

WEEKLY

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18TH NOVEMBER - 24TH NOVEMBER 2018

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Awards & Honours

Filmmaker Nandita Das to receive FIAPF Award

- Filmmaker Nandita Das will be honoured with the 'International Federation of Film Producers Associations' (FIAPF) Award 2018.
- The award will be given at the '12th Asia Pacific Screen Awards' on 29 November 2018.
- She will be presented the award in recognition of her achievement in film in the Asia Pacific region.
- She started her career as an actor in films like '1947 Earth, 'Fire' etc.

Forbes India Leadership Awards 2018 announced

- The 'Forbes India Leadership Awards' was held on November 22 in Mumbai.
- The award honours the top executives of companies in India.
- Azim Premji, Chairman of Wipro Limited, got the 'Lifetime Achievement Award 2018'.
- Vivek Chaand Sehgal, Chairman of Motherson Sumi Systems, got the 'Entrepreneur for the Year 2018 award'.

Vimal Chandra won the Young Scientist award

- IIT Roorkee Professor Vimal Chandra Srivastava has won the 'NASI-Scopus Young Scientist Award 2018' in 'Environmentally Sound Sustainable Development' category.
- He has been given the award for his work on Industrial Wastewater Treatment, Clean Liquid Fuels, and Multi-component Adsorption.
- The Award was instituted by Elsevier in the year 2006.

WCCB got Asia Environment Enforcement Award

- On 21 November 2018, the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has got the 'Asia Environment Enforcement Award 2018'.
- It was awarded for its work in combating trans-boundary environmental crimes.
- This is the 2nd time in a row that the awards are being given by UN Environment to India.
- WCCB is a statutory body under the Environment Ministry to combat organised wildlife crime in the country.

Mexico's highest honour given to Prof. Ganguly

- Professor S.P. Ganguly has been awarded the 'Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle' on 20 November 2018.
- The award is the highest civilian honour given to a foreigner by Mexico.
- The award was in recognition of his outstanding work in the study of the Spanish language and Mexican culture.
- He headed the Centre for Spanish and Latin American Studies at the Jawaharlal Nehru University.

'Tata Literature Awards 2018' announced

- Anuradha Roy and James Crabtree are among the winners of the 'Tata Literature Live Awards 2018'.
- Harper Collins India was named publisher of the year 2018.

- Veteran journalist and writer Mark Tully won the Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Renowned poet Jayanta Mahapatra was named the poet laureate for 2018.

Amitabh Bachchan received Sayaji Ratna Award

- Amitabh Bachchan was awarded the third Sayaji Ratna Award on 20 November 2018.
- The award was established in the memory of erstwhile Baroda ruler Sayajirao Gaekwad III.
- The Baroda Management Association had instituted the award to mark the 150th birth anniversary of the ruler in 2013.
- Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy and noted industrialist Ratan Tata have been given the award earlier.

Ustad Amjad Ali Khan given a lifetime award

- Sarod master, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan was presented the 'Sumitra Charat Ram Award for Lifetime Achievement' on 17 November 2018.
- He was awarded for his immense contribution to the enrichment and promotion of the Indian classical music.
- The award was presented to him by former diplomat Lalit Mansingh.
- He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 2001.

CSE won Indira Gandhi peace prize

- 'Centre for Science and Environment' (CSE) has won Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2018.
- The award is conferred by Indira Gandhi Trust every year on the late Indira Gandhi's birth anniversary.

- The international jury for the awards was headed by former President Pranab Mukherjee.

Days & Events

Conference on tuberculosis in India in 2019

- The 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health will be held in Hyderabad in 2019.
- The conference 'Ending the Emergency: Science, Leadership, Action' will be held from 30 October 2019 to 2 November 2019.
- The conference will be organised by the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease.

World Fisheries Day: 21 November

- World Fisheries day is celebrated every year on November 21 throughout the world.
- The day helps in highlighting the critical importance to human lives, of water and the lives it sustains, both in and out of water.
- Fishing communities worldwide celebrate this day through rallies, workshops, public meetings, and cultural programs.

World Television Day: 21 November

- The United Nations' (UN) World Television Day is annually observed around the world on November 21.
- The day recognises that television plays a major role in presenting different issue that affect people.
- The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21 November as World Television Day through a resolution on 17 December 1996.

Africa Industrialisation Day: 20 November

- 'Africa Industrialisation Day' is observed on 20 November every year.
- It's a day dedicated to raising necessary awareness about Industrialisation in Africa.
- 2018 Theme: 'Promoting Regional Value Chains in Africa: A pathway for accelerating Africa's structural transformation, industrialization and pharmaceutical production'

Universal Children's Day: 20 November

- Universal Children's Day is observed on 20 November every year.
- The aim of the day is to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.
- United Nations Universal Children's Day was established in 1954.
- On 20 November 1989, the UN General assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

8th NCWP began in Ranchi

- The 8th National Conference of Women in Police (NCWP) began in Ranchi, Jharkhand on 19 November 2018.

- The two-day conference which is being organised by Bureau of Police Research & Development in collaboration with Jharkhand Police.
- It is the only national-level platform to address the various issues of Women in Police.

Conference on 'Police Communication' began

- A 2 day Conference, 'Modernisation of Police Communication and Challenges thereof', began in New Delhi on 19 November 2018.
- Directorate of Coordination Police Wireless (DCPW), a nodal advisory body to the Home ministry for the Police Telecommunication in the country is organising the conference.
- The conference will provide a forum for discussing various issues of communication.

'Qaumi Ekta Week' begins from 19 November

- 'Qaumi Ekta Week' (National Integration Week) will be observed all over the country, from 19th to 25th November, 2018.
- The aim of the week is to foster and reinforce the spirit of Communal Harmony, National Integration and pride in vibrant, composite culture and nationhood.
- A week long programmes will be observed during 'Qaumi Ekta Week'

Tripura to host 7th International Tourism Mart

- Tripura will be hosting 'International Tourism Mart' from 22 November 2018.
- The aim is to promote the tourism industry in the Northeastern states of the country.
- Tripura is hosting the 'International Tourism Mart' for the first time.
- The event is funded by the Union Ministry of Tourism.

Naturopathy Day observed on 18 November

- The AYUSH Ministry celebrated its first 'Naturopathy Day' across the country on 18 November 2018.
- The aim of the day is to promote the drug-less system of medicine to prevent diseases by altering the diet and lifestyle.
- Naturopathic medicine is a system that uses natural remedies to help the body heal itself.

World Toilet Day: 19 November

- World Toilet Day is observed on 19 November every year.
- The day is about inspiring action to tackle the global sanitation crisis.
- The 2018 campaign is based on the following narrative: 'When nature calls, we need a toilet'.
- World Toilet Day was established by the World Toilet Organisation in 2001.

International Affairs

World Congress on Mountain Medicine begins

- The '12th World Congress on Mountain Medicine' began in Kathmandu on 21 November 2018.
- The theme of the 4-day congress is 'Mountain Medicine in the Heart of the Himalayas'.
- The event mainly focused on science and research aspects of high altitude medicine.
- The event was held for the first time in Nepal and hosted by Mountain Medicine Society of Nepal (MMSN).

Mohammed VI- B Satellite successfully launched

- Morocco's 'Mohammed VI – B' satellite was successfully launched on 21 November 2018 by Arianespace from the Guiana Space Center, in French Guiana.
- 'Mohammed VI – B' satellite is a high-resolution Earth-observation satellite.
- It will be used for mapping and land surveying, regional development, agricultural monitoring, prevention and management of natural disasters, and mine exploration.

APEC summit held in Papua New Guinea

- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit was held on 17 and 18 November 2018 in Papua New Guinea.
- This is the first time Papua New Guinea, the poorest of the 21 countries in APEC, has hosted the summit.
- The capital of Papua New Guinea is Port Moresby and its currency is 'Papua New Guinean kina'.

Russia, Iran, & Turkey to hold Syria talks

- Russia, Iran and Turkey will hold the next round of talks on Syria's conflict on November 28-29 in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- The meeting will be the 11th in the Astana peace process, which was set up in early 2017 by Russia and Iran.
- The Astana process was launched after Russia's military intervention in Syria.

Maldives to rejoin Commonwealth countries

- The Maldives cabinet has approved to rejoin the Commonwealth, two years after withdrawing from the 53-nation grouping.
- The country left the Commonwealth during former President Abdulla Yameen's administration in October 2016.
- Ibrahim Mohamed Solih sworn in as President of Maldives on 17 November 2018.

Two new satellites to BeiDou Navigation System

- China has added two more satellites to its BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS).
- The satellites were launched into space on a 'Long March-3B' rocket carrier.
- With the successful launch, the basic BDS constellation deployment is complete.
- It will be the fourth global satellite navigation system after the US GPS system, Russia's GLONASS and the European Union's Galileo.

National Affairs

Jharkhand Day being celebrated at IFFI in Goa

- Jharkhand Day is being celebrated at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa on 24 November 2018.
- For 2018, Jharkhand is the focus state at the International Film Festival of India.
- This is for the first time that any state has been made focus state at the film festival.
- The movies which have been shot in Jharkhand, are being screened at the film festival.

44 new coal blocks found in 4 Eastern states

- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has found 44 new coal blocks in four states of Eastern India.
- The location of these coal blocks are spread across West Bengal's Purulia and Birbhum districts, coal city of Talcher in Odisha, Bihar's Bhagalpur and Jharkhand's East Bokaro and south Karanpura.
- The estimated coal resource of these 44 new blocks is close to 25,000 million tonnes.

Indian Railways introduces e-toilets

- As a special initiative to mark World Toilet Day, Central Railway (CR) department has announced to introduce e-toilets in the railway coaches for the first time.
- The e-toilets electronically integrate all the toilet functions.
- These toilets are fully unmanned and perform automated operations.
- Pressure nozzles have also been attached to these toilets to make flushing easier.

Foundation Stones of CGD Project

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for City Gas Distribution (CGD) projects across 129 districts on 22 November 2018.
- This will boost the availability of gas supply for half of the country's population in 26 states and Union Territories.
- The projects have been awarded by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).

'Women Empowerment campaign' launched

- 'Nari Sashaktikaran Sankalp Abhiyan' or Women Empowerment campaign was launched in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on 20 November 2018.
- The month-long campaign is aimed to empower women in the state through various programmes.
- The campaign will educate women about the schemes being run by central and state governments for their welfare and security.

Kundli-Manesar section inaugurated

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kundli-Manesar section of the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) western peripheral expressway on 19 November 2018.
- The expressway will decongest the road traffic from Delhi, especially reducing the number of trucks entering Delhi.
- Besides, the project will also provide high-speed link between northern Haryana and southern districts.

Hookah bars permanently banned in Punjab

- Hookah bars have been permanently banned in Punjab as President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Bill, 2018 to check use of tobacco.
- Punjab is the third state in the country after Gujarat and Maharashtra where hookah bars or lounges were banned through law.
- The Punjab assembly had passed the Bill in March 2018.

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India & World

Doval, Wang held India-China border talks

- India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held the '21st round of border talks' in China on 24 November 2018.
- Ajit Doval and Wang Yi are the designated Special Representatives (SRs) for border talks between India and China.
- The India-China border dispute covers 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Nepal's largest exhibition ConMac 2018 begins

- Nepal's largest exhibition on construction equipment and technology 'ConMac 2018' began on 22 November 2018 in Kathmandu.
- The 3 day mega event is organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in association with Embassy of India in Nepal.
- The exhibition is showcasing, mainly heavy equipment such as dozer, crusher and concrete mixer.

India & Australia signed five agreements

- On 22 November 2018, India and Australia signed five agreements to boost investments and enhance cooperation in key sectors like disability, agricultural research and education.
- The agreements were signed after President Ram Nath Kovind met Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison in Sydney.
- President Kovind is the first-ever Indian President to visit Australia.

Sushma Swaraj began her Laos visit on Nov 22

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj began her two-day visit to Laos from 22 November 2018.
- She will co-chair the 9th Meeting of 'India-Laos Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation'.

- The joint commission meeting will further enhance the cooperation between the two countries in various areas.
- The capital of Laos is Vientiane and its currency is Lao Kip.

Abu Dhabi to host India-UAE Strategic Conclave

- The UAE will host the second edition of 'India-UAE Strategic Conclave' on 27 November 2018.
- The day-long conference will be held in Abu Dhabi.
- It will initiate dialogues to widen the scope of bilateral investments between the two countries.
- The conclave aims to improve the connection between the business communities of the two countries.

BASIC Ministerial Meeting held in New Delhi

- The 27th BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change was held in New Delhi on 19-20 November 2018.
- The meeting was chaired by Dr Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- The BASIC group was formed by an agreement on 28 November 2009.

Books & Authors

Book titled 'Radio Kashmir' released

- A book titled 'Radio Kashmir – In Times of Peace & War' was released by the Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh on 20 November 2018.
- The book has been written by Dr Rajesh Bhat.
- The book depicts unique distinction earned by 'Radio Kashmir' by serving people and the nation.
- The author Dr Rajesh Bhat is currently posted in the Policy Division of Directorate General, All India Radio, New Delhi.

Novel penned by former IB official launched

- Maharashtra Director General of Police Datta Padsalgikar launched the novel 'The Velvet Gloves' on 17 November 2018.
- The novel has been written by former Intelligence Bureau (IB) officer Balakrishna Kamath.
- The plot of 'The Velvet Gloves' is about the tussle between Indian intelligence agencies and the US law enforcement agency FBI.

Environment

Four new horned frogs discovered

- Four new species of horned frogs have been discovered in Himalayan regions of Northeast India.
- They were discovered by a team of biologists from Delhi University, University College Dublin and the National Museum (UK).
- The four new Indian species are Himalayan horned frog; the Garo white-lipped horned frog; the Yellow spotted white-lipped horned frog; and the Giant Himalayan horned frog.

Government Policies & Schemes

Non-transport usage of quadricycles allowed

- The government of India has declared quadricycle as a 'non-transport vehicle' under the Motor Vehicles Act 1988.
- This will provide a safe and cheap mode of transport for the last mile connectivity.
- A non-transport vehicle is a vehicle whose usage is allowed under personal capacity only.
- A quadricycle is a vehicle with the size of a three-wheeler but has four tyres and is fully covered.

Cabinet approved 'ACROSS' scheme

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved continuation of 'Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services' (ACROSS) during 2017-2020.
- ACROSS scheme consists of 9 sub-programmes
- It will be implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- The objective of the ACROSS scheme is to provide a reliable weather and climate forecast for the betterment of society.

OBC sub-quota panel's term extended

- The term of the commission examining the issue of sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the central list has been extended till May 31, 2019.
- The decision was approved by the Union Cabinet on 22 November 2018
- The commission was formed in October 2017.
- The five-member panel is headed by Justice (retd.) G Rohini.

Kartarpur corridor project approved

- Union Cabinet has approved building and development of the Kartarpur corridor from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur district to International Border.
- It will provide a smooth and easy passage to pilgrims to visit Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur throughout the year.
- Kartarpur corridor project will be funded by the Central Government.

Government makes jute packaging mandatory

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has given its approval to expand the scope of mandatory packaging norms under the Jute Packaging Material Act, 1987.
- The CCEA approved that 100% food grains and 20% sugar shall be mandatorily packed in diversified jute bags.
- The decision will give an impetus to the diversification of the jute industry.

Himachal govt approved Sashakt Mahila Yojna

- The Himachal Pradesh government has approved to implement 'Sashakt Mahila Yojna' in the state.
- The scheme will empower rural women by providing them with an interface for socio-economic development.

- The scheme will link rural women with sustainable livelihood opportunities and also improve their skill by imparting training.

Bhadohi got 'export excellence' tag

- Bhadohi in Uttar Pradesh has got the 'export excellence' tag from the Government of India.
- It is known for its hand-woven carpets around the world.
- Under the tag, carpet makers will get financial assistance from the central government to procure modern machines and improve export infrastructure.
- The status was granted by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, under the Commerce Ministry.

'Bhudaar' portal launched in Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh launched 'Bhudaar' portal which makes land records available to people with unique identification numbers.
- The 'Bhudaar' is an 11-digit unique identification code assigned to each agriculture land holding and rural and urban properties in the state.
- Two types of Bhudaar cards are available including e-Bhudaar and M-Bhudaar.

IIC Program launched by HRD ministry

- The 'Institution's Innovation Council' (IIC) program under 'Innovation cell' of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) was launched in New Delhi on 21 November 2018.
- The purpose of formation of network of IICs is to encourage, inspire and nurture young students by exposing them to new ideas.
- MHRD has established the 'Innovation cell' at AICTE.

Himachal to set up 'Gau Sewa Aayog'

- The Himachal Pradesh government decided to set up a 'Gau Sewa Aayog' for preservation, protection and welfare of cows in the state.
- The Aayog will regulate institutions like cow sheds and shelters, besides the 'gau vigyan kendras' and the community animal-rearing centres.
- The Aayog would also cater to the problem of abandoned cows.

Report on IPRS released by Commerce Ministry

- The report on 'Industrial Park Rating System' (IPRS) was released on 19 November 2018.
- The report was prepared by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- The IPRS is being developed to assess industrial parks in the country.
- Development of IPRS would help increase the competitiveness of industries and promotion of the manufacturing sector.

AirSewa 2.0 portal and app unveiled

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation has introduced the upgraded version of AirSewa 2.0 web portal and mobile app for air travellers.
- Major improvements include features such as secure sign-up and log-in with social media, chatbot for travellers support, and improved grievance management.
- The web portal and application will help to capture air travellers' feedback for policy interventions.

'Ease of Doing Business Challenge' launched

- The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi launched the 'Ease of Doing Business Grand Challenge' on 19 November 2018.
- The objective of this challenge is to invite innovative ideas based on Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Big Data Analytics, Blockchain and other cutting-edge technology to reform Government processes.
- The platform for the Grand Challenge is the Startup India Portal.

New open online learning programme launched

- The Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) has rolled out its Online Open Learning training platform named 'KOOL'.
- The platform can be used to train teachers, students and the general public.
- KOOL has been designed in a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) model.
- KOOL has an array of features for learners in the form of animated learning assistants and video tutorials.

Personality in News

Sachin is the brand ambassador of Apollo Tyres

- Tyre maker, Apollo Tyres has appointed cricketer Sachin Tendulkar as its new brand ambassador on 22 November 2018.
- He will be the ambassador of Apollo Tyres for a period of five years.
- Apart from Apollo Tyres, he is also the brand Ambassador for BMW in India.
- Sachin Tendulkar was the former brand ambassador of MRF Tyres.

Joyce to head the UN Environment Programme

- On 22 November 2018, Tanzanian microbiologist Joyce Msuya has been appointed as acting head of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) following the resignation of Erik Solheim.
- Erik Solheim was the Executive Director of UNEP.
- Prior to joining UN, served as Adviser to the World Bank Vice President.
- She also served in the Republic of Korea, as the inaugural World Bank Special Representative.

UNICEF appoints 'Youth Advocate' for Northeast

- On 23 November 2018, singer Nahid Afrin of Assam has been appointed as the first 'Youth Advocate' of the Northeastern region by the UNICEF to fight for child rights.

- The UNICEF engages 'Youth Advocates' to act as agents of change in society.
- She made her playback debut in the 2016 Bollywood film 'Akira'.
- She received the best female playback singer award at the Assam state Film Award 2018.

Alia Bhatt appointed as brand ambassador

- Uber Eats has appointed actor Alia Bhatt as its brand ambassador in India on 22 November 2018.
- India is the first country for Uber Eats globally where the company has appointed a brand ambassador.
- Uber Eats is the food delivery arm of Uber and was launched in India in May 2017.
- The food delivery service is available across 37 cities in India.

Vimal Chandra won the Young Scientist award

- IIT Roorkee Professor Vimal Chandra Srivastava has won the 'NASI-Scopus Young Scientist Award 2018' in 'Environmentally Sound Sustainable Development' category.
- He has been given the award for his work on Industrial Wastewater Treatment, Clean Liquid Fuels, and Multi-component Adsorption.
- The Award was instituted by Elsevier in the year 2006.

Youngest-ever goodwill ambassador appointed

- British actress Millie Bobby Brown was named the newest United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Goodwill Ambassador on 21 November 2018.
- She is the youngest person ever to be appointed as the UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassador.
- As a Goodwill Ambassador, she will use her global platform to raise awareness of children's rights and issues affecting young people.

Renault keeps Carlos Ghosn as CEO

- Renault has appointed its Chief Operating Officer (COO) Thierry Bollere as deputy CEO to ensure day-to-day management of the company.
- His appointment was made after the arrest of its CEO Carlos Ghosn but he will remain as its CEO.
- Renault's move to appoint a temporary leader was in line with a demand by the French government, which owns a 15% stake in the automaker.

Kim Jong Yang elected as Interpol President

- Kim Jong Yang of South Korea has been elected Interpol President.
- Kim will serve as president for the remainder of the current mandate, until 2020.
- The decision was taken at the 87th General Assembly of the Agency in Dubai.
- He was previously the Chief of police in South Korea's most populous province.

Dr Dixit appointed as Brand Ambassador

- The Maharashtra government has appointed Dr Jagannath Dixit as the Brand Ambassador of its anti-obesity campaign.
- Dr Dixit has been appointed due to his experience and knowledge in the field.
- Dr Dixit is attached to the Government Medical College, Latur as a Professor.

Ustad Amjad Ali Khan given a lifetime award

- Sarod master, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan was presented the 'Sumitra Charat Ram Award for Lifetime Achievement' on 17 November 2018.
- He was awarded for his immense contribution to the enrichment and promotion of the Indian classical music.
- The award was presented to him by former diplomat Lalit Mansingh.
- He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 2001.

Brigadier Kuldip Singh passed away

- Kuldip Singh Chandpuri, known as the hero of the Battle of Longewala during the 1971 Indo-Pak war, died on 17 November 2018.
- Brig Chandpuri was a recipient of the Maha Vir Chakra, the country's second-highest gallantry award, for his role at Longewala, an outpost in the Thar desert of Rajasthan.
- Brig Chandpuri was commissioned into the 23rd Battalion of the Punjab Regiment in 1963.

Science & Technology

First ever plane with no moving parts launched

- Scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have built and flown the first-ever silent aeroplane with no moving propellers or jet turbines.
- The aeroplane is powered by an ionic wind technology.
- Ionic wind technology uses a powerful electric field to generate charged ions, which are then expelled from the back of the aircraft for generating thrust.

New technology developed by IMD

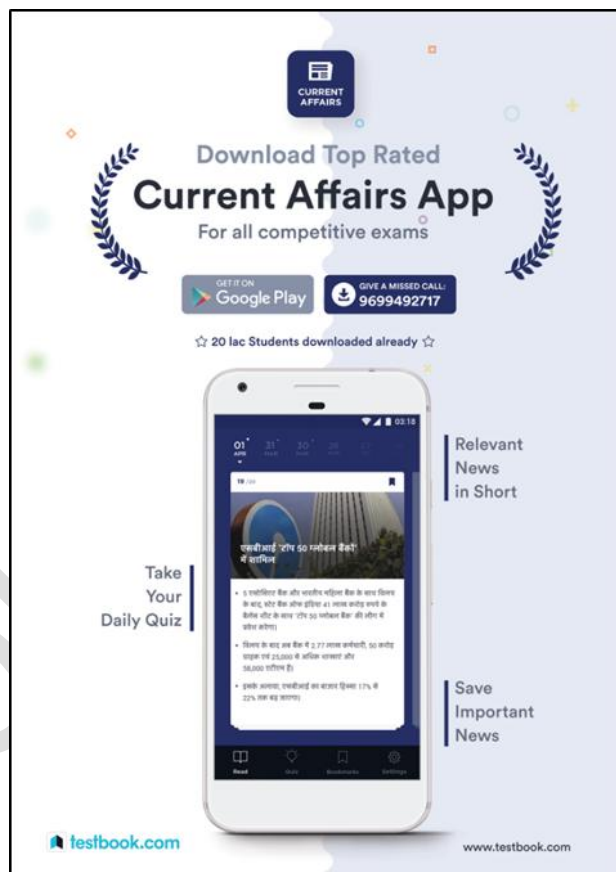
- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has developed a new technology called 'Impact Based Forecasting Approach'.
- It will be used to assess the rise of water level in rivers and reservoirs by rain.
- It can help state governments to minutely monitor the impact of rain and take real-time decisions.

Google launched 'Neighbourly' app

- Google has announced the national roll-out of a new app from its 'Next Billion Users' team called 'Neighbourly'.
- The app helps people source local information from their neighbours.
- Google is rolling out 'Neighbourly' starting with Bengaluru and Delhi, which topped the waitlist.
- More cities will be added every day, including Chennai, Hyderabad and Pune.

New 'pinwheel' star system discovered

- Scientists have discovered a new, massive star system in the Milky Way galaxy.
- The scientists detected a gamma-ray burst progenitor system.
- It is a type of supernova that blasts out an extremely powerful and narrow jet of plasma.
- The system is estimated to be 8,000 light years away from Earth.



GROWTH-India telescope's first observation

- The 'GROWTH-India telescope' at the Indian Astronomical Observatory located in Hanle, Ladakh has made its first science observation which is a follow-up study of a nova explosion.
- Novae are explosive events involving violent eruptions on the surface of white dwarf stars, leading to temporary increase in brightness of the star.
- This recurrent nova has been named 'M31N-2008'.

Two new satellites to BeiDou Navigation System

- China has added two more satellites to its BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS).
- The satellites were launched into space on a 'Long March-3B' rocket carrier.
- With the successful launch, the basic BDS constellation deployment is complete.
- It will be the fourth global satellite navigation system after the US GPS system, Russia's GLONASS and the European Union's Galileo.

Definition of kilogram changed

- The world's standard definition of the kilogram, the ampere, the kelvin and the mole has been changed.
- The definition of the kilogram is based on the International Prototype of the Kilogram (IPK), a cylinder of a platinum alloy stored at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) in France.
- The new definition of Kilogram will be replaced by the Planck constant.

Business & Economy

5% subsidy for non-basmati rice exports

- The government of India will give a subsidy of 5% for non-basmati rice exports from 26 November 2018 to 25 March 2019.
- The move is expected to boost the exports of non-basmati rice.
- The subsidy will be given under the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS).
- The products include husked (brown) rice, parboiled and broken rice.

J&K Bank made a public sector unit

- The proposal for treating J&K Bank Limited as a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) was approved by the State Administrative Council (SAC).
- The bank has been brought under the purview of the Right to Information (RTI) act, the Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) guidelines, and the State Legislature.
- The J&K Bank Ltd is the only state government-promoted bank in the country.

HDFC ERGO sets up remote sensing lab

- General insurance company 'HDFC ERGO General Insurance' has set up a remote sensing lab for crop insurance.
- The lab will work on accurately assessing the risks of the insurers and will also be able to give early warnings about the losses.
- Remote sensing involves setting up scanning an area through the use of satellite to get deeper information about that region.

SEBI new rules for reclassifying a promoter

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has come out with new rules for re-classification of a promoter as a public investor.
- An outgoing promoter will have to relinquish special rights as well as control over the affairs of the listed firm.
- The promoter will not be allowed to have any representation on the board of directors.
- They will not be allowed to hold over 10% stake.

Bank credit grew by 14.88% & deposits by 9.13%

- According to the RBI data, bank credit rose by 14.88% to Rs 91.11 lakh crore in the fortnight ended 9 November 2018.
- The deposits grew by 9.13% to Rs 118.25 lakh crore.

- In the previous fortnight ended October 26, 2018, credit had grown by 14.57% to Rs 90.37 lakh crore, while deposits rose by 9.01% to Rs 117.71 lakh crore.
- In September 2018, the non-food credit rose by 11.3%.

Credit guarantee process norms changed

- The Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) has changed norms to improve credit guarantee process for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE).
- It will now capture key information on the financial status of the borrowers.
- The modification will be applicable from 1 December 2018.
- CGTMSE has been jointly set up by the government of India and SIDBI.

HDFC disburses Rs 1,100 crore subsidy

- HDFC bank has disbursed over Rs 1,100 crore subsidy to over 51,000 customers under the government's flagship scheme PMAY (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana).
- It has provided loans of over Rs 9,800 crore under PMAY-Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS).'
- The loans were provided to customers belonging to EWS (Economically Weaker Section), LIG (Low Income Group) and MIG (Middle Income Group) category.

SBI CAP Ventures launches SME & Housing Fund

- SBI CAP Ventures Ltd. has launched Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and Affordable Housing Funds.
- SBI CAP Ventures Ltd is an alternative asset manager and subsidiary of SBI Capital Markets.
- SBI CAP SME Fund aims to raise Rs 400 crore and the Affordable Housing Fund Rs 350 crore.

RBI's new body to look into PCA issues

- On 19 November 2018, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Central Board decided to constitute a 'Board for Financial Supervision' (BFS).
- BFS will examine the framework for banks under Prompt Corrective Action (PCA).
- The Central Board also decided to constitute an expert committee to examine the Economic Capital Framework (ECF).

New online platform launched by NSE

- National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) launched a mobile application and web-based platform named 'NSE goBID' on 19 November 2018.
- The platform will allow retail investors to invest in treasury bills (T-Bills) of 91 days, 182 days and 364 days and various government bonds from one year to almost 40 years.
- It will also allow investors to make payments directly from their bank accounts.

Sports

Monaco to host 2019 'Laureus Awards'

- The 19th edition of the prestigious 'Laureus World Sports Awards' will be held in Monaco on 18 February 2019.
- 'Laureus World Sports Awards' are considered as the 'Oscars of sports'.
- Tennis player Roger Federer won the Laureus Sportsman of the Year award for 2017.
- Former India cricket captains Kapil Dev, Rahul Dravid and Sachin Tendulkar are members of the Laureus Academy.

First batsman to score 11,000 runs in Ranji

- On 21 November 2018, Veteran cricketer Wasim Jaffer became the first batsman to score 11,000 runs in Ranji Trophy.
- Jaffer, who plays for Vidarbha, achieved the feat on day two of the Ranji Trophy match against Baroda.
- He has played 31 Tests and two One-Day Internationals for India.
- He last played for India in April 2008.

Mary Kom made history at Boxing Championships

- On 20 November 2018, India's Mary Kom defeated China's Wu Yu 5-0 in the 48kg quarterfinals of the women's World Boxing Championships in New Delhi.
- She is assured of a medal.
- Mary has become the most successful medal winner in the Championship's history with seven medals across different weight categories.

Indian gymnasts won two bronze medals

- Indian gymnasts won two bronze medals in the men's and women's group events of the FIG Acrobatic World Cup in Baku.
- Prins Aris and Rejilesh Suribabu won bronze medals in the men's and women's group events on 20 November 2018.
- Russian gymnasts won both the gold and silver.

Bangladesh team won Subroto Cup

- Bangladesh Krida Shiksha Prothishtan (BKSP) won the 59th edition of the junior boys Subroto Cup International Football Tournament on 20 November 2018.
- The team defeated Amini School, Afghanistan in the final match.
- The final match was held at New Delhi.
- A total of 95 teams and 1500 players participated in the tournament.

Alexander Zverev won ATP Finals in London

- Tennis player Alexander Zverev won the ATP Finals in London on 19 November 2018.
- He defeated Novak Djokovic in the finals
- Alexander Zverev became only the fourth player to beat Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic back-to-back in the semi-final and final of the same tournament.
- He also became the youngest winner of the ATP title.

Shubhankar won 'Rookie of the year' honours

- Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma became the first Indian to emerge as the 'Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year 2018' on the European Tour.

- He follows Jon Rahm (2017), Wang Jeunghun (2016), Byeong Hun An (2015) and Brooks Koepka (2014) who have been the four Rookies before him.
- He is the third Asian in last four years to get this honour, after Byeong Hun An (2015) and Wang Jeunghun (2016).

Lakshya won bronze medal in badminton

- India's Lakshya Sen settled for a bronze medal in the World Junior Badminton Championship on 17 November 2018.
- He was defeated by Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand in the men's singles semifinals.
- Saina Nehwal is the only Indian to have won a gold in the 'World Junior Badminton Championship' during the 2008 Pune edition.

Defence

2 fast patrol vessels for CG launched

- Two fast patrol vessels manufactured by 'Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers' (GRSE) for Indian Coast Guard were launched on 22 November 2018.
- The vessels have been named ICGS Amrit Kaur and ICGS Kamla Devi.
- The vessels are fitted with state-of-the-art main engines with advanced control systems with modular accommodation for 35 personnel.

India and Russia signed \$500 million deal

- On 20 November 2018, India and Russia signed a USD 500 million deal for construction of two missile frigates in Goa for the Indian Navy.
- The agreement for manufacturing of the two Talvar-class warships was signed between Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) and Russia's state-run defence major Rosoboronexport.
- Russia will provide design, technology and key materials to GSL for construction of the ships.

Military exercise 'Vajra Prahar' commenced

- The joint military exercise 'Vajra Prahar' between India and the United States commenced in Jaipur on 19 November 2018.
- The aim is to enhance the interoperability of the two armed forces.
- The armies will train on different aspects including hostage rescue, building intervention, desert survival, medical aid and combat firing.

Polity

Allied & healthcare professions Bill approved

- On 22 November 2018, the Union Cabinet approved the Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill 2018.
- The aim of the bill is to regulate and standardise the education and services provided by allied and healthcare professionals.
- The Bill provides for setting up of an Allied and Healthcare Council of India.

- The allied and healthcare professionals include physiotherapists, nutritionists etc.

J&K Assembly dissolved by Governor

- Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satyapal Malik dissolved the State Assembly on 21 November 2018.
- The Governor cited four main reasons for dissolving the Assembly with immediate effect.
- These include extensive horse-trading and possible exchange of money and the impossibility of forming a stable government by parties with opposing political ideologies.

'Land Reforms Bill' passed in West Bengal

- On 19 November 2018, the West Bengal Assembly passed the 'West Bengal Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill', 2018 to give land rights to enclave dwellers in north Bengal.
- The Bill will help in the distribution of land-right documents to the people of the enclaves in the border district of Cooch Behar.
- Bangladesh and India had exchanged a total of 162 enclaves on Aug 1, 2015.

Reservation for women in legislative assembly

- The Odisha Assembly has unanimously passed a resolution seeking 33% reservation for women in legislative assemblies and Parliament.
- The resolution, moved by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, was passed by a voice vote.
- Currently, the 147-member state assembly has 12 women MLAs.
- The Women's Reservation Bill is pending in the parliament.

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