOM).
- FORSCOM is based out of Fort Bragg in North Carolina, USA.
- Richardson has been serving the US forces since 1986.
- She will succeed General Robert B. Abrams, who will be moving on to command U.S. Forces Korea.

#### Nokia appoints Alia Bhatt as brand ambassador

- Alia Bhatt has been appointed as the new brand ambassador for Nokia phones in India.



- In early 2018 Nokia had appointed Parineeti Chopra as the face of its mobile phones.
- As part of the partnership, a print campaign with Alia Bhatt has been initiated already to mark the festive season.
- HMD Global designs and sells phones under the Nokia brand.

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

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

#### Mukesh Ambani named a richest Indian

- Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani was **named India's wealthiest according to Forbes' annual India's Richest 2018 list.**
- He was named for the 11th consecutive year with a net worth of \$47.3 billion.
- **Wipro's Azim Premji came second with a net worth of \$21 billion.**
- **Paytm's founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma was among the notable gainer this year.**

#### Chanda Kochhar quits as ICICI Bank CEO

- ICICI Bank managing director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Chanda Kochhar on 4 October 2018 quit the bank.
- Kochhar was reappointed as a director on the board of bank's broking arm ICICI Securities in August 2018.
- Ms Kochhar will also relinquish office from the Board of Directors of the Bank's subsidiaries.

#### N. Ravi elected as PTI chairman

- N. Ravi, Publisher and former Editor-in-Chief of The Hindu, was unanimously elected Chairman of the Press Trust of India (PTI).
- Mr. Ravi succeeds Viveck Goenka, chairman and managing director of the Express Group.
- Also, Vijay Kumar Chopra, Chief Editor of the Punjab Kesari Group of newspapers, was elected as Vice-Chairman.

#### Barham Salih as new president of Iraq

- Iraq's Parliament has elected a veteran Kurdish Politician Barham Salih as the country's new President.
- Salih is a former prime minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government.

- He has named Shiite Adel Abdul Mahdi as Prime Minister of the country.
- The move will pave the way to form a new government, nearly five months after national elections.

#### Thangvellu- flag-bearer for Asian Para Games

- Rio Paralympic gold medallist Thangvellu Mariyappan is named as flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for the 3rd Paralympic Asian games.
- India will field its biggest ever contingent of 302 members for the games.
- 3rd Asian Para Games will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia from October 6-13.
- The official mascot of the Games is a Bondol eagle named Momo.

### Government Policies & Schemes

#### 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.

#### Govt. notified rules on granting citizenship

- The Union Home Ministry has empowered the Collectors in seven states to accept online applications to grant citizenship to 'minorities' from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh living in India.
- Collectors in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi will grant citizenship and naturalisation certificates to the minorities.

#### HRD Ministry launched two web portals

- Minister of Human Resource Development Prakash Javadekar launched the web portal of two schemes on 25 October 2018.
- 'Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences' (IMPRESS) and 'Scheme for Promotion of Academic

and Research Collaboration' (SPARC) were the two schemes of whose portal were launched.

- The objective of IMPRESS is to identify and fund research proposals in social sciences.

### Creation of FIDF approved by Union Cabinet

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for the creation of special Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF).
- FIDF would provide concessional finance to State Governments / UTs and State entities, cooperatives, individuals and entrepreneurs etc.
- The credit from the fund will help generate over 9.40 lakh direct and indirect jobs for fishermen.

### Appointment of Adjudicating Authority approved

- The government of India approved setting up of Appellate Tribunal and Adjudicating Authority for speedy disposal of cases related to benami transactions.
- The Adjudicating Authority and Appellate Tribunal will be based in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
- Appointment of the Adjudicating Authority would provide first stage review of administrative action under benami transactions act.

### Railways' UTS app will be launched on 1 Nov

- The railways 'UTS mobile' app for buying unreserved tickets online will be available nationwide from 1 November 2018.
- It was first launched in Mumbai because a large number of people travel in locals.
- After Mumbai, it was started in Delhi-Palwal and Chennai city.
- As of now railway has already implemented the scheme in 15 of its zones.

### 'Main Nahin Hum' portal launched

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Main Nahin Hum' portal on 24 October 2018.
- The portal, which works on the theme 'Self4Society', will enable IT professionals and organisations to bring together their efforts towards social causes on one platform.
- The portal is expected to help catalyse greater collaboration towards the service of the weaker sections of society.

### Hry to introduce livestock veterinary scheme

- The Haryana Government has decided to introduce the 'Pashu Sanjeevani Sewa' scheme on 23 October 2018.
- Under the scheme, free of cost health care services would be made available to livestock in the state through mobile veterinary clinics.

- The service will be first started in all the blocks of Jind, Yamunanagar and Nuh districts.

### Special courts notified for benami cases

- The Finance Ministry has issued the notification for setting up Sessions Courts in all states and union territories.
- The Session court will act as Special Courts for the trial of offences under the benami transaction law.
- Benami transaction refers to transactions made in a fictitious name, or the owner is not aware of the ownership of the property.

### NITI Aayog launched guidelines for PPP in NCD

- NITI Aayog launched the model guidelines for Public - Private partnership in Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) on 17 October 2018.
- As per the guidelines, the private partner will invest in upgrading, building and deploying human resources.
- They will be responsible for operational management and service delivery.
- All service in NCD care facility will be offered by a single entity.

### A government app to rope in volunteers

- Professionals keen on doing volunteer work will be provided a platform by the government through an app.
- The app named '#Self4Society' has been developed by MyGov.
- The app will have incentives, gamification and intra and inter-company competitions, and social networking.
- Initially this will be aimed at IT companies.

### West Bengal govt. extends food security

- The West Bengal government has ensured food security to more than 8.5 crore people of the State under the 'Khadya Sathi' scheme.
- As per this scheme, people would get rice and wheat at Rs 2 per kg.
- The Khadya Sathi Scheme was launched on January 27, 2016.
- Special assistance is also being given to the people of Jangalmahal and Hill areas besides Aila-affected areas and farmers of Singur.

### 'Youth Learner Licence' programme launched

- The government of India launched the 'Youth Road Safety Learners Licence' programme in New Delhi on 15 October 2018.
- The aim is to bring a formal and structured training program for young, first-time drivers as they apply for learner's license.
- The programme is an initiative to be run in collaboration with Diageo India and the Institute of Road Traffic Education.

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### Award scheme launched under 'Saubhagya'

- Government has announced 100 crore rupee award scheme under Saubhagya scheme.
- Awards would be provided for achieving 100% household electrification at DISCOM/Power Department level of the States.
- Saubhagya was launched in September 2017 to achieve the goal of universal household electrification in the country by 31st March 2019.

### Online portal for grant of IEM and IL

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

### Centre approved land pooling policy for Delhi

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

### Punjab govt released 3 apps

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

### Govt package for footwear and leather sector

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

### Online Assurances Monitoring System inaugurated

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

### Cabinet approved the merger of NCVT & NSDA

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

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

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

### 'India for Humanity' initiative launched

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

### Mobile Health app launched by IAF

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has launched an innovative mobile health App named 'MedWatch'.
- The app is conceived by the doctors of IAF and developed in house by Directorate of Information Technology (DIT).

- 'MedWatch' will provide correct, scientific and authentic health information to air warriors and all citizens of India.

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

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

#### Govt issued Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme

- The government of India has decided to issue Sovereign Gold Bond- 2018-19.
- The scheme retains the incentives offered in the earlier tranche—2.5% interest rate and capital gains tax exemption on redemption.
- The tenor of the bond will be for a period of 8 years with an exit option in the 5th, 6th and 7th year.
- The gold bonds will be sold every month from October 2018 to February 2019.

#### Arunachal govt launched scheme for farmers

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

#### Odisha launched 'Nirman Kusuma' programme

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

#### Crop damaged by animal attacks under PMFBY

- The government has decided to cover damages to crops in wild animal attacks under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna in select districts on an experimental basis.
- The government also brought certain horticultural crops on an experimental basis under the PMFBY.

- Also, damage to crops in events like water logging, landslide, hailstorms etc are also being covered now under new provisions.

#### Aviation Min released the policy on Digi Yatra

- The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu released the policy on biometric based digital processing of passengers at airports called "Digi Yatra".
- Digi Yatra Central Platform will be operational by end of February 2019.
- Bangalore & Hyderabad International Airports will be ready with pilot implementation by the end of February 2019.

#### Cabinet hikes MSP of Rabi crops

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Rabi crops.
- Increased MSP for the current financial year will be marketed in the 2019-20 season.
- The MSP of wheat has been raised by 105 rupees per quintal
- Safflower by 845 rupees per quintal
- Barley by 30 rupees per quintal
- Masur by 225 per quintal
- Gram by 220 per quintal

#### Nagaland CM launches vaccination campaign

- Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio launched the Measles-Rubella Vaccination Campaign (MRVC) in the state.
- The campaign targets to vaccinate 4.72 lakh children in the age group of 9 months to 15 years.
- The vaccination will help children in battling Measles and Rubella and reduce mortality caused by these diseases.

#### Odisha launched own food security scheme

- The Odisha government has launched its own food security scheme on 2 October 2018.
- The scheme will be benefiting 25 lakh people who were left out of the National Food Security Act.
- The beneficiaries will get 5 kg of rice per person per month at the rate of Rs. 1 per kg.
- Each poor man will get 5 kg of rice per month as per the provision of the National Food Security Act, 2013.

#### Assam government launched pension scheme

- Assam government launched pension scheme covering all senior citizens of the state.
- The name of the pension scheme is 'Swahid Kushal Konwar Sarbajanin Briddha Pension Achari'.
- All senior citizens above 60 years of age are entitled to get the benefit of the scheme through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to their bank accounts.

#### PPC launched on 2nd October 2018



- The Central government launched its People's Plan Campaign (PPC) for panchayats from October 2, 2018, with the slogan "Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas".
- During the campaign, structured Gram Sabha meetings will be held for preparing Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) for the next financial year 2019-2020.
- GPDP aims to strengthen the role of elected Panchayat leaders and Women.

#### Niwari is 52nd district of MP

- The Madhya Pradesh government announced the creation of a new district 'Niwari'.
- The new district would include three tehsils of the present Tikamgarh district - Niwari, Orchha, and Prithvipur.
- The government's decision came into effect from October 1.
- The district has been carved out of the Tikamgarh district.



#### SATAT Initiative launched by Petroleum Min

- The government of India launched 'SATAT' initiative to promote Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) as an alternative fuel.
- The initiative is aimed at providing a Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) as a developmental effort that would benefit both vehicle-users as well as farmers and entrepreneurs.

- Use of CBG will also help bring down dependency on crude oil imports.

#### Wage Compensation Scheme for pregnant women

- Assam government launched a wage compensation scheme for Pregnant Women in tea gardens of the state.
- The scheme will provide better health and nutrition supplements to the pregnant women.
- An amount of Rs.12,000 will be given to the pregnant woman to take care of herself and unborn baby.
- The wage compensation scheme will reduce maternal and neonatal mortality in the tea areas of Assam.

#### Livestock census commenced from Oct. 1

- The 20th Livestock Census will be conducted in all States and Union Territories from October 1, 2018.
- The 20th Livestock Census would, for the first time, capture breed-wise headcount of livestock and poultry
- The Census would help in identifying the threatened indigenous breeds.
- The exercise would also cover fisheries.

#### Science & Technology

##### 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.

### NASA names gamma-ray constellations

- NASA scientists have devised a new set of 21 modern gamma-ray constellations and named them after fictional characters such as the Hulk and Godzilla.
- The constellations were devised to celebrate the completion of 10 years of operations of the Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope.
- Fermi's Large Area Telescope has been scanning the entire sky each day, mapping and measuring sources of gamma rays.

### China to launch three artificial moons

- China will launch three artificial moons in space in 2022.
- The artificial or man-made moon is a satellite carrying a huge space mirror, which can reflect the sun light to the Earth.
- The man-made moon is expected to be put on an orbit within 500 km from the Earth.
- Man-made moon is especially useful in civil area.

### BepiColombo mission launched by ESA

- The European Space Agency (ESA) will be launching a scientific mission to Mercury on 20 October 2018.
- The mission is known as BepiColombo.
- The mission is being led by ESA with cooperation from the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).
- The BepiColombo spacecraft will measure the composition and magnetic field of Mercury.
- It will take approximately seven years to arrive at Mercury.

### Oneer system developed by CSIR

- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (CSIR-IITR) have developed a technology for disinfecting water.
- The technology has been named 'Oneer'.
- It is useful for continuous treatment of water and eliminates all disease causing pathogens such as virus, bacteria etc.
- The technology can be used both at domestic and community level.

### Largest structure of universe discovered

- A team of scientists at the European Southern Observatory (ESO) have sited the most massive structure in the early universe known to date.
- The astronomers found this galaxy named Hyperion using Visible Multi-Object Spectrograph.
- The spectrograph is hosted by the Chile-based Very Large Telescope.
- **Hyperion's mass is estimated to be a million billion times that of Sun.**

### China launched two more satellites

- China successfully launched twin BeiDou-3 navigation satellites into space on 15 October 2018 to strengthen its satellite navigation network.
- The satellites were launched from a Long March-3B carrier rocket.
- The launch was the 287th mission of the Long March rocket series.
- The BeiDou system started serving China in 2000 and the Asia-Pacific region in 2012.

### 'Bioelectronic medicine' which repair nerves

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

### Japan space probe launched new robot

- A Japanese probe launched a new observation robot towards an asteroid.
- The Hayabusa2 probe launched the French-German Mobile Asteroid Surface Scout (MASCOT), towards the Ryugu asteroid's surface.
- MASCOT's launch comes after the Hayabusa2 dropped a pair of MINERVA-II micro-rovers on the Ryugu asteroid.
- MASCOT can take images at multiple wavelengths and measure magnetic fields.

### New dwarf planet spotted

- An extremely distant dwarf planet, named The Goblin, has been discovered by the astronomers.
- The dwarf planet was officially designated as '2015 TG387'.
- Astronomers first observed the dwarf planet on October 13, 2015, from the Subaru telescope.
- This is the third dwarf planet found to be orbiting on the frigid fringes of our solar system.

## Books & Authors

### Vijayan Bala released his new book

- 'Indian Sports: Conversations and Reflections' written by Vijayan Bala was released on 18 October 2018.
- The book is a compilation of interviews of eminent sportspersons he has conducted since 1971.
- He has earlier published a book called 'Indian Test Cricket back in 1974'.
- In 2016, he authored a second book "The Complete Indian Sports Quiz".

### A new book on Maharana Pratap released

- A new book on Maharana Pratap titled 'In Maharana Pratap: The Invincible Warrior' has been released.
- The author of the book is Rima Hooja and is a leading historian of Rajasthan
- The new book on Maharana Pratap examines the life of the great Rajput warrior and also revisits the famous battle of Haldighati with the Mughals.

#### Hawking's final book launched

- "Brief Answers to the Big Questions" written by Stephen Hawking was launched on 15 October 2018.
- The book tackles issues from the existence of God to the potential for time travel.
- The book has been completed by the theoretical physicist's family and academic colleagues, with material drawn from his vast personal archive.

#### Sushil Modi released book 'Lalu Leela'

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

### Environment

#### Air Quality Warning System launched in Delhi

- Earth Sciences Minister Dr Harshvardhan unveiled an Air Quality early warning system for Delhi region, in New Delhi.
- The system will help combat air pollution in Delhi by getting information 2-5 days in advance.
- The system has been developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting and India Meteorological Department.

#### Emergency action plan to be implemented

- An emergency action plan called the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) will be implemented from 15 October 2018 to combat air pollution in Delhi.
- Stringent actions will be implemented based on air quality.
- If the air quality lies in moderate to poor category — measures like stopping garbage burning in landfills and other places would be implemented.

#### Cyclone Luban in Oman

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

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

#### 'Oldest flying squirrel fossil found'

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

### Committees & Recommendations

#### 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.

#### Cabinet nod to panel on SDGs

- The Union Cabinet has approved the constitution of a High-Level Steering Committee for periodically reviewing and refining the National Indicator Framework (NIF) for monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The committee will be chaired by Pravin Shrivastava, Chief Statistician of India.
- The committee would recommend measures to "mainstream" SDGs into ongoing national policies.

#### GoM constituted by government of India

- A Group of Ministers (GoM) has been constituted by the government of India to strengthen the legal and

institutional frameworks to deal with and prevent sexual harassment at the workplace.

- The Group of Ministers will be chaired by the Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh.
- It will recommend action required for effective implementation of the existing provisions related to sexual harassment.

#### Report on Cross Border Insolvency submitted

- The Insolvency Law Committee (ILC) has recommended that India adopt the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law of Cross Border Insolvency.
- The advantages of the model law are the precedence given to domestic proceedings and protection of public interest.
- ILC is chaired by Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas.

#### Par panel to examine functioning of EPFO

- A parliamentary panel will examine the functioning of Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).
- The panel will be headed by BJP MP Kirit Somaiya.
- It will also review the implementation of labour laws, social security and welfare scheme for workers.
- It will also look into the working conditions and welfare of mine workers, and review the working of Directorate General of Mines Safety.

#### Advisory panel set up for rebuilding Kerala

- An advisory committee headed by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has been set up for implementation of various projects for rebuilding the flood-ravaged state.
- The first meeting of the committee would be held on 22 October 2018.
- The Chief Minister also launched a portal for crowd funding to mobilise funds for rebuilding and rehabilitating the people affected by the flood in the state.

#### Govt sets up key panel under NSA

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

#### 7-member panel set up on 'calamity tax'

- The GST Council has set up a seven-member Group of Minister (GoM) panel.
- The panel will examine the legality of imposing a new tax on certain goods and services to raise resources for natural calamity-hit states.

- The seven-member Group of Ministers (GoM), would include representatives from North-Eastern, hilly and coastal states.

#### Govt sets up Competition Law Review Committee

- The Government has constituted a Competition Law Review Committee to review the Competition Act.
- The committee will be headed by corporate affairs secretary Injeti Srinivas.
- The committee will review the competition regulations in India.
- The Competition Act was passed in 2002 and the Competition Commission of India was set up in 2009.

### Business & Economy

#### 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

#### RBI to inject Rs 40,000 crore in November

- The Reserve Bank said it will inject Rs 40,000 crore into the system in November through the purchase of government securities.
- The central bank had already injected Rs 36,000 crore into the system in October.



- An Open Market Operation (OMO) is an activity by a central bank to give (or take) liquidity in its currency to (or from) a bank or a group of banks.

#### WB approves funds for Bangladesh's bridges

- The World Bank has approved \$425 million to improve road connections in Bangladesh.
- It will be done through the building, maintaining and improving rural bridges in a programme that will benefit two-thirds of the country's people.
- The 'Operation For Supporting Rural Bridges Programme' will maintain 85,000 m of bridges and build another 20,000 m of new bridges.

#### IDFC Bank to be renamed as IDFC First Bank

- IDFC Bank proposed to change its name to 'IDFC First Bank Ltd' in the wake of its amalgamation with the non-banking financial company Capital First.
- The decision was taken during the meeting of the Board of Directors of IDFC Bank.
- The proposal now needs the approval of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

#### NSE Indices launched Nifty 500 Value 50 index

- NSE Indices Limited launched a new index, 'Nifty 500 Value 50', on 24 October 2018.
- The index will track the performance of select 'value' companies based on price multiples and dividend yield.
- The index consists of 50 companies from its parent Nifty 500 index, selected based on their 'value' scores.
- NSE Indices is a group company of National Stock exchange (NSE).

#### RBI lifted ban on Fino Payments

- Fino Payments Bank has been allowed to open new accounts by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Fino Payments Bank had been unable to enrol new customers since the end of May 2018 after RBI found the bank to be non-compliant with the operational guidelines laid down by it.
- According to RBI's guidelines for payments banks, a customer can make deposits of up to ₹ lakh per account in a year.

#### Govt permits import of pet coke

- The government of India permitted imports of certain quantity of pet coke, used for fuel purpose, for anode making by the aluminium industry.
- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has allowed the import of 1.4 MT per annum pet coke for producing calcined pet coke.
- In general, import of pet coke for fuel purpose is prohibited.

#### NSE to launch copper large futures contract

- National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has got approval from Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch copper large futures contract with a trading unit of 25 tonne.
- The 25 tonne copper futures contract is one of the highest traded contracts.
- NSE aims to provide an onshore hedging platform to big Indian corporates, refiners and various users in the value chain.

#### REC to launch global medium-term notes

- Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) will launch its global medium-term notes programme at the Global Securities Market (GSM).
- GSM is a primary market platform for raising funds from global investors.
- GSM is an arm of the BSE's international exchange India INX.
- India INX is the country's first international exchange launched in January 2017

#### MobiKwik will sell gold on its app

- MobiKwik will now allow customers to buy digital gold.
- MobiKwik users will be able to buy and sell 99.5% purity, 24-carat gold on the app starting at one rupee.
- It has partnered with SafeGold, a digital platform that allows customers to buy, sell and receive vaulted gold
- It has created a separate category called 'Gold' on its app.

#### PNB Metlife launched 'Khushi' app

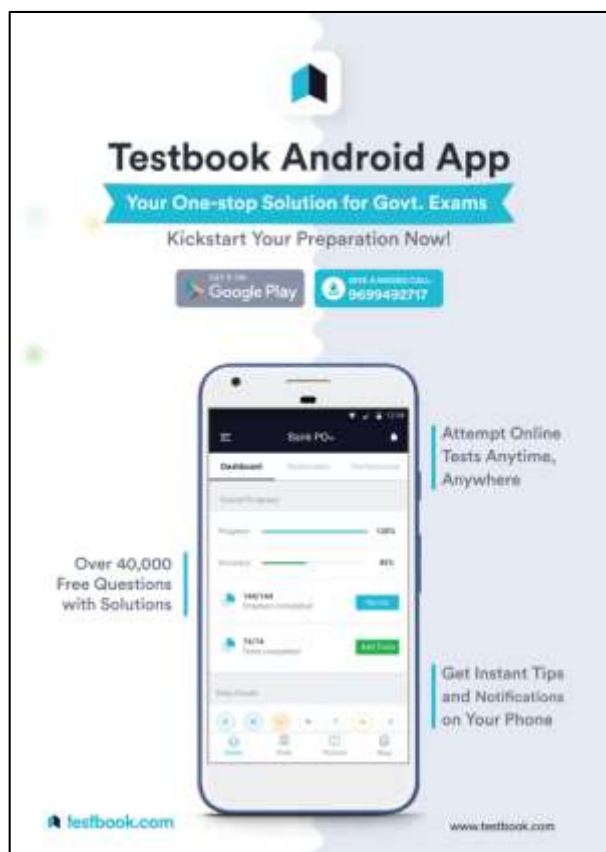
- Life insurer PNB Metlife has unveiled an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered customer service app 'Khushi'.
- The aim is to provide assistance to policyholders for their insurance-related queries.
- A policyholder can use the app to upload documents; download receipts and statements; get policy features; premium due details; get fund value and portfolio details; and update contact details.

#### Paytm launched PayPay in Japan

- Paytm has launched a payment service called 'PayPay' in Japan.
- PayPay is based on QR (quick-response) code technology.
- The payment service has been launched in association with SoftBank Corporation and Yahoo Japan Corporation.
- SoftBank Group is one of the largest investors in Paytm.
- PayPay Corporation was established in June 2018.

#### 'Wealth Hub' launched by State Bank of India

- State Bank of India (SBI) launched its wealth business services by opening 'SBI Wealth Hub' in Mangaluru, Karnataka.
- The wealth hub was inaugurated by SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar.
- SBI is the first PSU bank in the country to introduce comprehensive wealth business services for its clients.
- The bank has also launched Wealth Business services for NRIs.



### RBI opposes the Idea of PRB

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has opposed a proposal to set up a separate and independent regulator for the payments industry.
- An inter-ministerial committee was set up by the Department of Economic Affairs to finalise amendments to the Payment & Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007.
- The committee has proposed the establishment of an independent Payments Regulatory Board (PRB).

### Anti-dumping duty on China steel products

- India has imposed anti-dumping duties of up to US\$ 185.51 per tonne for five years on certain varieties of Chinese steel.
- This will guard domestic manufacturers from cheap imports from China.
- The revenue department imposed the duty based on recommendations of the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR).

### RBI eased liquidity coverage ratio norms

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) permitted banks to use government securities equal to the incremental credit disbursed to NBFCs for meeting liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) requirements.
- The move will provide liquidity to Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) and Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs).
- The RBI eased the single borrower exposure limits for NBFCs not in the infrastructure segment.

### Registered valuers to value insolvent assets

- Valuation of assets under insolvency will only be done by valuers registered with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) from 1 February 2019.
- As on date, India has eight Registered Valuer Organisation and 162 registered valuers.
- The IBBI conducts valuation examinations for all three asset classes - land and building, plant and machinery, and securities or financial assets.

### India's first cryptocurrency ATM launched

- Virtual currency exchange 'Unocoin' has installed a currency deposit and dispensing ATM in Bengaluru.
- It allows its customers to deposit and withdraw a minimum amount of Rs 1000 from the platform.
- A cryptocurrency is a digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography to secure and verify transactions.

### BSNL partnered Nokia for private 4G service

- BSNL has partnered with telecom gear maker Nokia to offer businesses private 4G services.
- The first project under the partnership has been deployed at Nokia's Chennai plant using 4G connection from BSNL's network.
- Nokia also signed a pact with BSNL to implement the next level of industrial automation —Industry 4.0 — leveraging 4G LTE technology.

### RBI issued guidelines for PPIs

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the guidelines for interoperability between Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs).
- This will allow users of payment wallets to transfer money from one wallet to another.
- Interoperability across PPIs shall be enabled through Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- RBI also allowed PPIs to issue cards using authorised card networks such as Mastercard, Visa.

### Kreditech got NBFC licence

- Kreditech has been licensed by the RBI to operate as Non Banking Financial Company (NBFC) for digital lending business and app-based financing.

- Kreditech will offer individualised direct-to-consumer loans as well as its Lending-as-a-Service Solution for vendors.
- Kreditech is a Germany-based digital lender and has operations in Russia, Poland, Spain and India.

### RBI to buy ₹20 bn G-Secs under OMO

- The Reserve Bank India (RBI) has announced that it will purchase government securities (g-secs) worth ₹20 billion under Open Market Operations (OMO).
- The purchases will be done on 17 October 2018 through multi-security auction using the multiple price method.
- The RBI sells g-secs to take out liquidity from the system and buys back g-secs to infuse liquidity into the system.

### WPI inflation rises to 5.13% in September

- Wholesale inflation based on the wholesale price index (WPI) stood at 5.13% in September 2018 as compared to 4.53% in August 2018.
- WPI increased mainly due to the rise in the cost of petrol and diesel.
- Food articles witnessed hardening of prices with deflation at 0.21% in September as against 4.04% in August.
- The WPI is published by the Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

### SBI signed MoU with Nepal's NBI

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

### NSE signed a pact with Uttarakhand

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

### Govt hiked import duty on electronic items

- The government has increased basic customs duty on electronic and telecom equipment to 20% from the current 10%.
- The items that will face customs duty hike include smartwatches, optical transport equipment and voice over internet protocol equipment.

- The hike will come into effect on 12 October 2018.
- **Restricting imports is a part of the government's strategy to arrest the rupee's fall.**

### SBI comes to the aid of NBFCs

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

### Foreign entities allowed in commodity market

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

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

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

### NHB raised refinance limit for HFCs

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

### Flipkart enters into insurance segment

- Walmart-backed e-commerce marketplace Flipkart mark its entry into insurance segment
- It will be offering a complete protection plan to customers who buy smartphones on its platform.
- Flipkart has secured a corporate agency licence from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA).
- Flipkart has partnered with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance for the scheme.

### MobiKwik launches instant loan product 'Boost'

- MobiKwik, a leading digital financial services platform, has announced the launch of 'Boost'.
- Boost is a product that offers instant loan approval and disbursement to MobiKwik users.
- Users can apply for loans ranging from Rs 5,000 up to Rs 60,000 through the MobiKwik app
- MobiKwik is the first wallet company in India to disburse the loan amount in the user's mobile wallet.

#### RBI kept key rates unchanged

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to keep the interest rate unchanged at 6.5% in the fourth bi-monthly policy review.
- The reverse repo rate has also been kept unchanged at 6.25%.
- The Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) stands at 4% while the bank rate is at 6.75%.
- Growth projection for 2018-19 has also been retained at 7.4%.

#### RBI imposes penalty on Federal Bank

- Reserve Bank has imposed a penalty of five crore rupees on Federal Bank for non-compliance of certain RBI direction.
- RBI said Federal Bank had failed to report large borrower exposure for assessment under risk-based supervision.
- The bank had also failed to pay compensation to customers for the delay in resolution of ATM related complaints.

#### RBI allows OMCs to raise money from overseas

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed state-owned Oil Marketing Companies (OMC) to borrow long-term working capital from overseas.
- RBI relaxed the policy on borrowing up to 10 billion US dollar from the overseas by the state-owned fuel retailers.
- The RBI has allowed them to raise External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) of minimum maturity of 3 or 5 years.

#### Tech M sign pact with Israeli firm

- IT services provider Tech Mahindra announced a partnership with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) to develop and offer cybersecurity solutions.
- The pact mainly targets cybersecurity at governments, critical infrastructure, and defence sector.
- The pact will enable the companies to design custom-made security operation centers (SOCs) and computer emergency response teams (CERTs).

#### BSE launches commodity derivative contracts

- Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) became the first stock exchange in India to launch the commodity derivative contracts in gold and silver.

- Till now, commodity contracts were available only on MCX and NCDEX, the two specialised commodity derivatives exchanges.
- BSE also waived off transaction charges for the first year in the commodities derivatives segment.

#### RBI to pump Rs 360 bn into bond markets

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) would pump Rs 360 billion into money markets in October to stem fears of a cascading credit crunch.
- The auctions would be conducted during the second, third and fourth week of October.
- The government will effectively cut its market borrowing by Rs 700 billion due to higher-than-expected earnings of Rs 750 billion through its small savings scheme.

#### Sale of micro insurance via PoS allowed

- Insurance regulator IRDAI has allowed the distribution of all micro-insurance products through point-of-sales (PoS).
- It aims to increase insurance penetration in the country.
- Micro-insurance policies are designed to promote insurance coverage among economically vulnerable sections.
- A micro-insurance policy is a general or life insurance policy with a sum assured of Rs. 50,000 or less.

### Sports

#### 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.

### Sourav Kothari clinched World Billiards C'ship

- India's Sourav Kothari defeated Peter Gilchrist of Singapore 1134-944 to clinch the 2018 World Billiards Championship title at Leeds in the UK.
- The former national and Asian Billiards champion Kothari was pipped at the post for the coveted World Billiards crown on two occasions in the last two years.

### Belgium topped in latest FIFA rankings

- According to the latest FIFA rankings, Belgium is the number one ranked football team in the world.
- France is on the second rank.
- 4 times FIFA World Cup winner, Germany got 14th rank.
- India was ranked 97th in the latest rankings.
- Tunisia (22nd) was the highest ranked African team.
- The latest FIFA rankings were released on 25 October 2018.

### Pooja Danda won bronze medal in wrestling

- Wrestler Pooja Danda won a bronze medal at World Wrestling Championship 2018 in Budapest, Hungary.
- She won a silver medal at the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast.
- Pooja is only the fourth Indian woman to win a World Championship medal.
- Prior to Pooja, only Alka Tomar (2006) and Geeta and Babita Phogat (2012) have won bronze medals for India at the World Championship.

### Virat Kohli becomes fastest to 10,000 ODI runs

- India cricket captain Virat Kohli became the fastest batsman to reach 10,000 one-day international runs.

- Kohli made 10,000 ODI runs in 205 innings while Sachin Tendulkar took 259 innings.
- Kohli became the fifth Indian batsman and 13th ever to reach 10000 ODI runs.
- Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid and MS Dhoni have scored over 10,000 runs in ODIs.

### Marc Marquez clinched fifth MotoGP title

- Spain's Marc Marquez clinched MotoGP world champion title for the fifth time with a victory in the Japanese MotoGP on 21 October 2018.
- Marquez is the youngest-ever rider to win five premier class titles.
- Marquez has joined Valentino Rossi, Mick Doohan and Giacomo Agostini as one of only four riders to have taken five or more premier-class World Championships.

### Bajrang Punia won silver medal in wrestling

- Bajrang Punia won silver medal in the 65 kg category of the World Wrestling Championship 2018 in Budapest on 22 October 2018.
- He was defeated by Japanese Takuto Otoguro in the final.
- Bajrang Punia also won gold medal in wrestling at Commonwealth Games 2018 and Asian Games 2018.
- Sushil Kumar is the lone Indian to win a gold medal at the World Wrestling Championships in 2010.

### Mumbai won Vijay Hazare Trophy 2018

- Mumbai won their third Vijay Hazare Trophy title at Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on 20 October 2018.
- Mumbai defeated Delhi by 4 wickets in the final.
- Mumbai last won the trophy way back in 2006-07.
- The Vijay Hazare Trophy is also known as the Ranji One Day Trophy and was started in 2002-03.

### Saina Nehwal won silver medal in Denmark Open

- Indian badminton player Saina Nehwal won the silver medal in Denmark Open 2018 on 21 October 2018.
- She was defeated by Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu Ying in the final.
- Saina Nehwal won the Denmark Open in 2012.
- According to the Badminton World Federation, the current ranking of Saina Nehwal is 10.

### Wimbledon to introduce final-set tiebreaks

- The organisers of Wimbledon have introduced a final set tie-breaker in all the events in the championship.
- A tiebreaker match will be played when the score reaches 12-12 in the final set.
- The first player or team to score seven points, with an advantage of two or more points, will be declared the winner.
- The new method will be applicable from 2019 Wimbledon Championship to all the events.

### Akash Malik won Archery silver medal

- Akash Malik became the first Indian to win a silver medal in archery at the 2018 Youth Olympics.
- **Akash finished second in the men's recurve category after losing to USA's Trenton Cowles.**
- India ended their Youth Olympics campaign in the 16th spot with 13 medals (three gold, nine silver and one bronze).
- India stood in the 14th position in the rankings.

### Praveen won bronze in Men's Triple Jump

- Praveen Chitravel won the bronze medal in triple jump at the Youth Olympics 2018 Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- **Cuba's Alejandro Diaz won the gold medal and silver medal went to Emmeanuel of Nigeria.**
- Chitravel is the 2nd individual from India to bag a medal in athletics.
- **Suraj Panwar had won India's first athletics medal as he bagged a silver in the men's 5,000m race walk.**

### Suraj won silver medal at Youth Olympics

- Suraj Panwar won a silver medal in men's 5000m race walk event in the ongoing Youth Olympic Games at Buenos Aires in Argentina.
- Patin Oscar of Ecuador won the gold medal and Puerto Rico's Jan Moreu won the bronze medal.
- **This is India's first athletics medal in this edition and third overall.**

### India men, women hockey teams won silver medal

- **India men's and women's team won silver medals** each in the Hockey competition at the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- Men's hockey team was defeated by Malaysia and Women's hockey team was defeated by Argentina.
- India are 10th in the medals tally with Russia leading the way (43) ahead of Hungary (21) and China (25).

### Great Britain won Sultan Johar Cup

- In Hockey, Great Britain won the 2018 Sultan of Johor Cup in Johar Bahru, Malaysia.
- Great Britain defeated India in the final.
- India settled for the silver medal at the eighth Sultan of Johor Cup U-18 hockey tournament.
- The other teams in the tournament were Japan, Australia, Malaysia and New Zealand.

### Novak Djokovic won Shanghai Masters title

- Tennis player Novak Djokovic won the Shanghai Masters title on 14 October 2018.
- Novak Djokovic defeated Croatia's Borna Coric in the final match.
- Djokovic has won all four Shanghai finals he has contested in his career (2012, 2013, 2015 and 2018).
- He previously shared the record of winning three Shanghai titles with Andy Murray.

### Leander Paes won Santo Domingo Open trophy

- Tennis player Leander Paes won the Santo Domingo Open trophy with partner Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela on 14 October 2018.
- Paes, who is ranked 69, added 110 ranking points to his tally and shared a prize purse of \$7750 with his partner.
- Paes also ended runner-up at Chicago, Dallas on the ATP Challenger circuit.

### Archer Harvinder Singh clinched gold

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

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

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

### Deepa clinched bronze in Asian Para Games

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

### ICC launched women's T20I ranking

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

### 5 gold for India on penultimate day

- India grabbed 5 gold medals on the penultimate day of the Asian Para Games at Jakarta.

- K Jennitha Anto clinched the gold in women's individual rapid P1 chess event while Kishan Gangolli got the better of Majid Bagheri in the men's individual event to claim the top spot.
- In para-badminton, Parul Parmar notched up a victory over Wandee Kamtam to win the gold medal in the women's singles event.



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**'Olly' made Hockey World Cup mascot**

- Turtle 'Olly' has been declared as the official mascot for the Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup.

- Hockey World Cup is scheduled to be held at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar from November 28 to December 16, 2018.
- **'Ollly' represents the endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles.**
- Ollly was also the mascot for Asian Athletics Championships held in 2017.

#### Sundar Singh won silver in javelin throw

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

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

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

#### IOC creates refugee team for Tokyo 2020

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

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

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

#### Manu Bhaker won gold in shooting

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

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

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

#### Jeremy Lalrinnunga won gold in weightlifting

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

#### Javelin thrower Sandeep won gold medal

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

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

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

#### Caroline Wozniacki won China Open

- In tennis, Caroline Wozniacki won the China Open on 7 October 2018.
- She defeated Latvia's Anastasija Sevastova in the final match of China Open.
- It is her third WTA title of the year.
- Wozniacki won her maiden Grand Slam title at the Australian Open 2018.
- It is her second China Open title as she also won it in 2010.

#### Five medals in Asia Junior Championships

- Meghana Reddy and Tasnim Mir won the girls doubles crown at the Badminton Asia Junior (U-17 and U-15) Championships at Mandalay, Myanmar.



- Indian shuttlers also bagged four bronze, to bring their overall medal tally to five in the championships.
- In the final match, the Indian pair defeated the Korean duo of Yeo Jin Gong and Da Yeon Jeong.

#### India won U19 Asia Cup 2018 title

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

#### Shooter Tushar Mane won silver medal

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

#### 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games began

- The third edition of the Summer Youth Olympic Games was inaugurated in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 6th October 2018.
- The event will conclude on 18 October 2018.
- It is the first time Summer Youth Olympic Games are being held outside of Asia.
- The previous two summer events held in Singapore (2010) and Nanjing, China (2014).

#### Youngest Indian to score century on Test debut

- Prithvi Shaw scored a century in the first Test against West Indies at Rajkot to become the youngest Indian to score a century on debut.
- Shaw surpassed the record set by Abbas Ali Baig who had scored a fifty against England in 1959 when he was 20 years and 126 days old.
- He also became the second youngest Indian to score a Test century after the Sachin Tendulkar.

#### Manipur clinch National Football Championship

- Manipur claimed victory in the final of the 24th **Senior Women's National Football Championships**, defeating hosts Odisha by 2-1.
- It was the 19th occasion when a state from the northeast of India won the trophy.
- Manipur captain Bala Devi scored the first goal in the 45th minute.
- The final match was held at the Barabati Stadium, Cuttack, Odisha.

#### India's flag-bearer at Youth Olympic Games

- 16-year-old shooting star Manu Bhaker is named as the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for the 3rd Youth Olympic Games at Buenos Aires.
- A contingent of 68 members, including 46 athletes, departed for Argentina to take part in games from October 6-18.
- Bhaker had won gold in 10m air pistol at Guadalajara World Cup as well as Commonwealth Games.

#### Yuvraj Wadhvani won Asian Junior Squash title

- India's Yuvraj Wadhvani won Asian Junior Squash Championship title on 30 September, 2018.
- Yuvraj has become the second Indian to win the Under-13 title after Veer Chotrani, who had won the title in 2014 in Iran.
- Overall, Indian squash players won one gold, one silver and four bronze medals.

#### Defence

##### 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-I 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.

##### Indigenously overhauled Su-30MKI given to IAF

- The 11 Base Repair Depot (BRD) of the Indian Air Force in Maharashtra's Nashik district handed over

its first indigenously overhauled Sukhoi Su-30MKI fighter jet to the IAF.

- The ceremony was held at the Air Force Station Ojhar.
- The Sukhoi Su-30MKI is a twin-jet multi-role air superiority aircraft developed by Russia's Sukhoi and built under licence by India's Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL).

### Reliance Naval launched training ship

- ICGS Varuna, an indigenously-designed training vessel built by Reliance Naval and Engineering Limited (RNEL) for the Indian Coast Guard, was launched on 24 October 2018.
- The vessel's primary role is to impart sea training to cadets of Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
- The vessel is 105 meters long and has a capacity of accommodating 242 personnel.

### IAI signed missile defence deal with India

- Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has signed a US\$ 777 million defence contract with India.
- Under the contract, IAI will supply 'Barak 8' long-range surface-to-air defence missiles and missile defence systems for the Indian Navy.
- Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) will be the main manufacturer for the project.
- The IAI is Israel's largest aerospace and defence company.

### India, Japan, U.S. plan joint air exercise

- India, Japan and the U.S. are set to elevate the bilateral 'Cope India' air exercise to a trilateral format.
- The three countries already conduct naval war games under the expanded Malabar naval exercise.
- The U.S. had proposed a trilateral air exercise between India, Japan and the U.S.
- Cope India was first conducted in 2004.

### Indo-Japan Joint Exercise: Dharma Guardian

- India and Japan will hold the first-ever joint military exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN-2018'.
- The exercise will be held at Counter Insurgency Warfare School, Vairengte, Mizoram from 1 November to 14 November 2018.
- The Indian contingent will be represented by 6/1 Gorkha Rifles.
- Japanese contingent will be represented by 32 Infantry Regiment of the Japanese Ground Self Defence Force.

### India, China set to resume military drill

- India and China will resume the annual joint Army exercise 'Hand-in-Hand' in December 2018 in China's Chengdu region.

- The scope of the exercise is to understand transnational terrorism and evolve joint drills for the conduct of counter-terrorism operations.
- The last 'Hand-in-Hand' exercise took place in Pune in 2016.
- The Indian side would be represented by the 11 Sikh Light regiment.

### Indian Navy acquired DSRVs

- Indian Navy has inducted its first Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRVs)
- It is deployed to rescue the drowned or disaster-struck submarines at high sea.
- At present, the US, China, Russia and a few other countries have the capabilities to deploy DSRVs.
- The second DSRV is expected to be inducted at Visakhapatnam in 2019.

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

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

### JIMEX exercise began in Visakhapatnam

- JIMEX-18, a bilateral maritime exercise between India and Japan, began in Visakhapatnam on 7 October 2018.
- JIMEX-18 is aimed to enhance interoperability, improve understanding and imbibe the best practices of each other.
- The Indian Navy was represented by INS Satpura, INS Kadmat and INS Shakti.
- The last edition of JIMEX was conducted in Dec 2013 off Chennai.

### India, Vietnam hold joint drill

- A Vietnam Coast Guard ship undertook joint exercises with the Indian Coast Guard off the city coast.
- Coast Guard ships Shaurya, Arnvesh and inceptor boat C-431 along with a Dornier aircraft and Chetak helicopter participated in the joint exercise - 'Sahyog HOP TAC-2018'.
- The exercise was aimed at acquainting the coast guards of the two countries with each others' capabilities.

### Trials of Astra BVR-AAM Completed Successfully

- A series of flight trials of 'Astra' Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVR-AAM) was conducted by the Indian Air Force from September 26 to October 3 2018.

- The test was conducted at Integrated Test Range, Balasore.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation has developed the missile.
- The missile is expected to be inducted into Indian Air Force in 2019.

#### IBSAMAR-VI kicks off in South Africa

- The sixth edition of IBSAMAR is being held at Simons Town, South Africa from 01 – 13 October 2018.
- IBSAMAR is a joint Multi – National Maritime Exercise between the Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies.
- The aim of the exercise is to undertake collective training for participating navies and building interoperability.
- The last edition of IBSAMAR was conducted in Goa.

### Polity

#### Punjab extends 50% reservation for women

- The Punjab Cabinet decided to extend the enhanced 50% reservation for women in the matter of rotation for the office of the panchayat sarpanch to the office of the chairperson of panchayat samitis and zila parishads.
- The state government had enhanced reservation for women in these bodies from 33% to 50% in 2017.
- The cabinet has now approved amendments to the Punjab Panchayati Raj Act, 1994.

#### No time bar for crimes under POCSO Act

- Survivors of child sexual abuse can file a police complaint after they become adults.
- The government clarified that there is no time bar on reporting such crimes.
- The victims can report the cases through POCSO e-Box.
- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), Act 2012, came into force in November 2012.
- POCSO Act is a gender-neutral act.

#### President Kovind approves Telangana Bill

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

#### SC upholds validity of GST Act


- The Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act of 2017.
- The 2017 Act subsumed various indirect taxes, **Central and States' surcharges and cess** both within and outside the States.
- The Supreme Court confirmed the legislative competence of Parliament to enact the 2017 Act.

#### Madhya Pradesh to have cow ministry

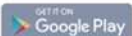
- Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced the setting up of a ministry for cows.
- The cow ministry will replace the existing Madhya Pradesh Gaupalan Evam Pashudhan Samvardhan Board (MPGEPSB).
- If Madhya Pradesh implements the decision, it will become the second Indian state after Rajasthan to get a cow ministry.


#### Good samaritan bill of Karnataka approved

- Karnataka has become the first state in the country to give legal protection to good Samaritans.
- President Ram Nath Kovind has given assent to Karnataka Good Samaritan and Medical Professional (Protection and Regulation during Emergency Situations) Bill, 2016.
- The bill aims to provide legal protection to the good samaritans in Karnataka, who help accident victims with emergency medical care.




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