

WEEKLY

CURRENT AFFAIRS CAPSULE

25TH NOVEMBER – 1ST DECEMBER 2018

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Awards & Honours

Abhinav Bindra won ISSF's 'Blue Cross' award

- On 30 November 2018, shooter Abhinav Bindra was conferred with the 'Blue Cross' by the International Shooting Sports Federation's (ISSF).
- It is the ISSF's highest award.
- He was awarded for his outstanding services as the Chairman of the International Shooting Sports Federation's Athletes Committee.
- He won the gold medal in 10m air rifle event at the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

Keshav Ginde to get Pt. Bhimsen Joshi award

- Renowned flautist Pandit Keshav Ginde will be conferred with the prestigious 'Bharat Ratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Lifetime Achievement Award 2018' for classical music.
- The award has been instituted by Maharashtra Government.
- The award honours maestros in classical music and singing, and carries a cash award of Rs 500,000, a memento and a citation.

'Asian of The Year' award 2018 announced

- Indian Navy Commander Vijay Varma and Captain P Rajkumar won the 'Asian of The Year' Award on 28 November 2018.
- They were awarded for their selfless service and bravery in rescue operations during the devastating floods in Kerala.
- The awards have been constituted by the English language newspaper 'The Straits Times' and it is based in Singapore.

Donbass won the 'Golden Peacock' at IFFI 2018

- 'Donbass' has won the coveted 'Golden Peacock Award' at the 49th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) on 28 November 2018.
- The Award carries a cash prize of Rs 40 lakhs to be shared equally between the Producer and the Director, Trophy, and the citation.
- 'Donbass' is the official submission of Ukraine for the 'Best Foreign Language Film' category at the 91st Academy Awards in 2019.

Premji to be conferred French civilian award

- Azim Premji will be conferred with the 'Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur' (Knight of the Legion of Honour).
- Alexandre, Ambassador of France to India will confer the award to Premji.
- The award comes in recognition of his outstanding contribution in developing the information technology industry in India, his economic outreach in France, and his contribution to society as a philanthropist.

Salim Khan to receive Special Award at IFFI

- Screenwriter Salim Khan will be honoured with 'International Film Festival of India (IFFI) Special Award' for his lifetime contribution to cinema.
- He will receive the honour at the closing ceremony of the 49th edition of the IFFI on November 28.

- He will be presented with a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh, a certificate and a shawl.

Sanjay Kumar won the First UN-GGIM award

- Sanjay Kumar was conferred the 'Global Geospatial Industry Ambassador' Award by the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) on 19 November 2018.
- He was awarded at the United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress held in China.
- He is the Founder and CEO of Geospatial Media & Communications.

12 movies nominated for UNESCO Gandhi Medal

- The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) has nominated 12 movies for 2018 International Council for Film, Television and Audiovisual Communication (ICFT) UNESCO Gandhi Medal.
- Of these 12 films, two are from India and the rest are foreign movies.
- The two Indian movies competing for the honour are Tamil film 'Baaram' and Ladakhi movie 'Walking with the Wind'.

Days & Events

'CII Agro Tech 2018' inaugurated in Chandigarh

- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the 'International CII Agro Tech 2018' in Chandigarh on 1 December 2018.
- It is organised by Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).
- The theme for 'International CII Agro Tech 2018' is 'Technology in Agriculture: Increasing Farmer's Income'.

- The partner country is Great Britain while focus countries are Canada and China.

World AIDS Day: 1 December

- World AIDS Day is observed on 1st December each year.
- The aim of the day is to spread awareness about the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- The theme for 2018 is 'Know Your Status'.
- The 2018 theme focusses on the importance of HIV testing as a gateway to HIV prevention and treatment.
- The day was first initiated by the World Health Organisation in 1988.

2nd International Ambedkar Conclave inaugurated

- The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the 2nd 'International Ambedkar Conclave' on 30 November 2018 in New Delhi.
- The conclave is the part of the commemoration of Constitution Day.
- The Conclave is being organised by the Forum of SC and ST Legislators and Parliamentarians and the Dr Ambedkar Chamber of Commerce.

Dialogue on health system organised

- NITI Aayog began a series of 'Development Dialogues' from 30 November 2018.
- It will engage experts, thought leaders and government stakeholders across key avenues of long-term social and economic development.
- The first event was a conference on 'Health Systems for A New India: Building Blocks'.
- The conference will feature senior government functionaries and experts in the healthcare space.

Conference of Heads of Investigating Agencies

- The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) organised the '2nd National Conference of Heads of Investigating Agencies' in New Delhi on 29 November 2018.
- The theme of the conference is 'Capacity Building of Police Investigators in the Era of New Age Crimes'.
- The conference will deliberate on various legal aspects, procedures, and use of technology in investigation.

Mumbai to host 'Global Aviation Summit'

- The two-day 'Global Aviation Summit' will be held in Mumbai in January 2019.
- The summit will be organised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Airport Authority of India (AAI) in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).
- The theme of the summit is 'Flying for all - especially for the next 6 billion'.

International Day for Palestinian People

- The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is observed by the United Nations on 29 November every year.

- On 29 November 1947, the UN Assembly adopted the resolution on the partition of Palestine.
- The resolution provided for the establishment in Palestine of a 'Jewish State' and an 'Arab State'.

Conference on child health to be held in Delhi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate two-day international 'Conference on Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health' in New Delhi on 12 December 2018.
- The objective of the conference is to improve knowledge and accountability to accelerate action on women's and children's health.
- The programme has been framed around the objectives of the global strategy of 'Survive, Thrive and Transform'.

Regional 'Youth Peace Conference' began

- A 3 day 'South Asia Regional Youth Peace Conference' is being held from 28 November to 30 November 2018 in New Delhi.
- The conference is being organised by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in partnership with UNESCO- MGIEP and Standing Together To Enable Peace Trust.
- The conference is being organised to mark the beginning of the celebration of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

'Logix India 2019' will be held in New Delhi

- Logistic meet 'Logix India 2019' will be held from 31 January to 2 February 2019 in New Delhi.
- The event is aimed at improving logistics cost effectiveness and operational efficiencies for India's Global Trade.
- The event is organised by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO).

National Milk Day observed on 26 November

- National Milk Day is observed on 26 November every year.
- The day commemorates the contribution of Dr Verghese Kurien towards Milk Revolution in India.
- Dr Verghese Kurien played a key role in the formation of milk co-operative 'Amul'.
- He is also known as 'Father of the White Revolution' in India.

Constitution day observed on 26 November

- Constitution day which is also known as the 'Samvidhan Divas' is celebrated every year on 26 November.
- The adoption of the Constitution took place on 26 November 1949 but it came into effect on 26 January 1950.
- On 19 November 2015, the government of India with the help of a gazette notification declared 26 November as the Constitution Day.

International Affairs

Reggae gets into heritage list

- UNESCO added 'Reggae' music to its collection of 'intangible cultural heritage' deemed worthy of protection and promotion on 29 November 2018.
- 'Reggae' music originated in Jamaica.
- Intangible Cultural Heritage is defined as intangible heritage as the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, and skills that communities and individuals recognise as part of their cultural heritage.

Orphanage trafficking to be treated as slavery

- 'Modern Slavery Bill' was passed by Australian Parliament on 29 November 2018.
- Under the new law, 'orphanage trafficking' will be treated as a slavery and trafficking offence.
- Australia has become the first country in the world to recognise 'orphanage trafficking' as a form of slavery.
- Orphanage trafficking is where children are actively recruited into orphanages for profit purposes.

US, Canada, & Mexico have signed 'USMCA'

- The United States, Canada, and Mexico have signed a new trade agreement which will replace the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) on 30 November 2018.
- The new trade agreement has been renamed as the 'United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement' (USMCA).
- USMCA will govern more than \$1 trillion worth of trade between the countries.

'TIPS' system launched by ECB

- The European Central Bank (ECB) launched the first pan-eurozone instant payment system called 'TARGET Instant Payment Settlement' (TIPS) system on 30 November 2018.
- The 'TIPS' system will let people and companies in Europe transfer money to each other within seconds.
- It will settle transactions only in euros.
- It is restricted to European Union banks only.

EU sets goal to be 'climate neutral' by 2050

- The European Union has unveiled a strategy to become the first major economy to go 'climate neutral' by 2050.
- The strategy includes investing in technological solutions to help lower carbon emissions.
- This move will cut premature air pollution deaths by 40%.
- Climate neutrality is achieved when carbon emissions are at zero.

Congo's Ebola outbreak is the second deadliest

- According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the current Ebola epidemic in the Democratic Republic of Congo is now the second largest and second deadliest in history.
- The latest outbreak in Congo, which began in August 2018, has a case fatality rate of 57%.
- The deadliest outbreak occurred in West Africa in 2014, where more than 11,000 people were killed due to Ebola.

'Chidaoba' wrestling got UNESCO heritage tag

- Georgian traditional wrestling called 'chidaoba' won recognition from UNESCO as a global cultural asset on 29 November 2018.
- The UNESCO had added it to its list of 'intangible cultural heritage'.
- A match 'chidaoba' lasts for five minutes, during which wrestlers wearing traditional high-necked woollen coats try to defeat their opponent using various holds.

Irish sport of hurling won heritage status

- The Irish sport of 'hurling' was granted UNESCO's special status of 'Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity' on 29 November 2018.
- The game is played by teams of 15 on a pitch with 'H' shaped goals at either end.
- According to UNESCO, Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) is made up of oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals and festive events.

Georgia elects its first woman President

- Salome Zurbishvili has won Georgia's presidential election on 29 November 2018.
- She became the first woman President of Georgia.
- She was the former French Diplomat.
- She was the former Foreign Minister of Georgia.
- The capital of Georgia is Tbilisi and its currency is Georgian Lari.

Blue Economy Conference held in Kenya

- The first Global Conference on the 'Sustainable Blue Economy' was held on 28 November 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya.
- The conference was organised by Kenya.
- Canada and Japan were co-hosts of the conference.
- The conference committed to protect ocean and coastal resources, help them regenerate, and to ensure they remain viable for the present and future generations.

Social security scheme launched in Nepal

- Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli unveiled a contribution-based social security scheme' on 27 November 2018.
- It will cover health and medical facilities, safe motherhood, and provide security to dependent family members.
- The scheme will compulsorily be applied for formal sector workers.
- It will come into effect from 22 May 2019.

National Affairs

2nd 'Tejas' train to run b/w Chennai & Madurai

- The second 'Tejas' superfast express train will be operated between Chennai and Madurai.
- The train coaches are equipped with modern entertainment system, modular toilets, smart windows, and GPS-based passenger information system.
- The coaches have been manufactured at the Integral Coach Factory in Chennai.

- The first 'Tejas' train was launched in 2017 between Mumbai and Goa.

8 States achieve 100% electrification

- Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and Renewable Energy, RK Singh said that 8 States have achieved 100% saturation in household electrification under the Saubhagya scheme.
- The 8 states are Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Bihar, J&K, Mizoram, Sikkim, Telangana and West Bengal.
- Saubhagya scheme's objective is to provide access to electricity to all the remaining households in the country.

UGC to set up a consortium for journals

- University Grants Commission (UGC) has decided to set up a 'Consortium of Academic and Research Ethics' (CARE).
- CARE will prepare a fresh list of credible quality journals in the non-science disciplines.
- CARE's focus will be on journals in disciplines such as social sciences, humanities, languages, arts, culture and the Indian knowledge system.

GSI is the custodian of all meteorites

- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has been made the sole custodian and curator of all meteorites within the Indian boundary.
- It has been declared as the nodal agency for collection, preservation, registration, and dissemination of all meteorite falls/finds within the country.
- The declaration was made by the Ministry of Mines.
- The GSI is headquartered in Kolkata.

RIMES terms Titli cyclone 'rarest of rare'

- The Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) for Africa and Asia has termed cyclone 'Titli' as 'rarest of rare cyclone'.
- Cyclone 'Titli' struck Odisha in October 2018.
- It is the rarest of rare in terms of its characteristics such as recurvature after landfall and retaining its destructive potential.
- RIMES is a 45-nation international organisation on disaster warning.

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India & World

India to chair Kimberley Process from Jan 2019

- India will chair the Kimberley Process (KP) from January 2019.
- KP is a global initiative to remove conflict diamonds from the global supply chain.
- The conflict diamonds are used by rebel movements to finance wars against legitimate governments in the world.
- India is the founding member of Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS).

Saudi-India Business Meeting Held in Riyadh

- Saudi-India Business meeting was held with the Council of Saudi Chambers in Riyadh on 28 November 2018.
- The meeting was attended by top the officials and CEOs of the companies of Saudi Arabia.
- The Indian delegation was represented by several leading infra and housing companies.
- The Indian delegation was led by Manoj K Bharti, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

Port Blair to host IIBF

- The first ever India-Indonesia Business Forum (IIBF) will be held on 29 November 2018 at Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- The forum aims to facilitate the commercial and people-to-people linkages between the Andaman and Nicobar Islands with Aceh and North Sumatra Provinces of Indonesia.
- The 1st Business Forum was held in Indonesia in July 2018.

PM Modi will take part in 13th G-20 summit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi left for Argentina on 28 November 2018.
- He will be taking part in the 13th G-20 summit.
- The theme of the summit is 'Building Consensus for a Fair and Sustainable Development'.
- The capital of Argentina is Buenos Aires and its currency is Argentine peso.

India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue held

- The first-ever India Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue was held at St. Petersburg in Russia on 25 November 2018.
- The Indian side was led by NITI Aayog's Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar with the Russian delegation headed by Economic Development Minister Maxim Oreshkin.
- The participants will discuss the development of bilateral ties in trade, investment, technology, and industry.

Books & Authors

President received the first copy of the book

- The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind received the first copy of the book 'Making of New India: Transformation under Modi Government' from the Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on 27 November 2018.
- The book has been edited by Dr Bibek Debroy, Dr Anirban Ganguly, and Kishore Desai.

- It contains 51 essays on themes ranging from economy to diplomacy, education to public health.

Environment

New deep sea shark species found

- New deep-sea shark species named 'Pygmy false catshark' has been found in the northern Indian Ocean.
- It was found off the southwestern coast of India and north of Sri Lanka.
- It is about 65cm long and dark brown in colour without any prominent pattern.
- Its scientific name is 'Planonasmus indicus'.
- It is the first such discovery in India since the 'Mangalore houndshark' in 2011.

Government Policies & Schemes

Defence Ministry approved military procurement

- The Defence Acquisitions Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman accorded approval for the acquisition of defence equipment worth 3000 crores on 1 December 2018.
- The DAC granted approval for procurement of indigenous Brahmos Missiles for two Indian Navy Ships to be built in Russia.
- The DAC also approved the procurement of Armoured Recovery Vehicles for the Indian Army.

Passport Seva Project launched

- The government of India launched 'Passport Seva Project' (PSP) in major consulates in the United States.
- The aim is to simplify the overall passport applications procedure and reduce the turnaround time for applicants from 10 days to 48 hours or less.
- PSP prints Indian passports in the US and reduces turnaround for applicants.

Bhasha Sangam launched by HRD ministry

- The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has launched an initiative called 'Bhasha Sangam'.
- 'Bhasha Sangam' is a programme for schools and educational institutions to provide multilingual exposure to students in Indian languages.
- The initiative was launched under 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' on 22 November 2018 and will continue till the 21 December 2018.

Single emergency number '112' launched in HP

- On 28 November 2018, Himachal Pradesh became the first state to launch a pan-India single emergency number '112'.
- Under this project, an Emergency Response Centre (ERC) has been established in Shimla along with 12 district command centres (DCCs).
- The ERC has been integrated with police (100), fire (101), health (108), and women (1090) helpline numbers to provide emergency services.

Government of India launched 'IDSP' initiative

- On 26 November 2018, the government of India has launched the initiative called 'Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme' (IDSP) of 'Integrated Health Information Platform'.
- The initiative has been launched in Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Telangana, & Uttar Pradesh.
- The initiative will provide near-real-time data to policymakers for monitoring public health.

'Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti' launched

- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has formally launched 'Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti' on 27 November 2018.
- The aim of the mission is to promote self-reliance in Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in defence.
- Under the mission, 10,000 personnel of Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSU) and Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) will be trained on IPR.

No homework for students of classes I & II

- According to the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) order, there will be no homework for students of classes I and II.
- The order also said that there will be prescribed weight limit of school bags for each class.
- The weight of school bags for students of classes I and II should not exceed 1.5 kg, while the school bag of students of class III to V should weigh between 2 kg to 3 kg.

'Tourist Police' launched in Nagaland

- Nagaland's Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio launched 'Nagaland Tourist Police' on 26 November 2018.
- It will work for the safety and security of the tourists and report any crime against them to the nearest police station.
- Nagaland is the second state in the North East to introduce tourist police.
- Arunachal Pradesh is the first state in the North East to introduce tourist police.

Public bicycle sharing project & app launched

- Odisha's Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched a public bicycle sharing project and a mobile app on 26 November 2018.
- The bicycle sharing project and the mobile app is named 'Mo Cycle'.
- The project will provide mobile app-based services to users to locate and use a bicycle.
- The 'Mo Cycle' system will help in reducing traffic congestion, enhance space efficiency, and improve air quality.

'PAiSA' launched by government of India

- The government of India launched 'PAiSA - Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access' on 26 November 2018.

- The portal is a centralised electronic platform for processing interest subvention on bank loans to beneficiaries under 'Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana'.
- The web platform has been designed and developed by 'Allahabad Bank' which is the Nodal bank.

Govt hikes outlay for FAME India scheme

- The Ministry of Finance has enhanced the total outlay on the first phase of the 'Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) and Electric Vehicles' (FAME India) scheme from Rs 795 crore to Rs 895 crore.
- The aim of the scheme is to incentivise the production and promotion of eco-friendly vehicles.
- The scheme was launched by the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises.

Personality in News

Suu Kyi stripped Of 'Freedom Of Paris' Award

- Paris city stripped Aung San Suu Kyi of her honorary 'Freedom of Paris' award over her failure to speak out against a crackdown on Rohingya minority.
- Aung San Suu Kyi is the first person to lose the 'Freedom of Paris', a symbolic award.
- She has already been stripped of her honorary Canadian citizenship and her Amnesty International's 'Ambassador of Conscience Award'.

Georgia elects its first woman President

- Salome Zurbishvili has won Georgia's presidential election on 29 November 2018.
- She became the first woman President of Georgia.
- She was the former French Diplomat.
- She was the former Foreign Minister of Georgia.
- The capital of Georgia is Tbilisi and its currency is Georgian Lari.

Slovenia appoints first female army chief

- Slovenia has become the only NATO country to appoint a woman as head of its army.
- Maj Gen Alenka Ermenc took up the post of Chief of Staff of the Slovenian army on 28 November 2018.
- Maj Gen Ermenc is currently serving as the army's Deputy-Chief of Staff.
- She began her military career in 1991 when the country won its independence from the former Yugoslavia.

Prof Punyasloke got Swarnajayanti Fellowship

- Prof Punyasloke Bhaduri of the Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research Kolkata was awarded the prestigious 'Swarnajayanti Fellowship' by the government of India for 2017-18.
- Under this fellowship, scientists are provided with generous support to pursue research in the frontier areas of science and technology.
- It is awarded for a period of 5 years.

Science & Technology

1st advanced personal robot for kids launched

- India's first advanced personal robot for children called 'Miko 2' was launched on 27 November 2018.
- It was developed by the Mumbai-based start-up named 'Emotix'.
- The robot will help parents in early education and development of children.
- The robot comes with preloaded games, riddles, fun facts, rhymes, music, dance etc and can be loaded with new content.

CSIR to establish a Skill Development Centre

- CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (CSIR-IMTECH) will establish a 'High End Skill Development Centre' in Chandigarh.
- It will establish the centre in partnership with Merck, a leading German Science and Technology company.
- The centre will help accelerate healthcare research and train Indian students and researchers in latest life science technologies and make them industry ready.

ISRO to launch India's 'HysIS' satellite

- ISRO will launch 'PSLV-C43' mission on 29 November 2018.
- The 'PSLV-C43' rocket will carry India's 'HysIS' satellite and 30 other satellites.
- 'HysIS' is an earth observation satellite developed by ISRO.
- The primary goal of the satellite is to study the Earth's surface in visible, near infrared and shortwave infrared regions of the electromagnetic spectrum.

Chatbot 'ANYA' launched by Lupin

- Lupin, India's third-largest drugmaker on 23 November 2018 has launched a chatbot named 'ANYA' for disease awareness.
- It is specially designed to provide medically verified information aimed at answering patient queries related to ailments.
- ANYA will initially address queries related to diabetes.

Business & Economy

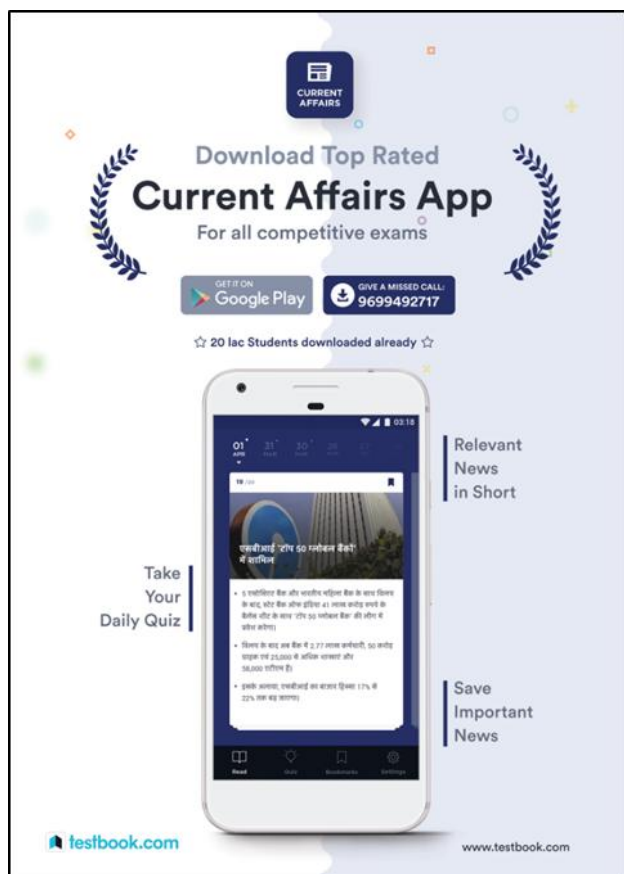
Infra growth slows down to 4.8% in Oct 2018

- The growth rate of eight infrastructure sectors slowed down to 4.8% in October 2018 due to contraction in the production of crude oil, natural gas, and fertiliser.
- During April-October 2018-19, the eight sectors recorded a growth rate of 5.4%.
- Eight infrastructure sectors comprise coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement, and electricity.

India's economy grew at 7.1% 2nd quarter

- According to the data released by Central Statistics Office (CSO), India's GDP (gross domestic product) growth rate for the second quarter (July-September) for the financial year 2018-2019 was 7.1%.
- The size of the GDP in the second quarter is estimated at Rs 33.98 lakh crore.

- India's GDP growth rate for the first quarter (April-June) of the financial year 2018-2019 came in at 8.2%.



- The RBI has also prescribed certain 'Minimum Retention Requirement' (MRR) for NBFCs for availing the relaxed norms.

100% stake sale in AIATSL approved by Govt

- The government of India approved 100% stake sale in state-owned airline Air India's ground-handling company 'Air India Air Transport Services Limited' (AIATSL).
- Proceeds from the sale of AIATSL would be used to pay off Air India's debt.
- AIATSL is the largest ground handling company in India and is present in almost all airports across the country.

Non-food bank credit grows at fastest pace

- According to the RBI data, the total credit flow from banks to the commercial sector grew at 15.6% year-on-year to Rs. 97.32 lakh crore in the fortnight ended 9 November 2018.
- The non-food credit grew by 15.12% to Rs 90.51 lakh crores, while the total non-statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) investments rose 22.26%.
- Bank credit was lowest during the November 2016 to March 2017 period.

RBI launches survey on Indian startup sector

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a survey on India's startup sector (SISS).
- The survey will create a profile of the startups and provide dimensions pertaining to their profitability and workforce.
- The survey would also aim at talking about the problems being faced by the sector in the country.

RBI to inject Rs. 40,000 crore in Dec 2018

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will infuse Rs. 40,000 crores into the system through Open Market Operations (OMOs) in December 2018.
- The RBI had announced to inject Rs 40,000 crore into the system in November 2018.
- OMO refer to the buying and selling of government securities in the open market in order to expand or contract the amount of money in the banking system.

Norms for interoperability of CCPs issued

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has announced the guidelines for interoperability of Clearing Corporations (CCPs).
- The interoperability would permit trading members to clear trades through a firm of their choice instead of going through the CCPs owned by the stock exchanges.
- The new norms will help in reducing the trading costs.
- It will be effective from 1 June 2019.

NPCC has got the status of 'Miniratna'

- National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC) has been conferred with the status of 'Miniratna' by the Government of India.
- The empowerment of 'Miniratna' status to NPCC will help the company in taking speedy decisions by enhancing the delegation of powers to the Board.

LEI mandatory for market participants

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) code mandatory for all participants undertaking transactions in the markets regulated by the RBI.
- The LEI is a 20-character unique identity code assigned to entities who are parties to a financial transaction.
- The LEI code is a measure to improve the quality and accuracy of financial data systems.

Interest subsidy for exporters increased to 5%

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased the interest subsidy on the post and pre-shipment export credit from 3% to 5%.
- This move will boost the exports of the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector manufacturers.
- The increased subsidy is applicable from 2 November 2018.
- Exporters get the subsidy under the 'Interest Equalisation Scheme on Pre & Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit'.

Norms eased for NBFCs to securitise loan books

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) relaxed norms for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) to securitise their loan books.
- They have been permitted to securitise loans of over five-year maturity after holding them for six months on their books.

- NPCC comes under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

Government to infuse ₹42,000 cr in PSBs

- To improve the financial condition of Public Sector Banks (PSBs), the government of India will infuse ₹42,000 crore by March 2019.
- The government in early 2018 infused ₹11,336 crore in 5 PSBs: Punjab National Bank, Allahabad Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Andhra Bank, and Corporation Bank.
- The government had announced the Rs 2.11 lakh crore capital infusion programme in October 2017.

SEBI issues norms for raising debt finance

- On 26 November 2018, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) came out with a framework to identify listed companies that need to meet 25% of their financing needs through debt securities.
- It would be applicable to all entities that have an outstanding long-term borrowing of Rs.100 crore or more and a credit rating of AA and above.
- The framework will come into effect from 1 April 2019.

Hedging provision for ECBs reduced by RBI

- On 26 November 2018, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) relaxed norms for External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs).
- It reduced the mandatory hedge coverage from 100% to 70% under 'Track I' of the ECB framework.
- 'Track I' refers to medium-term foreign currency-denominated ECBs with a minimum average maturity of 3-5 years.
- This move will help reduce costs for companies that raise foreign funds.

Sports

Esha Singh won 3 gold medals in shooting

- Shooter Esha Singh won three gold medals at the '62nd National Shooting Championship' at Thiruvananthapuram on 29 November 2018.
- Esha won the Women's, Youth Women's and Junior Women's 10m Air Pistol competitions.
- She defeated Manu Bhaker in the Women's 10m Air Pistol event.
- Shweta, representing ONGC, won the bronze medal in the Women's 10m Air Pistol event.

Manav Thakkar won Portugal Open TT

- Table tennis player Manav Thakkar won the singles and doubles titles at the Portugal Junior and Cadet Open on 29 November 2018.
- Manav defeated Jeet Chandra in the singles final match.
- Manav partnered with Manush Shah to win the doubles title.
- Previously, he won the bronze medal in the U-21 singles category in the ITTF Challenge Belarus Open on 16 November 2018.

Magnus won the 'World Chess Championship 2018'

- World number one Norwegian Magnus Carlsen has won the 'World Chess Championship' title on 28 November 2018.
- He defeated Fabiano Caruana from the United States in a tie-breaker event.
- He won the 'World Chess Championship' title for the fourth time.
- He won his first 'World Chess Championship' title in 2013 by beating Indian grandmaster Viswanathan Anand.

Varsha Varman won women's trap gold

- Varsha Varman won the women's trap gold medal at the '62nd National Championship for Shotgun' on 26 November 2018.
- She represented Madhya Pradesh at the event.
- She won the bronze medal at the 2014 Asian Games at Incheon in the women's double trap team event.

Manu won double gold in shooting

- Manu Bhaker of Haryana won a double gold in junior sports pistol at the National Shooting Championship on 25 November 2018.
- Ravi and Rahi Sarnobat were crowned national champions in the men's 10m air rifle and women's 25m pistol events respectively at National Shooting Championship on 25 November 2018.
- In the 25m junior girl's pistol event, Bhaker, Tanu Rawal and Tejaswani won a gold medal.

Harmanpreet is the captain of Twenty20 XI

- Indian cricketer Harmanpreet Kaur was named the captain of the ICC Women's World Twenty20 XI.
- A selection panel of International Cricket Council (ICC) picked up the team on the basis of the players' performances in the Women's World T20 tournament.
- 3 players from England, 2 from Australia and one each from Pakistan, New Zealand, and the West Indies are also part of the team.

Australia won 'Women's World Twenty-20' title

- Australia cricket team has won the 'Women's World Twenty-20' title.
- It was their fourth World Twenty-20 title.
- They defeated England in the final match.
- Australia's Ashleigh Gardner was named 'Player of the Match'.
- Australia's Alyssa Healy was named 'Player of the tournament'.

Sameer Verma won the Badminton Championship

- Badminton player Sameer Verma won the 'Syed Modi International Badminton Championship' on 25 November 2018.
- He defeated China's Guangzu Lu in the men's singles final.
- Men's doubles pair of Satwik Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty and women's doubles players Ashwini Ponnappa and Sikki Reddy also won silver in their respective finals.

Bhavani Devi won gold in Fencing Championship

- India's Bhavani Devi won the gold medal in the Sabre event in the 'Senior Commonwealth Fencing Championship' held in Australia on 25 November 2018.
- She defeated England's Emily Ruaux in the final.
- Bhavani Devi is the first Indian to win a gold medal in the Commonwealth Fencing Championship.
- Earlier, Bhavani Devi won a silver medal in the Tournoi Satellite Fencing Championship in Iceland.

Defence

India & China to hold joint military exercise

- China and India will hold a joint 14-day military exercise 'Hand in Hand' in China's Chengdu city from 10 December 2018.
- It will promote understanding between the two militaries and improve their capabilities in fighting terrorism.
- The exercise is being held after a gap of one year as both the sides were locked in a standoff in Doklam in the Sikkim sector of the border in 2017.

'Cope India 2019' will be held in West Bengal

- Air forces of the United States and India are scheduled to participate in a 12-day joint exercise 'Cope India 2018' in West Bengal.
- The exercise will be held from 3-14 December 2018.
- The 'Cope India' exercise is being held after a gap of eight years, with the last one having taken place in 2010.
- 'Cope India' was first held in 2004 as a fighter training exercise at Air Station Gwalior.

India & UK began exercise 'Konkan'

- The Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of United Kingdom began the exercise 'Konkan-2018' at Goa on 28 November 2018.
- The bilateral exercise provides a platform for the two Navies to periodically exercise at sea and in harbour, so as to build interoperability and share best practices.
- The Royal Navy was represented by HMS Dragon and the Indian Navy was represented by INS Kolkata.

Polity

16% reservation for Marathas approved

- On 29 November 2018, the Maharashtra assembly has passed the 'Maratha Reservation Bill' 2018.
- According to the bill, 16% reservation for Marathas will be given under the socially and educationally backward category.
- The Bill has now been sent to the state Legislative Council.
- However, there will be no reservation for Marathas in local body elections.

To resign is a right of the employee: SC

- According to a Supreme Court order, an employee has the right to resign from a job.


- An employee cannot be compelled to serve in case he is not willing until and unless there is some stipulation in the rules.
- The Supreme Court made the observations while allowing the appeal of a former Air India engineer, who was refused his dues by the Central government carrier.











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