



Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth year celebrations begin in India on - 2nd October 2018

The Union Government on 2nd October 2018 launched the Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth year celebrations, marking the beginning of the final year of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM). The Swachh Bharat Mission will culminate on 2nd October 2019, the 150th birth anniversary of Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi.

Swachhata hi Seva Campaign 2018

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 15th September 2018 launched the mega countrywide campaign- Swachhata hi Seva Campaign 2018. The 2018 campaign followed the success of the 2017 campaign and culminated with the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (MGISC) that was held from 29th September to 2nd October 2018.

Constitution of National Committee and Executive Committee to plan commemoration

- The Union Government constituted a National Committee headed by President Nath Kovind for commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- This Committee includes Vice-President, Prime Minister, Chief Ministers of all states of the country, representatives from across the political spectrum, Gandhians, thinkers, and eminent persons from all walks of life.
- The Committee was tasked to guide and approve policies, programmes and activities for the commemoration and will also supervise implementation of the decisions taken from time to time.
- An Executive Committee headed by Prime Minister with 19 members was also constituted.
- The Executive Committee was mandated to consider policies and lay down guidelines for the commemoration and chalk out the plan, programmes and activities under the commemoration.

- One meeting each of the National Committee and Executive Committee was held on 2nd May 2018 and 18th July 2018 respectively.

Government constitutes Injeti Srinivas Competition Law Review Committee by - Union Finance Ministry

Union Finance Ministry has formed 9 members Competition Law Review Committee to make sure that legislation is in harmony with altering business environment. It will be led by Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas and comprises Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India Chairperson M.S.Sahoo and Competition Commission of India Chairperson as associates. The committee was formed in undertaking of Government's aim of guaranteeing that legislation is in sync with requirements of strong economic fundamentals.

Committee's Terms of references

- The committee will evaluate competition guidelines in view of altering business environment and advise the essential changes to fortify and re-calibrate present law to enhance best practices.
- It will also look into international best performs in competition field with thrust on anti-trust laws, merger rules and managing cross-border competition matters.
- It will also observe other regulatory rules, institutional processes and government policies which overlay with Competition Act.
- It will present its report within 3 months of the date of its 1st meeting.

Did you know?
The Competition Act was approved in 2002 and Competition Commission of India was formed in 2009. However, since beginning of the commission, the size of the economy has grown-up immensely making it one of the 5th largest economies in the world. Thus, it was noticed essential to that Competition Law is fortified and re-calibrated to encourage best practices which result in the inhabitants of this nation attaining their ambitions and value for money.

AICTE to establish country's first AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy in - Jaipur

All India Council for Technical Education will begin nation's 1st AICTE Training And Learning- ATAL Academy in Jaipur, Rajasthan. Moreover, 3 additional AICTE Training And Learning academies will come at Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala, Guwahati in Assam and Baroda in Gujarat by coming year.
More about ATAL Academy



- These academies will provide advanced teaching techniques and modules to make technical education more operative and accountable.

- Faculties will be skilled on the 8 modules courses in these academies in 5 months.

- The training will be compulsory for new teachers from 2019 and it will be essential for present teachers and assistant teachers while smearing for promotions.

- For constructing these academies, states had issued infrastructure and land without any cost.

AICTE

All India Council for Technical Education is statutory body recognized in November 1945. It comes under guidance of Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resources Development. It is national-level council for technical education accountable for planning and synchronization of technical education and management of education system in the nation. It accredits graduate and PG programmes at Indian institutions. It is HQ in New Delhi.

James P. Allison, Tasuku Honjo jointly win 2018 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine on - 1st October 2018

The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institute on October 1st, 2018 bestowed the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine mutually to James P. Allison and Tasuku Honjo "for their unearthing of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation".

More about Cancer Therapy

- Cancer destroys millions of people every year and is one of humanity's greatest health trials.

- The laureates James P. Allison and Tasuku Honjo effectively recognized an utterly new principle for cancer therapy by stimulating the capability of immune system to attack cancer cells.

- Laureates presented how different strategies for reducing down the footbrakes on the immune system can be utilised in the treatment of cancer.

- Their discoveries are milestone in fight against cancer.

- Until the discoveries done by Laureates, develops into clinical development was modest. "Immune checkpoint therapy" has revolutionary cancer treatment and has fundamentally transformed the way how

cancer can be accomplished.

Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine

- The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine is bestowed once a year for outstanding findings in the fields of life sciences and medicine.

- It is one of 5 Nobel Prizes recognized in 1895 by Swedish chemist Alfred Nobel, who was the inventor of dynamite, in his will.

- The 1st Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was bestowed in 1901 to the German physiologist Emil von Behring for his outstanding work on serum therapy and the progress of a vaccine against diphtheria.

- The 1st female to get the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was Gerty Cori, who got it in 1947 for her role in explaining the metabolism of glucose.

PM Modi inaugurates Conference on Academic Leadership on Education for Resurgence in - New Delhi

PM Narendra Modi initiated the Conference on Academic Leadership on Education for Resurgence at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. The conference witnessed the involvement from the VCs and Directors of above 350 universities. The programme was conjointly held by University Grant Commission, AICTE, ICSSR, IGNCA, Indira Gandhi National Open University, Jawaharlal Nehru University and SGT University.

Theme of the Conference

- The subject of the Conference was to give a thought on the challenges facing the Indian education system and to work out plans for a paradigm shift both in terms of attaining academic outcomes and also in the regulation of education.

- Besides this, the final session was led by Union Human Resources Minister Prakash Javadekar.

- During the session, each of the 8 groups were supposed to make a presentation on the course of action they had settled upon.

- This further was discussed in the Plenary Session and it is predictable that a comprehensive action plan would develop from this deliberation for upgrading the higher education sector in the nation.

- The conference is in prolongation of the efforts made by the Ministry for developing an action plan for renovation of the higher education sector.



- The 1st among this was organised in Delhi during vice-chancellor's conference from July 26th to 28th, 2018.

Assam to launch wage compensation scheme for pregnant women in tea on - 1st October 2018

gadens Government of Assam has become the 1st Indian state to offer a 'Wage Compensation Scheme for pregnant females' working in the tea garden areas of the state. The plan will be initiated by CM Assam Sarbanand Sonowal on October 1st, 2018 in Guwahati. The news was publicized by the state's Health and Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma previous week. The path-breaking choice was granted by the state after contemplating the matters faced by females during pregnancy.

The scheme is focused at delivering better health and nutrition to the pregnant females. It strains on delivering proper healthcare services to the pregnant females working in the tea gardens of the state.

Important Points

- Under the scheme, a sum of Rupees 12,000 will be issued to the pregnant females so that they can take care of themselves as well as the unborn baby without negotiating with the livelihood of their family.
- The compensation of wages to pregnant females will be issued in four instalments including Rupees 2,000 in the 1st trimester, Rupees 4,000 in the 2nd trimester, Rupees 3,000 for institutional delivery and Rupees 3,000 for registration of the child's birth.
- The females would also be entitled with a maternity leave.
- They will not be engaged in work from the 3rd trimester of pregnancy to 3 months post-delivery.
- In addition, they will get help for antenatal care and the 1st cycle of immunization of the child.
- The scheme is supposed to advantage more than 60,000 females in the state. It is believed to decrease maternal and neonatal mortality in the tea garden areas.

Uttarakhand HC directs state to provide reservation to transgenders in educational institutions on - 28th September 2018

The Uttarakhand High Court on September 28th, 2018 instructed the state government to issue reservation to transgenders in educational institutions and public

appointments. The instruction is a part of a slew of guidelines given by the court for the welfare of transgenders in the state. The court stated that the transgenders lead a despondent life and are often treated unfairly. Perceiving that they have the right to a life of dignity, the court gave the state government 6 months' time to execute its decision. The order came on a petition filed by 2 members of the transgender community looking forward protection to their lives and liberty.

Crucial Observations

- No transgender should be detached from their family instantly on the ground of being a transgender. Every transgender person has a right to reside in a house with his/her parents.
- The State Government is obligatory to design social welfare schemes and programmes for transgenders.
- Transgenders have a right to privacy and they are needed to be safeguarded from exploitation and have a right to work.
- The state government is obligatory to take all essential steps to offer habitable accessible, culturally appropriate houses to transgenders including the right to education and separate facilities in public utility buildings including toilets.

World Habitat Day 2018 observed globally on - 1st October 2018

The World Habitat Day was celebrated worldwide on October 1st, 2018, the 1st Monday of October 2018, to imitate the present state of the world's towns and cities, and emphasise the basic right of everyone to receive proper shelter. The main programme was organised in Nairobi, Kenya. Theme 2018 theme for the day is "Municipal Solid Waste Management". The main objective behind the observance of this year's World Habitat Day is to discourse the municipal solid waste management challenge with a slogan 'Waste-Wise Cities' which goals to-

- Increase awareness that Municipal solid waste is a global challenge that desires to be addressed
 - Simplify policy dialogue and form partnerships
 - Encourage innovative solutions to municipal solid waste management
 - Mobilise resources to address the municipal solid waste contests
- The Solid Waste Management has become a global question in past few years. The amount



of solid waste generated by individuals is rising daily and often costs local authorities a large proportion of their budget.

Did you know?

In 1985, the UNs selected the 1st Monday of October of every year as "World Habitat Day". The day was 1st observed in 1986. The day aims to remind the world of its power and accountability to shape the future of all cities and towns.

The UNs Human Settlements Programme in 1989 released the 'UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour award'. It is the most significant human settlements award in the world. Every year, World Habitat Day takes on a fresh theme to encourage sustainable development policies that make sure adequate shelter for all.

US and Canada sign trade deal replacing NAFTA on - 30th September 2018

Canada on September 30th, 2018 decided to ink a trade deal with the US and Mexico, refurbishing the North American Free Trade Agreement after almost a year of negotiations. The new deal has been known the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement. The trilateral deal is supposed to be inked by the 3 North American nations before the end of November, after which it would be submitted to Congress. The pact was decided upon by Canada just hours before the United States forced September 30th midnight time limit.

The pact is believed to re-balance United States trade relations with Mexico and Canada. It modernises what was covered by NAFTA by accumulating provisions on digital trade and intellectual property. It also lime-lights new guidelines on the origin of autos and the market access to Canada's dairy sector.

Highlights of the deal

- The new trade pact would make noteworthy changes to the rulebook that has governed North America, trade since 1994.
- It will for the 1st time formed rules for financial-services and digital businesses that have appeared since the bloc was formed.
- It would permit United States farmers greater admittance to Canada's dairy market and address concerns about potential United States auto tariffs. The deal will come up for review every 6 years.
- Under the agreement, Canada has approved to export a quota of 2.6 million

vehicles to the United States in the wake of 25% global autos tariffs executed by the United States on national security grounds.

- The quota would permit for a noteworthy growth in tariff-free automotive exports from Canada above present production levels of about Two million units, protecting Canadian plants.

- The pact, however, was unsuccessful to resolve U.S. tariffs on Canada's steel and aluminium exports.

International Day of Non-Violence observed globally on - 2nd October 2018

The International Day of Non-Violence was observed across the world on 2nd October 2018, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, who is the leader of Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence at the same time.

The day is celebrated every year to spread non-violence message, including through education and public awareness. The UN resolution, which is established the commemoration, reaffirms that the universal relevance of the principle of non-violence and the desire to secure a tolerance, peace culture, understanding and non-violence.

Introducing the resolution in the General Assembly on behalf of 140 co-sponsors, India's Minister of State for External Affairs, Anand Sharma stated that the diverse sponsorship of the resolution was a reflection of the universal respect for Mahatma Gandhi and of the enduring relevance of his philosophy.

Manufacturing PMI rises to 52.2 in - September 2018

As per the Nikkei India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index, which is a manufacturing activity was enhanced in September 2018 on the ground of tougher gains in new orders, output, and employment. The monthly Purchasing Managers Index raised to 52.1 in September 2018 from 51.7 in August 2018.

A reading more than 50 on this survey-based index directed expansion and anything underneath it reflects contraction.

Important Points

- The noteworthy driver of growth in activity in September 2018 was development in new orders.



- This robust growth was connected to expansions in both domestic as well as foreign demand.

- The export sales have reinforced with net gain and best recorded since the starting of the year.

- Moreover, high product quality was taken as factor supporting total fresh order book growth.

- However, the main concern is sturdier United States dollar as compared to rupee as it sustained to increase compared price of goods including steel and fuel, thereby increasing input costs for producers.

Purchasing Managers' Index

- Purchasing Managers' Index is a pointer of business activity-both in the production and services sectors.

- It is calculated distinctly for production and services sectors and then fused index is constructed.

- The index figure more than 50 signifies expansion in business activity and anything underneath 50 signifies contraction.

- Purchasing Managers' Index is usually released at beginning of month, much before most of formal information on industrial output, manufacturing and GDP growth is made available.

- It is, therefore, measured a good leading indicator of economic activity. Production growth calculated by Purchasing Managers' Index is measured good indicator of industrial output.

BSE becomes first stock exchange to launch commodity derivative contracts from - 1st October 2018

India's leading bourse Bombay Stock Exchange became 1st stock exchange in the nation to release commodity derivative contracts. It has released contracts in popular commodities for instance in gold- 1kg and silver- 30kg. This introduction comes after unified exchange regime kicked off from 1st October 2018.

The introduction of commodity derivatives platform on Bombay Stock Exchange will ease efficient price discovery, decrease timelines and make it cost effective. Bombay Stock Exchange also has requested for launching of crude oil and copper commodity contracts with capital markets regulator SEBI. Afterward, it is also scheduling to introduce

more agri commodities.

More about Bombay Stock Exchange

- Bombay Stock Exchange is the oldest stock exchange in Asia initiated by 8 native stock brokers association in 1875 situated at Dalal street, Mumbai.

- It had acknowledged temporary sanction from Bombay government in 1927 and enduring endorsement by Indian Government on 31st Aug 1957.

- Today it is 10th largest stock market in the world by market capitalization at \$1.7 trillion and has above 5,000 firms listed in it. Its iconic building called Phiroze Jeejeebhoy Towers at Dalal Street in Mumbai, Maharashtra has gained image trademark under Trade Marks Act, 1999.

Did you know?

Till date, commodity contracts were only accessible on commodity exchanges like MCX and NCDEX, the 2 specialised commodity derivatives exchange in the nation. Freshly, Securities and Exchange Board of India had permitted India's top 2 stock exchanges-Bombay Stock Exchange and National Stock Exchange to introduce commodity derivatives trading under unified exchange regime wherein stock exchanges will be permitted to propose trading in commodities derivatives.

India ranks 5th in world terms of largest pictorial warning on cigarette packs by - International Status Report 2018

India was positioned Fifth among 206 nations in Cigarette Package Health Warnings:

International Status Report 2018 published by Canadian Cancer Society. The positioning of the nations was in terms of largest pictorial cautionary on cigarette packs. In India, 85 percent of both sides of cigarette packets are covered with warnings.

Important Points

- In 2018 report, Timor-Leste has the largest cautions on cigarette packages in the world with 92.5 percent on front and back, followed by Nepal and Vanuatu with 90 percent and New Zealand at 4th with 87.5 percent.

- India held the 5th position mutually with Hong Kong and Thailand for 85 percent warnings.

- The report recognized global progress on plain packaging and ranked 206 nations



and territories based on size of their health warnings on cigarette packages, and lists nations and territories that need graphic picture warnings.

- It was the 6th Canadian Cancer Society international report on cigarette package health warnings.

- Earlier reports were released in 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016. It was published in Geneva at 8th session of Conference of Parties to World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

Important Outcome of report

- The report has found that 118 nations around the world have made pictorial warnings compulsory, representing global public health accomplishment and 58 percent of the world's population is covered by this regulation.

- Canada was 1st nation to make picture health warnings compulsory in 2001.

- Sum of 107 nations pictorial warnings cover minimum 50 percent of the package, both front and back, up from 94 in 2016 and 24 in 2008. 55 nations/jurisdictions have made compulsory for minimum 65 percent of the package, front and back, be covered with warning.

PM Modi to receive United Nation's Champions of the Earth award on - 3rd October 2018

PM Narendra Modi would be bestowed with the United Nations Champions of the Earth award, the highest environmental award of the UN on October 3rd, 2018. The award will be given by United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres at a special ceremony in New Delhi. The annual "Champions of the Earth" prize is bestowed to outstanding leaders from government, civil society and the private sector whose activities have had a positive influence on the environment. The award is the UN's highest environmental recognition rejoicing exceptional figures from the public and private sectors and from civil society.

The awards were recognized in 2005 under the UNs Environment Programme. Since then, they have documented 84 laureates ranging from leaders of countries to grassroots activists in the categories of policy, science, business and civil society. The award was proclaimed on September

26th, 2018, on the side-lines of 73rd United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Significance

- PM Modi has been elected in the leadership group for his pioneering work in championing the International Solar Alliance, which is a global partnership to increase solar energy.

- With the award, the United Nations Environment is awarding PM Modi for his bold environmental leadership on the global stage.

- The award is also in gratitude of Modi's extraordinary pledge to eradicate all single-use plastic in India by the year 2022.

Other Awardees

- The respected awards programme acknowledged 6 of the world's most outstanding environmental changemakers present year for their grouping of bold, innovative and tireless actions to tackle few of the most urgent environmental matters.

- The winners consist of world's 1st fully solar-powered airport Cochin International Airport in Kerala, Filipino environmental activist Joan Carling, Plant-based food alternative providers Beyond Meat and Impossible Foods and China's Zhejiang's Green Rural Revival Programme, which were bestowed for the alteration of a once heavily polluted area of rivers and streams in East China's Zhejiang jurisdiction.

Indian-American Gita Gopinath appointed as - Chief Economist of IMF

- Indian originate economist Gita Gopinath was selected Chief Economist of International Monetary Fund-IMF. She will take over as International Monetary Fund chief economist after Maurice Obstfeld retires from his position in December 2018. It makes her 2nd Indian after earlier Reserve Bank of India governor Raghuram Rajan to embrace the position.

More about Gita Gopinath

- Gita Gopinath is Indian origin scholar. She is United States resident and Overseas Citizen of India.

- She got her Ph.D degree in economics from Princeton University in 2001 following earning Bachelors of Arts from Delhi University and Masters of Arts degrees from both Delhi School of Economics and University of Washington.



- She joined the University of Chicago in 2001 as Assistant Professor earlier moving to Harvard in 2005.

- She became tenured Professor there in 2010. She is John Zwaanstra Professor of International Studies and of Economics at Harvard University. Her study and examination focus on International Finance and Macroeconomics.

- She is co-director of International Finance and Macroeconomics programme at National Bureau of Economic Research, member of economic advisory panel of Federal Reserve Bank of New York, co-editor of American Economic Review, visiting scholar at Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, co-editor of present Handbook of International Economics. She was managing editor of Review of Economic Studies also.

- She is presently Economic Adviser to CM of Kerala and also had worked on advisory panel for G-20 matters for India's Ministry of Finance.

- In 2014, she had made into International Monetary Fund's list of twenty-five economists under 45. She was also selected as Young Global Leader by World Economic Forum in year 2011.

Odisha launches food security scheme to cover those left out from NFSA on - 2nd October 2018

The state government of Odisha on October 2nd, 2018 released its own food security plan to advantage the 25 lakh poor residents who were left out of the National Food Security Act- NFSA. The State Food Security Scheme (SFSS) was released by CM Odisha Naveen Patnaik via video conferencing on the eve of Gandhi Jayanti. While the Chief Minister released the plan in 4 districts including Bolangir, Balasore, Sundergarh and Mayurbhanj, the state's Members of Parliaments and Members of Legislative Assembly's initiated the scheme in the rest of the parts.

Important Highlights

- Under the programme, the recipients will get Five kilograms of rice/individual/month at the rate of Rupees One /kg, the same as availed by individuals covered under the National Food Security Act, 2013.

- Among the state's 4,19,74,218 population according to the 2011 census,

about 78% have been enjoying the advantages of National Food Security Act.

- According to the provisions of the State Food Security Scheme, 25 lakh poor people left-out from the advantages of the National Food Security Act, will receive the rice at subsidised prices.

- The distribution of rice to nominated recipients will be carried out via e-Point of sale device at the selected fair price shops.

Importance

- The scheme will profit 25 lakh vulnerable population that were excepted from coverage under National Food Security Act.

- Talking during the programme, CM Odisha Naveen Patnaik informed that adequate and nutritious food is a basic necessity and prerequisite for a healthy Odisha.

Arthur Ashkin, Gerard Mourou and Donna Strickland win - 2018 Nobel Physics Prize

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has nominated 3 scientists Arthur Ashkin from United States, Gerard Mourou from France and Donna Strickland from Canada for the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physics. They were nominated for ground-breaking discoveries in the field of laser physics. Arthur Ashkin acknowledged the half prize and remaining half was shared likewise by Gérard Mourou and Donna Strickland. With this, Strickland became 3rd woman to receive Nobel Prize in Physics, after Marie Curie in 1903 and Maria Goepert Mayer in 1963.

More about Arthur Ashkin

- He is 96 years old which counts him oldest scientist ever to be bestowed a Nobel Prize. He got prize for optical tweezers and their apps to biological systems.

- His optical tweezers are capable to hold particles, atoms, viruses and other living cells with their laser-beam fingers, permitting usage of radiation pressure of light to displace physical objects.

Gerard Mourou and Donna Strickland

- They were mutually awarded for their technique of producing high-intensity, ultra-short optical pulses.

- They have formed ultra-short high-intensity laser pulses without damaging amplifying material, thus shaping way towards shortest and most intense laser pulses ever formed by mankind.



- Their innovative method is known as "Chirped Pulse Amplification", has now become standard for high-intensity lasers, consisting ultra-sharp beams utilised in corrective eye surgeries.

Supreme Court judge Madan Bhimarao Lokur appointed Executive Chairman of NALSA by - President Ramnath Kovind

President Ramnath Kovind has nominated senior judge of Supreme Court Madan Bhimarao Lokur as Executive Chairman of National Legal Services Authority of India- NALSA. He was nominated by President in exercise of power conferred under Clause (b) of sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Legal Authorities Act, 1987.

More about Madan Bhimarao Lokur

- Madan Bhimarao is graduate of Delhi's Modern School and St. Stephen's College.
- He had registered as Advocate in 1977. He has massive experience in Civil, Criminal, Constitutional, Revenue and Service laws. He got registered as an Advocate-on-Record in the Supreme Court in 1981.
- He had worked as Additional Solicitor General of India from July 1998 to Feb 1999. He was nominated as Additional Judge of Delhi High Court in February 1999.
- He also worked as Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court from June 2010 to Nov 2011 and then as Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court.
- He was nominated as Judge of the Supreme Court in June 2012.

National Legal Services Authority of India

- National Legal Services Authority of India issues for free legal help inter-alia to all individuals in custody.
- It has been established under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
- It delivers services of free legal assistance in civil and criminal issues for poor and marginalised people.
- National Legal Services Authority of India goals to make sure that chances for securing justice are not deprived-off to any resident by reasons of economic or other disabilities.
- It also classifies specific categories of marginalised and excepted groups and articulates various plans for implementation of legal service programs.

- It also held Lok Adalats for amicable and speedy settlement of disputes.

World's largest dome inaugurated in Pune on - 2nd October 2018

The world's largest dome was initiated at Maharashtra Institute of Technology's World Peace University-MIT-WPU campus at Loni Kalbhor, Pune. It was initiated by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu along with Peace Centre on the eve of 150th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi.

More about World Peace Monument dome

- The dome has been constructed atop Maharashtra Institute of Technology World Peace Library and World Peace Prayer Hall, which are termed following 13th century poet-saint and philosopher Dnyaneshwar who was pivotal figure of Bhakti movement in Maharashtra.

The dome has width of 160 feet, overtaking previous record holding Vatican Dome having width of 139.6ft.

It stands 263ft tall with bell limb from centre and has prayer hall with area of around 30,000 square feet. It is braced by 24 massive columns, each 63ft tall.

The periphery of the dome and underneath has bronze statues of 54 of biggest names in world history stand, irrespective of nationality/religion.

WHO launches first Global Guidelines on - Sanitation and Health

The World Health Organization has released 1st global rules on sanitation and health. These rules summarize indication on effectiveness of range of sanitation interventions. They also coherent role of health sector in exploiting health impact of sanitation interventions.

Key Features of WHO Guidelines

World Health Organization's Sanitation and Health Guidelines are focused at securing health and wellbeing for everybody, everywhere by seeing sanitation as fundamental foundation of human health and development.

These rules provide comprehensive framework for health safeguarding sanitation, covering policy and governance measures, execution of sanitation technologies, systems and behavioural involvements, risk related management, and monitoring methods.



- They also recognize gaps in evidence-base to guide upcoming research efforts to advance the effectiveness of sanitation interventions.

- By accepting these new rules, nations can expressively decrease diarrhoeal deaths due to impure water, sanitation and hygiene. For every US \$One invested in sanitation, it is projected nearly 6-fold return as measured by lower health costs, amplified productivity and fewer premature deaths.

Did you know?

As per to World Health Organization, 2.3 billion people around the world deprive basic sanitation

and almost half of the world population is pushed to defecate in open areas. They are among 4.5 billion people without admittance to safely managed sanitation services, that are, do not have toilet linked to septic tank that treats human waste. Without adequate access to sanitation, millions of people worldwide are lacking dignity, safety and convenience of decent toilet. Poor sanitation is also major issue accountable for transmission of abandoned tropical diseases.

Prime Minister inaugurates first Assembly of International Solar Alliance in - New Delhi

PM Narendra Modi initiated 1st Assembly of International Solar Alliance- ISA, in New Delhi. The similar programme also pointed initiation of 2nd Indian Ocean Rim Association Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting and second Global RE-Invest-Renewable Energy Investors' Meet and Expo. UNs Secretary General Antonio Guterres witnessed the occasion.

International Solar Alliance

- International Solar Alliance is an alliance devoted to the promotion of solar energy among its member nations.

- The International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement had arrived into force in December 2017 and officially became de jure treaty based International Intergovernmental Organization.

- It is HQ at Gurugram, India. The key aim of International Solar Alliance is to comprise global deployment of over 1,000GigaWatt of solar generation capacity and mobilisation of investment of more than US\$ 1000 billion into solar energy by 2030.

- International Solar Alliance also goals to work as an action-oriented firm by carrying together nations with rich solar potential to combined global demand, thereby dropping prices through bulk purchase.

- It also pursues to simplify deployment of present solar technologies at scale, and promoting collaborative solar Research & Development and capacity building.

More about Indian Ocean Rim Association

- Indian Ocean Rim Association was formed with an aim of fortifying regional cooperation and sustainable development within Indian Ocean Region with 21-member states and seven Dialogue Partners.

- In second Indian Ocean Rim Association, Renewable Energy Ministerial meet, ministers from 9-member nations and representatives from all 21-member nations participated.

- Indian Ocean Rim Association is International firm entailing of coastal states bordering Indian Ocean.

- It works as a regional forum, three-way in nature, bringing together representatives of Government, Business and Academia, for encouraging cooperation and closer interaction among them.

Series of flight trials of Astra Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile conducted by - Indian Air Force

Indian Air Force has effectively undertaken series of flight tests of Astra Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile- BVR-AAM, from September 26th to October 3rd, 2018. The trials were carried out at Integrated Test Range, Balasore, Odisha as part of final development tests of the missile. The missile was trailed in grouping of complex trails for engagement of pilotless target in various modes of manoeuvring, off-boresight, medium & long ranges. These trials make missile ready for initiation in service in 2019.

More about Astra Missile

- Astra is air-to-air beyond visual range air-to-air developed in India by DRDO.

- Above 50 private and public sector businesses are involved in development and production of variois sub-systems of the missile.

- It is one of the smallest weapon systems developed by Defence Research and Development



Organisation, having length of 3.8m and weighing 154 kilograms.

- It is single-stage solid-fuelled missile and has load capacity of fifteen kilograms conventional explosives.

• It can be released from different altitudes and is capable of appealing targets at varying range and altitudes at both short-range targets in tail-chase mode and long-range targets in head-on mode.

• It is radar homing supersonic missile having supreme velocity of Mach Four which is four times the speed of sound.

• It possesses high Single Shot Kill Probability making it extremely reliable.

• It is all-weather missile with active radar terminal guidance, excellent electronic counter-counter

measure features, smokeless fueled and process improved effectiveness in multi-target situation.

• It has advance on-board electronic counter-measures that logjam radar signals from enemy radar, making chasing of the missile problematic.

Who has been conferred UNEP Champions of Earth Award 2018 ? - Prime Minister Narendra Modi

PM Narendra Modi was bestowed with UN's Champions of the Earth Award by United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres at ceremony in Delhi. He is among the 6 winners who got this award. Prime Minister Modi was combinedly awarded this award along with French President Emmanuel Macron under the "Political Leadership" group for their work in championing International Solar Alliance and promoting new areas of co-operation on environmental action.

More about Champions of Earth Award

- It is United Nation's highest environmental gratitude celebrating exceptional figures from public and private areas and from civil society, whose activities have had transformative positive influence on the environment.

- It was recognized in 2005 by UNs Environment Program.

- This award program is successor to UNEP's Global 500 Roll of Honour.

- Last laureates include, Afroz Shah, who headed world's largest beach cleanup in year 2016, Rwandan President Paul Kagame in year 2016, Ocean Cleanup Chief Executive

Officer Boyan Slat in year 2014, scientist-explorer Bertrand Piccard, developer of Google Earth Brian McClendon in year 2013, and former United States Vice-President Al Gore in year 2007.

Who has been sworn in as 46th Chief Justice of India ? - Justice Ranjan Gogoi

Justice Ranjan Gogoi took oath as 46th Chief Justice of India. He was directed oath of the office by President Ram Nath Kovind. With this, Justice Ranjan Gogoi is the 1st Chief Justice of India from the

North-East. He succeeded Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra who retired from the office. He will have job duration of about thirteen months, from October 3rd, 2018 till his retirement on November 17th, 2019.

More about Justice Ranjan Gogoi

- Justice Gogoi was born on November 18th, 1954. He is a native of Assam and is son of former Assam CM Keshab Chandra Gogoi.

- He had joined Bar in 1978 and initiated practice mainly in Gauhati High Court.

- He was selected as permanent judge of High Court in February 2001. He was transferred to Punjab and Haryana High Court in September 2010 and was selected its Chief Justice in February 2011.

- He was promoted to the Supreme Court in April 2012.

- In Supreme Court, Justice Gogoi had headed vital benches that have dealt largely with matter of corruption in politics and public life.

- His Bench is also monitoring development made by government in selection of anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal.

- Justice Gogoi was one of the four most senior Supreme Court judges who seized January 12th, 2018 press conference bringing-up matter of selective assignment of sensitive cases by fresh Chief Justice of India's to certain judges in the Supreme Court.

Government inks loan agreement with ADB for India's first Global Skills Park in -Madhya Pradesh

Government has signed US \$150 million loan contract with multilateral lender Asian Development Bank for establishing India's 1st Global Skills Park in Bhopal, MP. It will have training amenities focusing on skills for



production, service and advanced agricultural jobs, profiting approximately 20,000 trainees and trainers.

More about Global Skills Park

- It will be loaded with international training amenities to improve the quality of Madhya Pradesh's

Technical and Vocational Education and Training system.

- It will engage international Technical and Vocational Education and Training partners to care advanced training by bringing global best performs in Technical and Vocational Education and Training management, training infrastructure, industry co-operation and quality assurance.

- The campus will contain core Advanced Training Institutes including Centre for Advanced Agricultural Training and Centre for Occupational Skills Acquisition and other support services concentrating on entrepreneurship, training of trainers and skill-based research.

- It will also assist in modernizing ten industrial training institutes across state by modernizing training infrastructure and advancing skills courses to align with industry and market requirements.

- It will advance quality and relevance of state's Technical and Vocational Education and Training programmes and will assist impart advanced job-ready skills training of international morals.

Frances H. Arnold, George P. Smith, Sir Gregory P. Winter win 2018 Nobel Prize in - Chemistry

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences on October 3rd, 2018 presented the 2018 Nobel Prize in Chemistry with one half to Frances H. Arnold 'for the focused evolution of enzymes' and the other half mutually to George P. Smith and Sir Gregory P. Winter 'for the phage display of peptides and antibodies.' The all 3 of them connected the power of evolution which is exposed through the diversity of life. They took control of evolution and utilised it for determinations that bring the greatest advantage to mankind.

Important Highlights

- Enzymes generated via directed evolution are utilised to produce everything from biofuels to pharmaceuticals.

- Antibodies, evolved utilising a method known as phage display, are capable to fight

against autoimmune diseases and in few cases cure metastatic cancer.

- The laureates utilised the similar principles of genetic change and selection to progress proteins that solve humankind's chemical difficulties.

- Frances H. Arnold of California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, United States carried out the 1st focused evolution of enzymes in 1993, which are proteins that catalyse chemical reactions.

- Since then, she has polished the methods that are now routinely utilised to develop new catalysts.

- The usage of Frances Arnold's enzymes consists of more environmentally friendly production of chemical substances, including pharmaceuticals, and the production of renewable fuels for a greener transport sector.

- In 1985, George Smith of the University of Missouri, Columbia, United States industrialized an elegant method called phage display, where a bacteriophage, a virus that infects bacteria, can be utilised to grow new proteins.

- On the contrary, Gregory Winter of MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, United Kingdom utilised phage show for the directed evolution of antibodies with the purpose of producing new pharmaceuticals.

- The phage display has generated antibodies that can neutralise toxins, counteract autoimmune diseases and treat metastatic cancer.

Chanda Kochhar quits as ICICI Bank CEO, MD on - 4th October 2018

The ICICI Bank Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Chanda Kochhar quit her post with immediate effect on October 4th, 2018. The statement came after her plea for premature retirement was acknowledged by the bank.

Chandra Kochhar, who had led ICICI Bank since May 2009, is also walking down from the board of directors of its units. Her 3rd term was initiated end in March 2019. Sandeep Bakhshi, who was nominated as the bank's COO in June 2018, has been named to replace Kochhar as the bank's new MD and CEO.

Bakhshi has been nominated for a time period of 5 years until October 3rd, 2023, subject to different sanctions. He had earlier taken the helm on an interim basis in June after Kochhar had been sent on leave due to



a pending inquiry. He is a previous head of the life insurance branch at ICICI Bank, which is India's 3rd-largest lender by assets. Meanwhile, ICICI Bank has elucidated that Kochhar's post-retirement reimbursements would be subject to inquiry result. It also said that the enquiry records started earlier against Kochhar will remain unaffected by this development.

More about Chanda Kochhar

- Chandra Kochhar was born in Jodhpur, Rajasthan in 1961. Following her graduation in 1982, she studied cost accountancy from Institute of Cost Accountants of India.

- She got the JN Bose Gold Medal for maximum marks in that year.

- Kochhar joined ICICI Limited in 1984 as a management trainee. During her starting years at the bank, Kochhar handled project evaluation, while monitoring and assessing projects in the petrochemical, textile, paper and cement industries.

- In 1993, Kochhar was part of the core team that initiated ICICI Bank and was elevated to AGM in 1994.

- She was tasked with handling the freshly-formed Infrastructure Industry Group of the bank, which formed industry expertise in areas of telecom, power and transportation.

- In 1998, Kochhar was elevated as GM and made the head of the Major Clients Group, which was tasked with handling the bank's top 200 clients.

- In July 2000, under the leadership of Kochhar, ICICI Bank arrived into the retail business and within a short span of approximately five years, the Bank arose as one of the largest retail financers in India. In April 2001, she took over as ED, heading the retail business in ICICI Bank.

- In 2006, Kochhar started serving on the bank's international operations before becoming the Chief Financial Officer and MD in 2007.

- Just 2 years later, she was elevated and became the CEO.

- She also worked as the President of the International Monetary Conference and Deputy Chairman of the Indian Banks Association. In 2011, she was the co-chair of the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in 2011.

- Throughout her memorable career, Kochhar secured many prestigious awards

including the 3rd-highest civilian award, Padma Bhushan.

- She has also been graded as most powerful women and professional by various publications including Fortune, Forbes and TIME magazine.

Aung San Suu Kyi becomes first person to lose honorary Canadian citizenship on - 3rd October 2018

Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi on October 3rd, 2018 became the 1st person to be exposed of the honorary Canadian citizenship for her role in gross human rights violations against the Rohingya people. The Canadian Senate officially revoked the symbolic honour that was presented on Suu Kyi in 2007. Senators universally accepted a genocide motion tabled by Independent Senator Ratna Omidvar in the red chamber.

Important Points

- Senator Ratna Omidvar informed that they want to send a strong signal here in Canada and worldwide that if anyone is an accomplice of a genocide, then they are not welcome there in Canada. Certainly not as an honorary Canadian citizen.

- Suu Kyi, the Burmese State Counsellor, has been extensively criticised for turning a blind eye to the violence and military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine state that pushed above 700000 Rohingya Muslims to look forward as refuge in Bangladesh, creating one of the world's biggest refugee crisis.

- A UNs fact-finding mission freshly found that the Myanmar military was obligating genocide against the Rohingyas, the minority Muslim population; and other ethnic minorities and in the middle of all this, Suu Kyi had been unsuccessful in her duty to safeguard her own inhabitants.

- The report names 6 military commanders in Myanmar who should be inspected for genocide in Rakhine state and for crimes against humanity in other areas.

- The report convicts Suu Kyi for unsuccessful to utilise her power to avoid the genocide and fulfil her accountability to safeguard the civilian population, thus, leading to mass murder, rape and displacement.

Nobel Peace Prize remains with her
Notwithstanding the international criticism and cancelling of honorary Canadian citizenship, Suu Kyi will hold her Nobel Peace Prize. Suu



Kyi secured the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 for campaigning for democracy.

- Government releases Digi Yatra, policy on biometric based digital processing of passengers at -airports

Union Ministry of Civil Aviation has publicized policy on biometric based digital processing of travellers at airports known as Digi Yatra. The initiative looks forward to encourage paperless and hassle-free air traveling. It will be working by end of February, 2019 at Bengaluru and Hyderabad Airports. In later stage, Airports Authority of India will expand this policy at Kolkata, Varanasi, Pune and Vijayawada Airports by April 2019.

More about Digi Yatra

- Under Digi Yatra, there will be single-time verification at departure airport while travelling for 1st time using Identification Document.

- After efficacious verification, facial recognition biometric will be taken and stored in Digi Yatra Identification Document. With this initiative, ticket booking, Entry at Airport and boarding pass security check-in will be accomplished digitally.

- For this system, travellers will be recorded via centralized system and will be issued Digi Travel IDs.

- This Identification Document will consist details including names of travellers, their e-mail id, mobile number and any other identity card in case of non-basis. Passengers can also utilise this Identification Document while making their ticket booking.

- This initiative will bring advantages to travellers and all shareholders tangled in process including airport operator, who will be having travel data in advance for better resource planning and real-time information of travellers within terminal. This will permit the operator to take proactive action to handle congestion.

First India-Vietnam Coast Guards exercise held in Bay of Bengal - Sahyog HOP TAC - 2018

The maiden joint activity of Coast Guards of India and Vietnam "Sahyog HOP TAC -2018" was organised in the Bay of Bengal off the Chennai coast, Tamil Nadu. It was intended at consolidating the working level association between coast

guards of both naval forces.

More about Sahyog HOP TAC-2018

- The activity was intended at familiarizing coast guards of both nations with each other's' capabilities and consolidating working level relationship to saving lives at sea.

- It included scenario of hijacking of oil tanker and subsequent saving of its crew in co-ordinated anti-piracy joint operation and precautionary efforts for marine environment protection. Moreover, it also comprised interdiction of pirated vessels, co-ordinated joint boarding operation and external fire-fighting to rescue burning ships.

- From Indian side, Coast Guard ships Shaurya, Arnavesh and inreceptor boat C-431 along with Dornier aircraft and Chetak helicopter took part in the joint activity. It also witnessed participation of Sagar Manjusa vessel of National Institute of Ocean Technology.

2nd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo held in Noida - REINVEST-2018

The 2nd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo- REINVEST 2018 was held by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in Noida from October 3rd –5th, 2018. It was initiated by PM Narendra Modi in the presence of United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres. Second Global REINVEST also accommodated 1st Assembly of International Solar Alliance and Meeting of the Energy Ministers of Indian Ocean Rim Association nations.

More about 2nd RE-INVEST

- The Second REINVEST was focused at fast-tracking around the world effort to scale-up renewable energy and link global investment community with Indian energy shareholders.

- It consisted 3-day Conference on renewables, cleantech and future energy choices and expo of renewables-concerned producers, developers, investors and innovators.

- The Second REINVEST delivered great prospect to different companies to display their business strategies, accomplishments and expectations.

- It also simplified partnership and co-operation with crucial shareholders in India,



which have developed as one of the world's largest renewable energy markets.

- It was joined by Ministerial Delegations worldwide, including International Solar Alliance and Indian Ocean Rim Association Member Nations, more than 600 global industry leaders, and 10,000 representatives.

RE-Invest

It is global platform to discover strategies for development and deployment of renewables and it was assembled upon success of RE-Invest 2015. It delivers international forum to recognized players and new segments of investors and entrepreneurs to engage, ideate and innovate.

Who has been appointed Deputy National Security Advisor ? - R N Ravi

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has re-designated R.N.Ravi, Chairman of Joint Intelligence Committee as Deputy National Security Advisor (Internal Affairs). He will be 3rd deputy National Security Advisor to National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, following previous Research and Analysis Wing-RAW chief, Rajinder Khanna and serving diplomat Pankaj Saran.

More about R N Ravi

- R.N.Ravi is 1976 batch Indian Police Service officer of the Kerala cadre.

- He is also the government's interlocutor for continuing talks with Naga rebellious group National Socialist Council of Nagaland and man shaping the Naga peace accord.

- He has played dynamic role in making sure that rebellion groups from North-East have come to talking table.

Three-tier internal security structure

- Presently, India has 3-tier internal security structure which consists of National Security Council, headed by PM, Strategic Policy Group and a National Security Advisory Board.

- Prime Minister-headed National Security Council is top body and National Security Advisor works as its secretary.

- The Strategic Policy Group is led by cabinet secretary and it has chiefs of armed forces, Intelligence Bureau and Research and Analysis Wing as its members.

- It is accountable for policy-making and for follow-up action in issues of national security.

- The National Security Advisory Board does long term analysis and

provides perspectives on concerns of national security.

More about National Security Advisor

- National Security Advisor is the principal executive of National Security Council and primary advisor to PM on national and international security and oversees strategic issues.

- Due to such vested powers, National Security Advisor is protuberant and powerful office in the bureaucracy. National Security Advisor is assisted by a Deputy-National Security Advisor.

- The position was formed in November 1998 by Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government. Brajesh Mishra was 1st to be designated National Security Advisor of India.

World Teachers Day 2018 observed globally on - 5th October 2018

The World Teachers Day was celebrated worldwide on October 5th, 2018. The Day commemorates the anniversary of the adoption of the '1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation' concerning the Status of Teachers.

The Day was co-convened in partnership with UNICEF, UNDP, the International Labour Organization, and Education International.

Important Points

- The 2018 theme of the Day was "The Right to Education means the Right to a Qualified Teacher".

- This theme was selected to mark the 70th anniversary of the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" -1948, which marks education as a crucial fundamental right, that cannot be rewarded without qualified teachers.

- One of the key challenges to Right to Education around the world is the constant shortage of teachers.

- There are approximated 264 million children and youngsters who are still out of school globally.

- According to the UNESCO Institute of Statistics, nearly 69 million fresh teachers require to be employed to reach the 2030 education aim of universal primary and secondary education. Qualified and knowledgeable teachers are fundamental to the right to education.

More about UNESCO Recommendation

- The World Teachers' Day honours the Anniversary of the adoption of the 1966



ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers.

- o The Commendation forms standards concerning the rights and responsibilities of teachers and morals for their starting training and further education, recruitment, service, and teaching.

- o To complement the 1966 Recommendation by casing teaching and research employees in higher education, the Recommendation regarding the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel was approved in 1997.

19th India-Russia Annual Bilateral Summit: India signs deal with Russia to buy S-400 Triumf Missiles on - 5th October 2018

India and Russia on October 5th, 2018 inked a USD 5.43 billion contract for India to acquire the S-400 Triumf missile system from Russia. The pact was inked after the 19th India-Russia Annual Bilateral Summit between PM Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin and other representatives. Russian President Vladimir Putin is on 2 days visit to India. Post their bilateral discussions between PM Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin, India and Russia inked the USD 5.43 billion pact for S-400 Air Defence System. The system is predictable to be delivered by year 2020.

More about S-400 Air Defence System

- o An advanced version of the S-300 systems, the S-400 is a surface-to-air missile system that can destroy enemies airplanes in the sky from the surface itself.

- o Known as Russia's most innovative long-range surface-to-air missile defence system, S-400 is talented of terminating hostile bombers, jets, missiles and drones at a range of 380 kilometres.

- o The S-400 missile system was industrialised by Almaz-Antey and has been in service in Russia since 2007.

Important Highlights

- o Both the nations reaffirmed their promises to the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership among India and Russia.

- o They repeated that being multicultural, multilingual and multi-religious societies, India and Russia bring civilisation knowledge to address modern day contests.

- o Subsequent to the effective implementation of the Protocol on Foreign

Office Consultations for the period 2017-18, they decided to outspread the period of Consultations for 5 additional years i.e. 2019-2023 and inked a Protocol to this effect.

- o They greeted the pacts reached in November 2017 between their concerned authorities, for cooperation on internal security, drug-trafficking and disaster management, for the period of 2018-2020.

- o They reviewed the development on the accomplishment of the aim to upsurge two-way investment to USD 30 billion by the year 2025.

- o They greeted the initiation of consultations on the Free Trade Agreement between the Eurasian Economic Union and its member states.

- o They greeted the holding of the India-Russia Business Summit on the boundaries of the 19th Annual Summit on October 4th-5th, 2018 in New-Delhi with the involvement of large business delegations from both nations.

Denis Mukwege, Nadia Murad won 2018 Nobel Peace Prize on - 5th October 2018

The Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize to Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad on 5th October 2018 for their efforts to end sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict.

Both Mukwege and Murad made a crucial contribution towards focussing their attention to combat war crimes. Both of them have helped to give more visibility towards war-time sexual violence, so that the perpetrators can be held accountable for their actions.

Denis Mukwege is the helper who has devoted his life to defend the victims and to seek justice for them, while Nadia Murad is the witness who speaks of the abuses against her and others. She is courageous enough to recount her own sufferings and speaking up on behalf of others as well.

Mukwege and Murad have put their personal security at risk by combating war crimes and seeking justice for victims.

Alphonso mango from 5 districts of Maharashtra gets Geographical Indication tag by - Geographical Indication Registry and Intellectual Property India

Chennai founded Geographical Indication Registry and Intellectual Property India has approved Alphonso mango from Five regions of Maharashtra gets Geographical Indication



label. These 5 districts Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Palghar, Thane and Raigad are from western Konkan coastal area of State. With this recognition, Alphonso has linked to the list of 325 products from India with Geographical Indication label.

More about Alphonso mango

- Alphonso, also known as “Hapus” in Maharashtra is known as king of mangoes. It is best recognised for its taste as well as for the pleasant fragrance and vibrant colour. It is in demand in domestic and international markets. It has long been world's most popular fruits and is exported to different nations including Japan, Korea, Europe, United States and Australia.

Geographical Indication

- Geographical Indication is indication utilised on products that have an exact geographical origin and hold qualities that are due to that origin. It is mainly given to agricultural, natural and manufactured goods having special quality and well-known reputation.

- The goods and products having label are known for their origin, quality and reputation and gives it needed edge in global market.

- It also makes sure that none can use their name, giving them exclusivity.

- Geographical Indication is enclosed as element of Intellectual Property Rights under Paris Convention for Protection of Industrial Property and this GI certification is valid for ten years after which it requires to be renewed.

- Violation of Geographical Indication labels is punishable offence under law. The motive of Geographical Indication label enables shareholders to validate their production while earning a premium and derive an improved income.

- Internationally, Geographical Indication is administered by World Trade Organisation's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

- In India, Geographical Indication label Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection Act), 1999 governs it which is directed by Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks, who is also Registrar of GIs and is based in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. It works under Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

- The 1st Geographical Indication in India was issued to Darjeeling tea in 2004. Tirupathi Laddu, Kangra Paintings, Nagpur Orange and Kashmir Pashmina are also among listed Geographical Indications in India.

- Karnataka leads with 38 Geographical Indication items, after Maharashtra which has 33 Geographical Indication items.

- Tamil Nadu comes 3rd with 25 Geographical Indication items.

Pankaj Sharma appointed India's Ambassador to UN Conference on Disarmament

According to an official statement, Pankaj Sharma has been selected as ambassador and India's Permanent Representative to UNs Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. He will replace Amandeep Gill. Pankaj Sharma is presently joint secretary (Disarmament and International Security Division) in Ministry of External Affairs.

More about UN Conference on Disarmament

- United Nations Conference on Disarmament is not officially United Nations society.

- It is united to United Nations via personal representative of United Nations Secretary-General.

- It is multilateral forum recognized in 1979 by international community to negotiate multilateral arms control and disarmament agreements.

- Its HQ is in Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

- The conference has 65 representatives represent all areas of the world, including nuclear-weapon nations India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea, Resolutions approved by United Nations General Assembly often appeal conference to consider specific disarmament matters.

NASSCOM unveils Centre of Excellence for - IoT in Haryana

Indian Information Technology industry's top body National Association of Software and Services

Companies- NASSCOM has released its Centre of Excellence for the Internet of Things at Gurugram, Haryana. This centre was initiated in co-ordination with Haryana government and is part of nationwide cooperative initiative involving the Ministry of



Electronics and Information Technology. Centre of Excellence for IoT

- Its objective to act as perfect cooperation for innovation and high-end technologies. It will deliver one of the largest innovation platforms for enabling Internet of Things revolution via connected devices using emerging technologies.

- It will deliver platform to best minds from industry, academia, start-ups and government to push culture of cooperation and co-creation to discover solutions to quicken India's economic development.

- It will also work as platform for intelligence-sharing and technology cooperation between shareholders to shape collective Internet of Things abilities.

More about NASSCOM

- National Association of Software and Services Companies is global non-profit business organisation of Indian Information Technology and Business Process Outsourcing- BPO industry.

- It simplifies business and trade in software and services and inspires the development of research in software technology. It is listed under the Indian Societies Act, 1860.

- Its HQs are in New Delhi.

- It has regional offices in Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kochi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Pune and Thiruvananthapuram.

- The global IT trade body has more than 2000 associates, of which more than 250 are organisations from the China, European Union, Japan, United States and United Kingdom.

- National Association of Software and Services Companies' affiliate firms are in business of software development, software services, software products, IT-BPO facilities and e-commerce.

Indian Air Force observes 86th Air Force Day on - 8th October 2018

The Indian Air Force (IAF) celebrated 86th Air Force Day with an aim to pay rich tribute to the untiring efforts and supreme sacrifice made by veterans on 8th October 2018, who laid a strong foundation for the service.

More about events that marked 86th Air Force Day

- To mark this occasion and in keeping up with the tradition, the IAF performed a grand

Parade cum Investiture Ceremony at the Air Force Station, Hindan based in Ghaziabad.

- Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa who is the Chief of the Air Staff also reviewed the parade.

- The parade was followed by a breath taking display by the Air Warrior Drill Team, wherein the team showcased their weapon handling skills and carried out diverse manoeuvres with their rifles followed by a stunning air display by wide range of Indian Air Force aircraft.

- Flag bearing sky divers of famous Akash Ganga Team, who jumped from An-32 aircraft carried out air display.

- Flypast comprised of Mi-17 V5 and Rudra helicopters, Dornier, C-130J and C-17 transport aircraft, Jaguar, Mirage-2000, Bison, MiG-29 and SU-30 MKI fighter aircraft.

- Dakota, Tiger Moth and Harvard of the IAF Vintage flight also participated in the flypast.

- Post flypast, LCA (Light Combat Aircraft) carried out aerobatic display in front of the audience.

- The Ambassadors of IAF, SKAT (Surya Kiran Aerobatics Team), comprising nine Hawk 132 aircraft and the Helicopter aerobatics team Sarang, charmed the audience with breath taking formation aerobatics display.

CII, UN Environment sign MoU for environmental cooperation on - 4th October 2018

The Confederation of Indian Industry on 4th October 2018 signed a MoU with the UN Environment for coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development. This MoU was signed by Director-General of CII, Chandrajit Banerji and Executive Director at UN Environment, Erik Solheim at CII's headquarters in Delhi (India).

Important Highlights

- The agreement is aiming to cover all major areas of interest common to both UN Environment and CII.

- It is also aiming to provide a framework of cooperation and facilitate cooperation in areas including environment, renewable energy, climate change, resource conservation and management, water sanitation, energy efficiency, smart cities and urban infrastructure.

- The major activity planned under the MoU includes the #Un-plastic Initiative of the



CII and UN Environment that will be beginning with a 'Call to Action', which will be including commitments by the industry to take action to curb plastic pollution.

- Further, the CII will be working towards voluntary codes in Indian industry on the issue of plastics. Outside India, the CII will be engaging with industry forums it is linked to in different countries, especially in Africa through its annual CII-Africa Conclave.

- Simultaneously India has also pledged to make 100 national monuments including the Taj Mahal, litter-free.

Indian Railways sign two agreements with Russia on - 5th October 2018

The Union Ministry of Railways on 5th October 2018 signed MoU with Russia's Ministry of Transport for the development of cooperation in the education of transport. The main motto behind this agreement is to provide organisational and methodological support to the higher educational institutions implementing joint projects in the field of transport education in both the nations.

The MoU also aims to boost cooperation between the Russian University of Transport and the National Rail Transportation Institute, Vadodara to jointly organise educational transport seminars, including participation in shaping their themes, facilitating the search for partners, organising mutual visits and preparation of regulatory and methodical documents.

The agreement was signed by Russian Ambassador to India, Nikolay Rishatovich Kudashev and Indian Railway Board Chairman Ashwani Lohani.

Government reconstituted Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority on - 3rd October 2018

Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has reformed Supreme Court-empowered Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority. This comes after time of the last Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority finished on October 3rd, 2018.

Important Points

- Former Indian Administrative Services officers Bhure Lal will remain as Chairman of reconstituted

Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority.

- The other associates of the 20 members re-constituted Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority consist of Ajay Mathur, DG "The Energy Research Institute"- TERI; Arunabha Ghosh, CEO Centre for Energy Environment and Water; Navroz K. Dubash, Senior Fellow for the Centre for Policy Research.

- Others associates consist Vishnu Mathur, DG Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers; Krishna Dhawan, CEO, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation, New Delhi and Arvind Kumar, former professor of surgery, AIIMS New Delhi and among others.

Environment Pollution Control Authority

- Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority is Supreme Court authorized body tasked with taking different actions to control air pollution in the NCR.

- It was notified in 1998 by Environment Ministry under Environment Protection Act, 1986. Its command is to safeguard and advance quality of environment and prevent and control environmental pollution in NCR.

- It is also mandated to impose Graded Response Action Plan in National Capital Region according to the pollution levels. In November 2017, Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority had imposed various checks, including restriction on brick kilns, closure of Badarpur Thermal Power Plant, hot mix plants and stone crushers, and construction activities in National Capital Region.

Government's crop insurance scheme to cover crop loss in - wild animal attacks

The Union Government has finalised to cover crop damages due to wild animal attacks under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna in nominated districts on an experimental basis. The news was shared by Union Agricultural Minister Radha Mohan Singh. The minister informed that the government also brought certain horticultural crops under the domain of Fasal Bima Yojna ambit on an experimental ground.

Important Highlights

- The Government's Fasal Bima Yojna earlier did not cover compensates incurred to an individual or a limited number of cultivators during unprecedent localised events



including waterlogging, landslide and hailstorms.

- However, now under its new necessities, the protection plan will cover all these events.

- The necessities of the crop insurance plan were revised in consultation with various shareholders and the alterations have been implemented from this month.

- The revised provisions also specify penalties in cases of delay in clearing the insurance claims for crop damages.

Provision of Penalties

- The Government has finalised to include the provision of penalties for States and Insurance Firms for the interruption in settlement of insurance claims under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

- Under the fresh provisions, the farmers will be compensated 12% interest by insurance firms for the delay in settlement claims beyond 2 months of prescribed cut-off date.

- The state governments will be needed to pay 12% interest for the interruption in the release of the state share of subsidy beyond 3 months of explained cut-off date submission of requisition by insurance firms.

- The fresh provisions come at the onset of the Rabi season, which initiates from October 1st.

- Besides, the fresh rules also detail a Standard Operating Procedure for assessment of insurance firms and eradicate them from the scheme if found unproductive in providing services.

Government sanctions 5 new battalions of - Rapid Action Force

Union Ministry of Home Affairs has certified 5 new battalions of anti-riot and crowd control Rapid Action Force. These new battalions will be positioned at Varanasi UP, Hajipur- Bihar, Jaipur- Rajasthan, Mangalore- Karnataka) and Nuh- Haryana. With these, the sum number of Rapid Action Force battalions in the nation has expanded to fifteen. Varanasi will be 4th base of Rapid Action Force in UP- the 3 others being in Meerut, Allahabad and Aligarh.

Rapid Action Force

- Rapid Action Force is a specially trained and armed wing of Central Reserve Police Force- CRPF, the nation's major paramilitary force or Central Armed Police Force with more than three lakh personnel.

- It was fashioned in 1992 to tackle riots, riot like circumstances, crowd control, rescue-relief operations and related unrest. It is HQ in New Delhi. Its slogan is 'Serving Humanity with Sensitive Policing'.

- Rapid Action Force battalions are located in different parts of the nation in order to decrease response time and rush the teams in shortest possible time to counter an occurrence.

- The ten old Rapid Action Force battalions are located in Ahmedabad, Allahabad, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Aligarh, Delhi, Coimbatore, Jamshedpur, Bhopal and Meerut.

- Single Rapid Action Force battalion has gathering of just more than 1,000 staff and it is armed with gadgets and non-lethal weapons including, Tear Smoke Grenade launchers, pump action guns and others to impose security and law and order in case of protests like situations.

3rd edition of Japan-India Maritime Exercise JIMEX 18 begins in - Visakhapatnam

The Third Edition of Japan-India Maritime Exercise inaugurated at Visakhapatnam, AP. Japan-India Maritime Exercise-18 is intended to improve interoperability, advance understanding and down best practices between navies of both nations.

More about JIMEX 18

- Japan-India Maritime Exercise-18 will be spread over 8 days from 7th-15th October 2018 and will include Harbour Phase and Sea Phase of 4 days each.

- Harbour Phase will comprise professional and social communications among ship's crews, operational planning for sea phase and sports fixtures.

- Sea Phase will comprise anti-submarine warfare movements, Gun firings, Visit, Board, Search and Seizure drills, cross deck helo operations and co-ordinated operations in anti-submarine and anti-air threat scenarios.

- In this edition of exercise, Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force is signified by Kaga, an Izumo class helicopter destroyer, Inazuma which is a directed missile destroyer and Escort Flotilla-4.

- Indian Navy will be signified by 3 Indian planned and built warships- INS Satpura, multipurpose stealth frigate, INS Kadmat,



Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette, Missile Corvette and fleet tanker.

- Additionally, single submarine, P8I long range maritime patrol aircraft and number of integral helicopters are also taking part in the exercise.

Did you know?

India and Japan maritime exercise Japan-India Maritime Exercise was initiated in January 2012 with special focus on Maritime Security Co-operation. It was organised for 1st time was conducted off Japanese coastline. The last edition of Japan-India Maritime Exercise was held in Dec 2013 off Chennai coast, India.

Nitin Gadkari to lay the foundation stone for development of Ghagra River as - National Waterway

Union Minister for Shipping, Road Transport Highways and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Nitin Gadkari laid down the foundation-stone for the expansion work of Ghagra River as National Waterway-40 on October 9th, 2018 at Basti in UP. The project is a fragment of the Sagarmala Program of the Union Ministry of Shipping.

Ghagra river as National Waterway

- The channel will stretch from Manjhight at Ganga-Gaghra river convergence to Ayodhya along Gaghra River for a length of 354 Kilometres.
- This stretch was announced as National Waterway-40 during the year 2016, as part of Government's rehabilitated push to progress inland waterways sector in the nation.
- Together with National Waterway-1 on river Ganga, National Waterway-40 will come as a chief transport modal choice for cargo and passengers.
- The Comprehensive Project Report on the development of National Waterway-40 envisions terminal at 5 locations including at Ayodhya, Mahipur, Dohrighat, Tortipar and Manjhight.

Significance

- This waterway is being categorised as class-III waterway which envisages movement of about 1000 tons capacity vessels.
- Besides cargo and passenger movement, National Waterway-40 will deliver a connectivity to tourist and pilgrimage places along river Gaghra and Ganga.

ESIC wins ISSA good practice award for - Asia, Pacific region

The Employees' State Insurance Corporation was bestowed the 'ISSA Good Practice Award' for administrative solution for coverage extension at the 'Regional Social Security Forum for Asia and the Pacific' organised recently at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The award recognizes the actions taken by Employees' State Insurance Corporation for extension of coverage of the plan for Promoting Registration of Employers and Employees, decreasing the rate of contribution rates for 2 years in freshly executed areas and raising the wage edge for coverage under the Employees' State Insurance Act.

The certificate of award was received Raj Kumar, Indian Administrative Services official and DG Employees' State Insurance Corporation on behalf of the corporation.

Key Highlights

- The regional social security forum for Asia and the Pacific is a triennial Forum, which is the utmost crucial social security programme in the region.
- The International Social Security Association- ISSA invites submissions for the International Social Security Association Good Practices award for Asia and the Pacific areas, on the eve of the triennial regional forum.
- The Forum issues exclusive chances to Chief Executive Officers and Managers of International Social Security Association Member Institutions to deliberate important social security tasks and share their experiences.

ISSA

The ISSA was originated in 1927, under the patronages of the International Labour Organization, Geneva. It is the chief international organisation for social security organisations, governments and departments of social security.

ESIC

The Employees State Insurance Corporation was recognized by Employees' State Insurance Act 1948. It is an independent corporation under the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment, that handles the ESI- the self-financing social security and health insurance plan for Indian workers and labours.

Government launches Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2018 -19 on - 8th October 2018



The Union Government, in discussion with the RBI, on October 8th, 2018 finalised to release Sovereign Gold Bonds 2018-19. The Sovereign Gold Bonds will be distributed monthly from October 2018 to February 2019 via banks, Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited, assigned Post Offices, and registered stock exchanges including National Stock Exchange and Bombay Stock Exchange.

Important Facts

- The Sovereign Bonds will be distributed by RBI on behalf of the Government of India.
- The Sovereign Bonds will be limited for sale to resident units including individuals, HUFs, Trusts, Universities and Charitable Institutions.
- The Sovereign Bonds will be issued in multiples of grams of gold with a basic unit of One gm.
- The tenure of the Bond will be for a time period of eight years with exit option in 5, 6 year and 7th year to be done on the interest payment dates. Least permissible investment will be One gm of gold.
- The uppermost limit of investment shall be four kilograms for individual, four kilograms for HUF and twenty kilograms for trusts and same entities in a year.
- Payment for the Sovereign Bonds will be via cash payment up to an extreme of Rupees 20000 or DD/cheque/electronic banking.
- The interest on Gold Bonds shall be taxable according to the provision of Income Tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961).
- Commission for circulation of the bond shall be paid at the rate Rupee 1 per hundred Rupees of the total subscription got by the receiving offices and further receiving offices shall share minimum 50 paisa per Rupees 100 of the commission so received with the agents and further.

Government sets up Strategic Policy Group to assist National Security Council on - 8th October 2018

The Union Government on October 8th, 2018 formed the Strategic Policy Group, led by NSA Ajit Doval, to assist the National Security Council.

Members of the Strategic Policy Group

- The Associates of the Strategic Policy Group will consist Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, Cabinet Secretary, Chiefs of the all 3 defence services, Reserve Bank of India Governor, Foreign Secretary, Home

Secretary, Finance Secretary, and Defence Secretary.

• The Secretary of the Department of Defence Production and Supplies; the Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister and the Secretary (R), Cabinet Secretariat will also be the associates of the panel.

• Representatives of other ministries and departments will be requested to the meetings of the group as and when needed.

Terms of Reference of the Strategic Policy Group

- The SPG will help the National Security Council and undertake among other tasks, a long-tenure strategic review of nation's security affairs.

- It will work as a chief process for inter-ministerial co-ordination and integration of related inputs in the formulation of National Security Policies.

- The National Security Advisor will organize the meetings of the Strategic Policy Group and the cabinet secretary will co-ordinate execution of the group's conclusions by Union Ministries and Departments, and State Governments.

William Nordhaus, Paul Romer awarded 2018 Nobel Prize in - Economics

American economists William Nordhaus and Paul Romer were mutually bestowed 2018 Nobel Prize in Economics Sciences for assimilating climate change and technological innovation into macroeconomic analysis. Their researches have meaningfully broadened scope of economic analysis by creating models that explain how market economy relates with nature and knowledge. Their studies have assisted to address few of present time's most straightforward and pressing questions about generating long-term continued and sustainable growth.

More about William Nordhaus

- William Nordhaus is professor at Yale University who was 1st person to produce economic model that defines global interplay between economy and the climate in the 1990s.

- This model had presented that the most efficient medication for problems caused by greenhouse gases is a global plan of universally forced carbon taxes.

More about Paul Romer



- Paul Romer is professor at New York University's Stern School of Business who has demonstrated that how economic forces oversee willingness of organisations to generate fresh ideas and innovations.

- This had laid basis for fresh model for development, also known as endogenous growth theory.

Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences

- Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences is formally known as Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.

- It was not part of original group of awards like Chemistry, Literature, Peace, Physics, and Physiology formed in dynamite tycoon Alfred Nobel's 1895 will. It was introduced in 1968 by Sveriges Riksbank.

- It is presented yearly by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences as per to the similar principles as for Nobel Prizes. The 5 Nobel Prizes are grounded on fund formed from wealth bestowed by Alfred Nobel, whereas Economic Prize is grounded on donation received by Nobel Foundation in 1968 from Sveriges Riksbank.

Bangladesh enacts Digital Security Bill, 2018 by - President Abdul Hamid

Bangladesh's President Abdul Hamid has specified his assent controversial Digital Security Bill, 2018, by endorsing it as a law. This new law syndicates earlier colonial-era Official Secrets Act with rough new provisions including arrests without warrant. Bangladesh Government headed by PM Sheikh Hasina has fortified the digital law as essential to fight against cyber-crime.

Digital Security Bill 2018

- It was approved by Bangladesh's Parliament to deal with cyber-crimes, consisting hurting religious sentiment, scattering negative propaganda against 1971 Liberation War and Bangabandhu.

- It also covers illegal actions in e-transactions and scattering defamatory information under its domain.

- It delivers for at least of seven years and an extreme of fourteen years' imprisonment, and monetary fines of at least Taka 25 lakh and maximum of Taka One crore, or both for illegal access and damage of any crucial data related to state affairs.

Opposition to law

- The law faced extensive vocal opposition from rights groups and journalists that it could risk freedom of speech, especially on social media.

- These groups are informing that this law will form atmosphere of fear and terrorization, which will make journalism and investigative journalism, effectively impossible.

- Opponents also have disapproved digital law as latest authoritarian initiative by PM Sheikh Hasina.

- The law has also drawn opposition internationally counting from United States ambassador to Bangladesh, Marcia Bernicat who had cited that this law could be utilised to suppress and criminalise free speech which in-turn could be disadvantageous to Bangladesh's democracy, development and affluence.

Weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga wins India's maiden gold medal at - Youth Olympic Games

Weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga age 15 years earnt India's maiden Gold Medal at 2018 Youth Olympic Games being organised in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He secured the medal in the men's 62 kilograms group by lifting over-all 274 kilograms, with 124 kilograms+150 kilograms weight to end on top.

The silver medal was secured by Turkey's Toptas Caner, who lifted 263 kilograms with 122 kg+141 kilograms and bronze medal to Colombia's Villar Estiven Jose who lifted 260 kilograms with 115 kilograms+143kilograms. Till date, this was India's 4th medal in continuing 2018 Youth Olympic Games,

which consisted 3 silver medals previously secured by Tushar Mane in 10 metres Air Rifle, Tababi Devi in 44 kilograms Judo and Mehuli Ghosh in 10 metres Air Rifle game.

More about Jeremy Lalrinnunga

- Jeremy was born on 26th October 2002 in Aizawl, Mizoram. He had initiated weightlifting at the age of 10 years.

- He had started his training with Indian Army at Army Sports Institute in Pune, Maharashtra.

- In 2018, he surpassed two National Records claiming Bronze medal (Junior) and Silver medal (Youth) in Asian Championships.

Other Achievements

2017: Gold at Commonwealth Youth



Championships, Gold Coast.
2017: Gold at Commonwealth Junior
Championship, Gold Coast.
2016: Silver at IWF Youth World
Championships, Penang.
Thangjam Tababi Devi clinches India's first
judo medal at Youth Olympics Games
Thangjam Tababi Devi aged 16 years became
India's 1st judo medallist at the Olympic level.
She won this feat after winning silver medal at
current Youth Olympics Games in Buenos
Aires, Argentina. She secured the medal after
losing to Venezuela's Maria Giminez in the
final game of the women's 44kilograms
group.

Earlier to this, India had never won any
Olympic medal in judo's senior or youth levels.
Her silver medal is, till date, India's 2nd medal
at current games. Tababi Devi hails from
north-eastern state of Manipur.

Youth Olympic Games

- It is international multi-sport programme held by International Olympic Committee. The age restriction of the athletes taking part in this event is 14 to 18 years.
- The games are organised every 4 years in stunnend summer and winter programmes reliable with present senior lever Olympic Games format.
- The 1st summer version was organised in Singapore from 14-26th August 2010 while 1st winter version was organised in Innsbruck, Austria from 13-22nd January 2012.
- India had secured just 2 medals, silver and bronze in the past Youth Olympics in 2014 organised in Nanjing, China.
- India's best performance at these games came was in inaugural edition in 2010 when it had secured 6 silver and 2 bronze medals.

World Mental Health Day 2018 observed globally on - 10th October 2018

The World Mental Health Day was observed by the World Health Organisation on 10th October 2018 with an aim to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and mobilising efforts to support mental health.

Important Highlights on Adolescent mental health

- One in six people are between 10 to 19 years suffering with Adolescent mental health.
- The mental health conditions account for 16 percent of the global burden of disease and injury in people aging 10-19 years.

- Half of all mental health conditions start by 14 years of age but most cases are undetected and untreated.

- Depression is one of the leading causes of illness and disability among adolescents all across the world.

- Suicide is the third leading cause of death among 15-19 year old teenagers.

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated 29th Accountants General conference on - 10th October 2018

The 29th Accountants General conference was inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind in New Delhi on 10th October 2018. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India organised this two-day conference.

The meet will be held at the new building of CAG located at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg. It will also be attended by Accountants General from all over the nation.

Important Highlights

- The conference will be involving deliberations on adopting most modern audit techniques to further improve audit effectiveness and increase accountability in public spending.
- Other than this CAG of India Rajiv Mehrishi, Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan and Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Chairman Mallikarjun Kharge will be taking part in the deliberations.
- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley will also be addressing the officers on the second day of the conference.
- Mainly, the conference will be comprising four brainstorming sessions on Audit Planning, audit execution and accounting in a digital environment, among others.

Nikki Haley resigned as US Ambassador to United Nations on - 9th October 2018

Indian-American Nikki Haley resigned as the United States Ambassador to the United Nations on 9th October 2018. President Donald Trump made the formal announcement of her resignation and applauded her work during the period of her job.

Haley, former South Carolina governor, did not give any reasons for her exit, however, dismissed speculations that she was planning to run for Presidential bid in 2020. Infact she stated that she would be campaigning for Trump's re-election in two years from now.



Her resignation just ahead of the upcoming mid-term elections in November 2018 came as a shock and surprise to the American foreign policy and national security experts and can be a big loss to the Trump Administration.

IMF predicts India to grow at 7.3 percent in 2018-19 on - 9th October 2018

India's growth rate is predicted to increase to 7.3 percent in 2018 and 7.4 percent in 2019, as per the latest World Economic Outlook report released by the IMF(International Monetary Fund) on 9th October 2018. India had recorded a growth rate of 6.7 percent in 2017.

The latest growth prediction for India, however, is comparatively bit lower than what was predicted in April 2018 World Economic Outlook for 2019 due to the recent increase in oil prices and tightening of the global financial conditions.

Important Highlights of the report

- The acceleration reflects a rebound from transitory shocks with strengthening investment and robust private consumption.
- The report states that India's medium-term growth prospects remain strong at 7.75 percent, benefiting from ongoing structural reform, but have been marked down by just under 0.5 percentage point as compared to the April 2018 WEO.
- In addition to that, the IMF has lowered the growth projections for both India and China by 0.4 percent and 0.32 percent, respectively, from its annual April's World Economic Outlook.
- China's growth rate is projected to moderate from 6.9 percent in 2017 to 6.6 percent in 2018 and subsequently 6.2 percent in 2019, reflecting a slowing external demand growth and necessary financial regulatory tightening.
- India's slow growth projection for 2019 is also a result of the latest round of US tariffs on Chinese imports.
- The report added that aggregate growth in the emerging market and developing economy group stabilised in the first half of 2018 itself.

Indian Air Force launched its first mobile health app 'MedWatch' on - 8th October 2018

Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa, Chief of the Air Staff, launched an innovative mobile health application called 'MedWatch' on 8th October 2018, on the occasion of its 86th

anniversary. This MedWatch app has been conceived by the doctors of IAF and developed in-house by the Directorate of Information Technology (DIT) with zero financial outlay.

Important Functions of the App

- The app 'MedWatch' will be providing correct, scientific and authentic health information to air warriors and citizens of India.
- It comprises a host of features including information on basic first aid, health topics and nutritional facts at the same time.
- It also contains reminders for timely medical review, vaccination and utility tools like BMI calculator, health record card, helpline numbers and web links.
- More information related this app is made available on the website - www.apps.mgov.gov.in

NITI Aayog organised workshop on Best Practices in International Arbitration on - 10th October 2018

The inaugural 'Workshop on Best Practices in International Arbitration' was organised by NITI Aayog and the ICC International Court of Arbitration on 10th October 2018 in New Delhi. The chief guest Justice AK Sikri inaugurated the same workshop who is a judge at the Supreme Court of India and was presided over by PP Chaudhary, MoS in the Law Ministry as well. NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant also witnessed the occasion.

Important Highlights

- The workshop was attended by more than 200 senior officers from central and state governments alongwith public sector undertakings.
- It covered the basic concepts of international arbitration and included best practices on drafting of arbitration agreements and the factors to consider when deciding on the seat, venue, governing law and institution.
- It also covered topics related to the arbitrators selection, enforcement of arbitral awards and the role of courts before, during and after the arbitration even.
- The information sharing session topics were delivered by world-class faculty and practitioners from UK, Singapore, Paris and India.

Tushar Mehta appointed as Solicitor General of India on - 10th October 2018

Senior Advocate Tushar Mehta was appointed as the Solicitor General of India on



10th October 2018
with effect from the date of assumption of charge of the office for a period till 30th June 2020 or until further orders. The Appointment Committee of Cabinet approved his appointment. At present, Mehta is serving as the Additional Solicitor General (ASG) of India.

The seat of the Solicitor General of India has been lying vacant for the last 11 months after Senior Advocate Ranjith Kumar resigned on 20th October 2017. The Solicitor General is the second highest ranking law officer of the Union Government, first is the Attorney General.

More about Tushar Mehta

- He was serving as the Gujarat Advocate General when Prime Minister Narendra Modi was then the Chief Minister of the state.
- He moved to Delhi after the Narendra Modi government named him the Additional Solicitor General.
- Mehta has also handled several controversial cases including Justice BH Loya's death and the arrest of the five activists by the Maharashtra police.
- He is also representing the UP government in Ayodhya land dispute case pending before a three-judge Supreme Court bench.
- Tushar Mehta was recently named special prosecutor to handle the 2G spectrum case.

Gorkhas in Assam are not 'foreigners', clarified by - Home Ministry

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has issued a clarification to the Assam state government regarding the citizenship status of the Gorkha community members living in the state. The clarification follows a representation from the All Assam Gorkha Students' Union to the Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh after some cases of members of the Gorkha community living in Assam were referred to the Foreigners' Tribunal initially.

Cabinet approves merger of NCVT, NSDA to form National Council for Vocational Education & Training on - 10th October 2018

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the merger of the National Council for Vocational Training and the National Skill Development Agency to establish the National Council for

Vocational Education and Training on 10th October 2018.

Once formed, the NCVET will be regulating the functioning of entities engaged in vocational education and training, both long-term and short-term. It will be establishing minimum standards for the functioning of such entities.

Global Hunger Index 2018 published on - 10th October 2018

As per the 2018 Global Hunger Index (GHI), published on 10th October 2018, the level of hunger and undernutrition worldwide has fallen to 20.9, down from 29.2 in the year 2000. As per the Global Hunger index prepared jointly by global NGOs namely, Concern Worldwide (Ireland) and Welthungerhilfe (Germany), India was ranked 103rd out of 119 qualifying countries.

More about Global Hunger Index

- GHI is a tool designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger at global, national and regional levels.
- GHI scores are calculated each year to assess progress and setbacks in order to curb hunger.
- These scores are calculated using a three-step process.
 - Firstly, values are determined for each country in four indicators which are Undernourishment, Child Wasting, Child Stunting and Child Mortality.
 - Secondly, each of the four component indicators is granted a standardised score on a 100-point scale based on the highest observed level for the indicator.
 - Thirdly, standardised scores are aggregated to calculate the GHI score for each country, with each of the three dimensions (inadequate food supply, child mortality and child malnutrition).

World Bank launched first Human Capital Index, Singapore tops list on - 11th October 2018

The World Bank launched its first Human Capital Index (HCI) on 11th October 2018 in Bali, Indonesia as part of the World Development Report 2019. This index has ranked countries based on their success in developing human capital.

The index ranked 157 countries based on their education and health outcomes and the impact they are having on their productivity. While Singapore tops the rankings whereas African countries occupying the bottom spots.



Important Highlights

- The Human Capital index measures the Index outcomes for each country as a fraction of maximum value of 1.

- It also measures the mortality rate for children below five, early childhood stunting rates due to lack of nutrition and other factors and health outcomes based on the proportion of 15-year-olds who survive until age of 60.

- Further, it measures a country's educational achievement based on the schooling years a child can expect to obtain by age 18, combined with a country's relative performance on international student achievement tests.

- Overall, the index found that on an average almost 56 percent of children born today will forego more than half their potential lifetime earnings because governments were not investing adequately on them to ensure their people are healthy, educated and ready for the evolving workplace.

Malaysian government decides to abolish capital punishment on - 11th October 2018

The Malaysian Cabinet on 11th October 2018 decided to abolish the death penalty for all crimes and halt all pending executions. The decision is an extraordinary move against capital punishment in Asia.

The government has taken the decision to scrap capital punishment following strong domestic opposition to the practice. The changes to the laws with capital punishment are expected to be tabled in the Parliament on 15th October.

While applauding the government's decision, the Malaysian human rights group 'Lawyers for Liberty' stated that the death penalty is barbarous, unimaginably cruel and pointless, as it has never been proven to discourage serious crimes. It further said that once the sentence is scrapped, Malaysia will be having the moral authority to fight for the lives of Malaysians facing death sentences outside Malaysia as well.

Central University of Jammu, ISRO signed MoU to set up Space Applications Center on - 11th October 2018

The Indian Space Research Organisation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Central University of Jammu (CUJ) to set up of the Satish Dhawan Center for Space Science in the University on 11th October 2018.

During the same occasion, another MoU was also signed between CUJ and the Central Scientific Instruments Organization (CSIR-CSIO).

A two day workshop was also inaugurated at the CUJ campus to raise awareness about space research and to motivate young minds to take up research related to space, geology, astronomy, atmospheric sciences and related fields.

• Panel is set up to look into all #MeToo cases by - WCD Ministry

Maneka Gandhi, WCD Union Minister announced to set up a four member panel to investigate all #MeToo cases on 12th October 2018. This information was shared by WCD minister through tweet where she clearly mentioned that such kind of sexual harassment and mental trauma is beyond imagination and has to be dealt with zero tolerance at work places specially.

Important Highlights

- Senior Judicial and legal persons will be the part of this panel.

- Under the campaign #MeToo, whatever the cases are rising , they will be examining them.

Did you know?

This #MeToo campaign was started in 2017 as a hashtag on Twitter.

International Day for Disaster Reduction 2018 observed globally on - 13th October 2018

The International Day for Disaster Reduction was observed globally on 13th October 2018 to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction. The day celebrated how people and communities around the world are minimizing their exposure towards disasters and raising awareness about the risks associated with them. This day was celebrated with the theme of the 2018 International Day for Disaster Reduction was 'Reducing Disaster Economic Losses'.

India elected to UN Human Rights Council with highest votes on - 12th October 2018

India was elected on 12th October 2018 to the United Nations' Human Rights Council ' for a period of 3 years starting from 1st January 2019.

India secured 188 votes in the Asia-Pacific category which is the highest number of votes among all other candidates. After this election,



India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin said that India's win with the highest number of votes reflects the country's standing in the international community.

Important Highlights

- The UN General Assembly having 193 members, held elections for new members to the UN Human Rights Council.
- The countries needed a minimum of 97 votes in order to get elected to the Council.
- 18 new members were elected to UNHRC by absolute majority conducted through a secret ballot.
- India bagged the highest number of votes among all 18 countries in the five regional categories.
- In the Asia Pacific category, India received 188 votes followed by Fiji with 187 and Bangladesh with 178 votes.
- The new members will be serving a term of three years beginning 1st January 2019.

• India-Azerbaijan sign protocol on trade, economic cooperation on - 12th October 2018

India and Azerbaijan signed a protocol on trade and economic, science and technology cooperation on 12th October 2018, during the 5th meeting of India-Azerbaijan Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade and Economic, Science and Technology Cooperation (IA-IGC) that was held between 11th and 12th October 2018 in New Delhi.

The Union Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu and Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Government of Republic of Azerbaijan, Mukhtar Babayev co-chaired the meeting.

Important Highlights

- Both India and Azerbaijan exchanged views on current economic situation and reviewed the current status of bilateral trade, investment and their cooperation in the fields of trade, economy, science and technology during the meeting.
- The countries emphasised to further strengthen and expand their cooperation in trade and investment and hydro-carbons, SMEs, agriculture, transportation, energy, food safety and environmental protection, tourism, culture, health and pharmaceuticals, space technology, education and scientific research, chemicals and petrochemicals and mining.

- The trade turnover between India and Azerbaijan in January-August 2018 was USD 657.9 million approximately.

- Both the nations realised that the bilateral trade was far below the potential and there was a need to step up the cooperation to boost the trade basket and enhance bilateral investment and trade.

- Both the nations also agreed to take measures to boost trade relations and expand business relations between both the countries.

- Indian Navy inducts first deep submergence rescue vessel to rescue distressed submarines on - 13th October 2018

The Indian Navy on October 13th, 2018 introduced its 1st Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel at its base camp in Mumbai, upgrading its operational competences. The 2nd Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel would be additional to its base in Vishakhapatnam by 2019.

With the initiative, India united a selected list of International Naval forces with the capability to search, detect and provide aid to disaster-struck submarines at deep sea.

Important Points

- The Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel can apparently be positioned at short notice for aiding submarines in distress.
- The rescue vessel, with an allied kit in fly away configuration, can be vital in quickly locating submarines done the vast expanse of sea and can be mobilised by air as well as water for rapid rescue.

- Few Deep Submergence Rescue Vessels are air transportable in huge military cargo.

- The rescue vessels have played an important role in saving lives and submarines during emergency conditions.

- Most of these are proficient of rescuing 24 people at depths of about 600 meters in one go.

- Besides rescue operation, the vessels are also positioned for numerous other missions including to lay cables on the sea bed.

SC Collegium recommends names of chief justices for- 5 high courts

The SC Collegium led by CJI Ranjan Gogoi has suggested the selection of 5 Chief Justices to the High Courts of Bombay,



Calcutta, Uttarakhand, Gauhati and Sikkim. The resolutions endorsing the Chief Justices to the 5 High Courts were approved by the Supreme Court Collegium on October 9th. Besides the Chief Justice of India, the Collegium comprised of Justices Madan B Lokur and Kurian Joseph.

SC Collegium Recommendations

1. Justice NH Patil is the judge, who is presently working as the Acting Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, has been suggested to be nominated as the Chief Justice of the court. The position has been vacant since the retirement of Chief Justice Manjula Chellur in December 2017.
2. Justice DK Gupta is the currently working as Acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court, has also been suggested to be selected as the next Chief Justice, replacing Chief Justice Jyotirmay Bhattacharya who retired from post freshly.
3. Justice Ramesh Ranganathan is the senior-most judge of the High Court of AP and Telangana at Hyderabad who also has been suggested to be nominated as Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court. The position has been lying vacant ever since Chief Justice K.M.Joseph was promoted to the Supreme Court earlier in 2018.
4. Justice AS Bopanna is the senior judge from the Karnataka High Court, who has been suggested to be nominated as the next Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court. He will replace Chief Justice Ajit Singh who freshly retired.
5. Justice Vijai Kumar Bist is the senior-most judge of the Uttarakhand High Court, who has been suggested to be nominated as the next Chief Justice of the Sikkim High Court. The position was vacant since the retirement of Chief Justice S.K.Agnihotri.

India records best-ever show in Asian Para Games 2018 on -13th October 2018

India on October 13th, 2018 finished its campaign at the 2018 Asian Para Games in Jakarta, Indonesia with a record medal haul, securing a sum of 72 medals that consisted 15 Gold, 24 Silver and 33 Bronze medals. India was positioned 9th in the overall tally.

In the past edition in 2014, India secured 33 medals including Three Gold, 14 Silver, 16 Bronze medals.

Key Highlights

- India recorded its best-ever performance in the Asian Para Games by taking 72 medals, including 15 Gold medals. On the final day of the competition, Indian shuttlers added 2 Gold and Three Bronze medals.

- With a sum of 15 Gold, 24 Silver and 33 Bronze medals, India was positioned 9th in the overall tally.

- This was India's best-ever performance at the Asian Para Games, as compared to the last edition at Incheon with 33 medals overall.

- China finished at the highest with 319 medals including 172 Gold, 88 Silver and 59 Bronze medals, trailed by South Korea at the 2nd place with 53 Gold, 25 Silver and 47 Bronze and then Iran with 51 Gold, 42 Silver and 43 Bronze.

- India won approximately half of its medals in Para-athletics with the tally reading 36 medals including Seven Gold, 13 Silver and 16 Bronze.

- While the sporting groups of Badminton and chess counted 9 medals each to India's medal tally, para-swimming added 8 medals.

Who has been appointed as Director-General of CSIR ? - Shekhar Mande

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has selected Dr. Shekhar Mande as the Director General of CSIR and Secretary of the Department of Scientific and Research (DSIR). He will succeed Girish Sahni who retired in August 2018.

More about Dr. Shekhar Mande

- Dr. Mande, is a structural biologist is Director of National Centre for Cell Sciences, Pune. He has served at Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad.

- He is also top functionary of Vijnana Bharati, which a swadeshi science movement associated with Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

- He is fellow of all 3 major science academies and receiver of most respected science honour in the nation, coveted SS Bhatnagar Prize in 2005.

Council of Scientific & Industrial Research

- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research is an autonomous organisation and India's premier research and development organisation.

- It was recognized in 1942. It works as an autonomous organisation registered under the Registration of Societies Act of 1860.

- It is primarily funded by the Union Ministry of Science and Technology. PM is the



chairman of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

- It has been ranked 9 in the world amongst 1207 government organisations, with overall global ranking of 75th in world, covering 5250 organizations.

- It operates a chain of 38 National Research laboratories. It is headquartered in New Delhi.

• First India-US tri-services exercise to be held in - 2019

The 1st India-United States tri-services exercise is likely to happen in 2019 in India. It will consist all services of both nations and talks are on to comprise special forces. United States will be 2nd nation after Russia with whom India conducts tri-services exercise.

Important Facts

- The Indo-US combined tri-services drill was officially proclaimed after 1st 2+2 dialogue between principals of External Affairs and Defence Ministries of 2 nations which was organised in New Delhi in September 2018.

- The drill will emphasis on UN-based scenario and all-encompassing mission of humanitarian support, disaster respite measure.

- It will be also in-line with India's motivation of being natural humanitarian disaster relief hub in the Indo-Pacific province.

Did you know?
The 3 forces of India and United States already participate in multiple bilateral exercises distinctly. Moreover, forces of both nations are also taking part in yearly drill known as "Yudh Abyaas", whose newest edition took place in September 2018, and Air Forces participated in bilateral drill known as Cope India. Naval forces of both nations also took part in exercise known as 'Malabar' which also involves Japan. But this will be 1st time, 3 services of India and United States will take part in drill together. Indian Army has Para SF, Navy has Marcos while Air Force has Garud as their particular special forces.

Who has launched Chief Minister's Urban Leaders Fellowship Programme ? - Delhi Government

Delhi government has released CM's Urban Leaders Fellowship Program that looks forward to fascinate

young leaders across the nation to work with it on addressing few of the most pressing urban trials. It was broadcasted by Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia.

CM's Urban Leaders Fellowship Programme

- The fellowship focuses to deliver unique prospect to young leaders across India to work within the Delhi government to address few of the most persistent urban trials in India.

- It also looks forward to fascinate youth who are obsessive about public service and are enthusiastic to work for 2 years.

- Fellows nominated under this program will be allocated to work with ministers/senior delegates across different departments Delhi government including health, education, water, transport, art and culture.

- The fellows will be paid salary of Rupees 1.25 lakh/month and Rupees 75,000/month to Associate Fellows.

Union Government releases Analytical Report of National Health Profile 2018 on - 13th October 2018

Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, on October 13th, 2018 published an Analytical Report of the National Health Profile 2018. This is the twelfth edition of the health profile. The report was arranged by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence, under the sponsorship of the Directorate General of Health Services. Central Bureau of Health Intelligence has been releasing National Health Profile every year since 2005. The National Health Profile 2018 covers demographic, socio-economic, health status and health finance pointers, along with comprehensive data on health infrastructure and human resources in health.

More about National Health Resource Repository

- The National Health Resource Repository is the nation's 1st ever National Healthcare Facility registry of dependable, standardised and modernized geo-spatial information of all public and private healthcare establishments.

- It delivers understanding the health indicators of the nations and an option to monitor the situation.

- It specifies that noteworthy progress has been done in the nation for numerous health outcomes.



- The aim of the National Health Resource Repository project is to fortify evidence-based decision making and progress a platform for residents and provider-centric services by forming a robust and secured IT-enabled repository.

- National Health Resource Repository will be the eventual platform for comprehensive data of both, Private as well as Public healthcare creations including Railways, ESIC, Defence and Petroleum healthcare formations.

- Under the Collection of Statistics Act 2008, more than 20 lakh hospitals, doctors, clinics, diagnostic laboratories, pharmacies and nursing homes would be itemized under the National Health Resource Repository on more than 1400 variables.

- About 4000 trained experts are working to approach every healthcare establishment for data collection.

Objective

- The objective of the project is to advance a comprehensive platform for more than 25 lakh healthcare formations.

- The platform will be very beneficial for all significant shareholders including government, private health establishments and the public.

- National Health Resource Repository will jointly work with Ayushman Bharat -National Health Protection Mission and Central TB Division on a combined plan for the greater profit of succeeding Hospital empanelment and private sector appointment.

Government launched air quality warning system in Delhi to combat air pollution on - 15th October 2018

The Union Environment Minister Harshvardhan on October 15th, 2018 revealed an air quality early warning system for the Delhi region. The system has been planned with the help of American and Finnish models to forecast life-threatening Air Pollution levels. Talking on the eve, the Environment Minister informed that with the advance information on bad air quality, people can be educated to be organized in advance. Talking about stubble burning, the Minister informed that there has been a decline in recognition of fire episodes according to satellite mapping in Haryana & Punjab. He informed that

directions have been delivered to monitor stubble burning in these areas on priority.

Objective

The system has been initiated by the Union Government in Delhi, keeping in view the city's worsening air quality. A connected website has also been released along with it. The system will assist fight against air pollution in the Delhi NCR by getting data 2-5 days well in advance. It will also issue signals for essential actions.

Key Highlights

- The system called "Air Quality Early Warning System" will have an in-built website-based broadcasting tool to notify public and enforcement agencies about episodic high pollution actions in advance.

- Such data may be cooperative for the General Public in planning their outdoor activities.

- The system will also make it easier for government's pollution regulators to alert shareholders and the general public about Air quality 48 hours in advance.

- The initiative will issue them satisfactory time to take defensive measures.

- The system has been mutually developed by the scientists of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology Pune, National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting, Noida and India Meteorological Department.

- Besides this, the Central Pollution Control Board has constituted a 41 members team, which will uninterruptedly monitor the air pollution levels and report to the board.

International Day of Rural Women observed globally on - 15th October 2018

The International Day of Rural Women was celebrated internationally on October 15th, 2018 with the theme, 'Sustainable infrastructure, services and social protection for gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls'. The theme spaces enablement of rural females at the heart of fulfilling the foresight of the Sustainable Development Goals. The day goals to recognise the serious role and contribution of rural females, including indigenous females, in attracting agricultural and rural progress, cultivating food security and eliminating



rural poverty.

Importance

- The day goals to lime-light the irreplaceable contribution of rural females towards development and the vital role they play in making sure the sustainability of rural households and communities, enhancing rural livelihoods and overall happiness.

- Thus, females make noteworthy contributions to agricultural production, food security and nutrition, land and natural resource management, and constructing climate resilience.

- However, the females and girls in rural areas suffer unreasonably from multi-dimensional poverty.

- While extreme poverty has decreased globally, the world's One billion people who are living in improper conditions of poverty are heavily concentrated in rural areas.

- The Union Government of India announced October 15th as 'Mahila Kisan Diwas' or 'The Day of Women Agriculturists'. The day is being observed in connotation with the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

- It goals to recognise the contribution of women in agriculture as 80% independent females in India were linked with the farm sector, while females lead 18% of all agricultural households.

- The India's theme for the day was declared as- "Sashakt Mahila, Sashakt Bharat".

Did you know?

The 1st International Day of Rural Women was celebrated on October 15th, 2008. The day was recognized by the United Nations General Assembly via resolution on December 18th, 2007. The day seeks to recognize the serious role and contribution of rural females, including Indian originated females, in improving agricultural and rural development, food security and eradicating rural poverty.

6th RCEP Inter-sessional Ministerial Meeting held in - Singapore

The Sixth Interregional Ministerial Meeting of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership was organised in Singapore. The meeting was revised following sixth Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership ministerial meeting organised in August 2018. In this meeting, all associate nations settled to finalize trading pact by the

end of current year. From India, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution C.R.Chaudhary joined the meeting.

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

- Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership is a projected free trade agreement or comprehensive regional economic integration pact between the 10-ASEAN nations including Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam and its 6 Free Trade Agreement associates including Australia, New Zealand, India, China, Japan and Korea.

- The discussions for this mega trade pact were officially publicized at 2012 ASEAN Summit in Cambodia.

- It goals to cover goods, services, investments, economic and technical co-operation, competition and intellectual property rights under its domain.

- Till 2017, 16 Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership member states accounted for population of 3.4 billion people with total Gross Domestic Production of \$49.5 trillion, roughly 38 percent of the world's Gross Domestic Production which is joined Gross Domestic Productions of China and India which makes up above half that amount and 29 percent of World Trade.

Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen dies of cancer at 65 on - 15th October 2018

The billionaire co-founder of Microsoft, Paul Gardner Allen, a stockholder, entrepreneur and philanthropist, died on October 15th, 2018. He was 65 years old. He passed away in Seattle from difficulties related to Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, is a cancer of the lymphatic system.

Apart from his crucial role in Microsoft, Allen predisposed many aspects of modern life from technology

and science to sports and music and financed in conservation, space travel, arts and culture and professional sports.

They started the Microsoft in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and their 1st product was a computer language for the Altair hobby-kit PC. Microsoft's big break came in 1980, when IBM Corporation finalised to start into PCs and asked Microsoft to deliver the operating



system. The 1st versions of 2 classic Microsoft products, Microsoft Word and the Windows operating system, were unconfined in 1983. Allen worked as Microsoft's Executive VP Research & New Product Development until 1983, when he resigned following being diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma. However, Allen remained on Microsoft's Board of Directors for various years until 2000 while founding his own philanthropic foundation, along with his investment firm 'Vulcan', which accomplished his business and philanthropic interests.

Charity and Adventures

- In 2014, he promised USD 100 million to assist fight the Ebola virus. In 2017, he contributed USD 30 million to house Seattle's homeless.

- Worth about USD 20.3 billion at the time of his death, Allen contributed above USD Two billion to charity.

- In March 2018, a team of explorers headed by him revealed wreckage from the USS Juneau, a World War-II cruiser sunk by a Japanese torpedo in 1942.

- He maintained one of the world's biggest yachts, of 122 meters "Octopus", which was the location for many lavish parties and the base for scuba voyages.

Youth Road Safety Learners Licence Programme launched by - Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has released Youth Road Safety Learners Licence program in New Delhi today. It is Public-private partnership initiative in teamwork with Diageo India and Institute of Road Traffic Education.

More about Youth Road Safety Learners Licence Program

- It is 1st-of-its-kind training program in the nation attempts to bring formal and structured training programme for young, 1st-time drivers as they smear for learner's license.

- Its long-term aim is at educating road safety awareness amongst young adults by teaching behavioural change and creating awareness about responsible driving habits.

- This program will aid Government to attain its target of decreasing road accidents by 50 percent by 2020.

- It will assist to main-stream road safety in official education system.

- The program has immersive and interactive module headed by senior faculty members of IRTE covering varied aspects of responsible driving consisting defensive driving, ill effects of driving under influence of alcohol, fast-moving and wearing of helmets spread over 2-days.

Did you know?

India accounts for 12.5 percent of global road accidents, with 1 road accident occurring every four minutes. Frighteningly, 72 percent victims involved in such road mishaps are between age groups of 15-44 years with speeding, reckless and drunk driving being the topmost reason accounting for 1.5 percent of road traffic accidents and 4.6 percent of mortalities.

ICFRE signs two MoUs to spread awareness on forests and environment on - 15th October 2018

The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education- ICFRE, Dehradun on October 15th, 2018 inked 2 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.

The MoUs were inked to release 'Prakriti' program, which focuses to encourage awareness about forests and environment and excite interest among the students of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan in preserving a balanced environment and for acquiring skills that imitate care and protection towards forests, environment and society. The main aim behind the MoUs is to deliver a platform for the school children to learn practical skills towards sustainable usage of the resources.

Crucial Highlights

- The 2 MoUs have been inked for a period of ten years. They focus to make the Indian youth much sensitive towards national and global concerns of environment and thus, benefit them become responsible citizens.

- The MoUs also focus to mobilise a cadre of youth for raising a peoples' movement, which is dedicated to the conservation of forest and environment.

- The association will permit transfer of knowledge to students and teachers of



Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan on environment, forest, environmental services and present-day areas of forestry research through lectures and interactive sessions by Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education scientists.

Central Warehouse set up to facilitate distribution of Jan Aushadhi medicines on - 16th October 2018

The Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers, Mansukh Mandaviya on October 16th, 2018 initiated the hi-tech Central Warehouse of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana at Bilaspur, Gurugram.

The warehouse, arrangement by the Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India, would facilitate seamless distribution of Jan Aushadhi generic medicines to all Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana Kendra functional across the nation.

Key Milestones achieved under PMBJP

- Presently, there are above 4200 Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana Kendra working in 34 states and UTs across India. As a result, more than 700 medicines and 154 surgical and consumables are accessible in the basket for sale.
- Soon the basket will be improved to 1000 medicines.
- The central warehouse has been formed according to the World Health Organisation rules for making sure improved quality storage and logistics services.
- Further, a distribution network of 1 central warehouse, 4 Regional Warehouse and 53 distributors working over various states has been made functional. SAP based end-to-end supply chain management system has been executed.
- The “point of sale” software application at all the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana Kendra has also been executed. Approximately, 638 districts have been covered and the residual 81 will be covered on priority basis under the healthcare system.

Digital Cash Management System

- MoS Mansukh Mandaviya also initiated the Digital Cash Management System for the healthcare scheme, which will be executed as a partnership between Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India and Bank of Baroda.

- The system will be executed at all Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana Kendras for acquiring medicines and cashless payment system with Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India.

- The Bank of Baroda will also issue loan to all Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana Kendras for buying medicines.

- The cashless transactions will be completed only via unique virtual accounts opened by Bank of Baroda for every Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana Kendra, across the nation.

RBI approves appointment of Sandeep Bakshi as MD & CEO of ICICI Bank on - 16th October 2018

Private sector ICICI Bank on October 16th, 2018 publicized that the RBI has permitted the appointment of Sandeep Bakshi as the MD and CEO of ICICI Bank for 3 years. Previously, on October 4th, 2018, the board of ICICI Bank promoted COO Sandeep Bakshi as the bank's new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer after letter of resignation of Chanda Kochhar.

More about Sandeep Bakshi

• Sandeep Bakshi started his professional career in 1983 at a computer marketing company ORG Systems.

• He joined the ICICI group in the year 1986 and he was selected as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company on August 1st, 2010.

• He was selected as the bank's Chief Operational Officer in June 2018. In his 32 years at ICICI, he has taken care of the insurance, corporate and lending businesses of the ICICI group.

• Under his flagship, the organisation reformed various products, re-engineered the distribution architecture and done noteworthy upgradations in productivity.

Foreign tourists can now visit Andaman and Nicobar Islands without any restrictions by - Government

Government has permitted foreign tourists to visit Andaman & Nicobar Islands without any limitations. In this regard, Union Ministry of Home Affairs has altered its earlier order which made it mandatory for foreign tourists to register with Foreigners Registration Officer within 24 hours of their arrival.

Important Points



- The initiative was granted on recommendation made by Union Tourism Ministry to enhance foreign tourist arrivals in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

- This order shadows earlier instruction which permitted foreign tourists to visit 29 populated and 11 unoccupied islands in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, which were banned for visitors under Foreigners (Restricted Area) Order, 1963, without any restrictions.

- However, inhabitants of Afghanistan, China and Pakistan and foreign nationals having their origin in these nations will endure to need Restricted Area Permit to visit UT.

- Moreover, distinct sanctions of competent authority will continue to be needed for visiting reserved forests, wildlife sanctuaries and tribal reserves as of right now.

- Ministry of Tourism has also planned that travel limitations be detached from border areas in Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, J&K and Himachal Pradesh.

Hridaynath Award for Lifetime Achievement won by - Music composer Khayyam

Veteran composer, lyricist, writer and national award-winning music director Mohammed Zahur Khayyam Hashmi, superbly known as Khayya was awarded with 2018 Hridaynath Award for Lifetime Achievement. The prize will be conferred by Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis in Mumbai. This year, the award ceremony accords with 81-birthday of Hridaynath Mangeshkar after whom award is named.

More about Khayyam

- He started his music career in Ludhiana in 1943 at age of seventeen.

- Later, he had teamed-up as Sharma of music-director duo 'Sharmaji-Varmaji' to constitute music for movies including 'Heer Ranjha' and others. His initial notable solo works were for Footpath in 1953, 'Biwi' and 'Phir Subah Hogi' in 1958.

- The 1961 blockbuster 'Shola Aur Shabnam' had firmly recognized Khayyam as top-notch music director followed by movies with superhit music like 'Mohabbat Isko Kehta Hain' in 1965 and 'Aakhri Khat' in 1966.

- Later, he composed music for movies including 'Kabhi Kabhi' in 1976, 'Trishul' in 1978, 'Noorie' in 1979, 'Dil, Akhir Dil Hai' and 'Bazaar' in 1982, 'Razia Sultan' in 1983.

- In 1981, he composed music for the sensitive mega blockbuster movie 'Umrao Jaan', which is considered as jewel in crown of Khayyam's compositions for which he clinched National Award and also Filmfare Award and others.

Hridaynath Mangeshkar Award

- The award was initiated in 2011 by Mumbai-based socio-cultural organisation Hridayesh Art in honour of music composer and singer Hridaynath Mangeshkar. It carries monetary award of Rupees Two lakh and a memento.

- The earlier recipients of the award are eminent personalities Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, Amitabh Bachchan, Hariprasad Chaurasia, A.R.Rahman. Hridaynath Mangeshkar is son of renowned musician Deenanath Mangeshkar and is younger brother of Indian music legends Lata Mangeshkar and Asha Bhosle.

'Ask Disha' AI chatbot to answer user inquiries launched by - IRCTC

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation has initiated Artificial Intelligence powered chatbot—Ask Disha to assist its customers answer different inquiries. The chatbot is special computer program outlined to simulate conversation with subscribers, especially over the internet. It has gone live on IRCTC's next-gen e-ticketing website and shortly will be combined on the IRCTC Rail Connect Android application.

More about Ask Disha

- This unique initiative by IRCTC is focused at easing accessibility by answering users' inquiries to various services offered to railway travellers.

- The chatbot is voice-enabled and will backing several regional languages in the near future.

- It will offer greatly enhanced and intuitive customer support by answering customer inquiries pertaining to all aspects of the services that IRCTC provides.

- Subscribers can also ask questions to Artificial Intelligence chatbot by visiting IRCTC website. As soon as the subscribers start typing their inquiries, Artificial Intelligence chatbot automatically begins showing few options grounded on typed phrases.



- Subscribers can then either pick one of inquiries from presented options or type in complete question if their query is not being displayed on the screen.

- The vital features of Ask Disha consist capability to quickly answer to customer inquiries, round-the-clock customer support ability, multitask capabilities, zero waiting time for query to get answered and overall customer satisfaction.

International Day for Eradication of Poverty observed globally on - 17th October 2018

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty was celebrated worldwide on October 17th, 2018. Current year's theme of the day is "Coming together with those furthest behind to build an inclusive world of universal respect for human rights and dignity."

The year 2018 highlights the 25th anniversary of the announcement of the day by the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution dated December 22nd, 1992. The year also highlights the 30th anniversary of the Call to Action by Father Joseph Wresinski, who encouraged the celebrations of October 17th as the "World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty" and the acknowledgement by the UNs of the day as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

Present year also lime-lights the 70th anniversary of the announcement of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with a fundamental link among thriving poverty and human rights with the people living in poverty are unreasonably affected by many human rights violations.

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty goals to make sure that the active contribution of people living in extreme poverty and those furthest behind is a driving force in all actions made to surpass poverty, including in the design and implementation of programs and policies which disturb them.

Important Highlights

- The tribute of October 17th each year validates how the society can attain greater social presence by enabling people from all spheres of life to come together to honour the human rights and dignity of people living in poverty.

- It underlines the status of reaching out to people living in poverty and building an association around their priorities with inhabitants from all backgrounds to finish extreme poverty.

- The government policies alone cannot form the social inclusion that is fundamental to reaching those remain furthest behind and overwhelming poverty in all its dimensions.

UP Cabinet approves changing name of Allahabad to Prayagraj on - 16th October 2018

The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet on October 16th, 2018 sanctioned the suggestion of the state government to rename the city of 'Allahabad' as 'Prayagraj'. The conclusion has been vehemently conflicted by the opposition parties.

The initiative, however, fulfils the long-standing need of prophets prior to the "Ardh Kumbh Mela" in January 2019. Talking ahead of the cabinet meeting, UP CM Yogi Adityanath informed that there was a proposal from the Akhara Parishad to rename 'Allahabad' as 'Prayagraj' ahead of 2019 Kumbh Mela. The state's governor had already given his endorsement on the matter.

Significance of Prayag

- The city original name Prayag, which means a 'place of offerings', comes from its location at the Sangam of the rivers Ganga and Yamuna and the mythical river, Saraswati.

- The place plays an important role in the Hindu scriptures.

- The city is also declared in the Veda as the location where Lord Brahma appeared his first ritual sacrifice.

- It is also the location for historic 'Kumbh Mela', which is organised once in every 12 years and it is also thought to be the same place where the holy nectar drops fell.

Other major name changes

The ruling UP government had earlier altered the name of Mughalsarai Junction to Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Junction.

Did you know?

In 2017, seers related to various akharas had met Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow and had requested him to change the name of Allahabad to Prayagraj ahead of the 2019 Ardh Kumbh Mela to be organised in the holy city.



Government launched Swasth Bharat Yatra national campaign for food safety on - 16th October 2018

The Union Government released National campaign "Swasth Bharat Yatra" on eve of 'World Food Day' celebrated on 16th October to educate people about eating safe food and be healthy. The campaign has been released in collaboration with states and headed by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.

More about Swasth Bharat Yatra national campaign

- Under this plan, pan-India cycle rally is being prearranged to form consumer awareness about eating safe and nutritious food for becoming healthy and fighting against food adulteration.
- In this rally, approximately 7,500 cyclists were supposed to take part in more than 18,000 kilometres travelling across 6 tracks through almost every state and Union Territory more than 100 days to propagate a powerful message 'Eat Right India'. The cyclathon will culminate in the national capital on January 27th, 2019.
- This campaign will not only mobilise masses but also form large pool of local community to withstand this movement.

RBI issues guidelines for facilitating money transfer among e-wallets

Reserve Bank of India has allotted guiding principle for inter-operability among prepaid instruments including e-wallets. Inter-operability is technical ability that enables payment system to be utilised in combination with other payment systems.

Reserve Bank of India Guidelines

- The rules are focused at promoting money transfer between e-wallets and digital transactions. They also extravagant needs for attaining inter-operability for mobile wallets, cards and standards for customer protection and grievance redressal.
- The inter-operability will be accomplished in phased manner like initially inter-operability of prepaid instruments released in form of wallets via Unified Payment Interface, and later between wallets and bank accounts via Unified Payment Interface, and inter-operability for prepaid instruments released in form of cards via card networks.

- The inter-operability between mobile wallets and between bank accounts and e-wallets will be permitted via UPI system.

- It will be simplified to all KYC-compliant Pre-Paid Instrument accounts and complete acceptance infrastructure.

- In case where Pre-Paid Instruments are released in form of cards, then cards will be joined to permitted card networks.

- Pre-Paid Instrument issuers must have board permitted policy for accomplishing Pre-Paid Instrument interoperability.

- This will permit Pre-Paid Instrument issuers, system providers and system applicants in different systems to undertake, clear and settle down payment transactions across systems without taking part in multiple systems.

- Card networks are also permitted to onboard Pre-Paid Instrument issuers to join their network. Non-bank Pre-Paid Instrument issuers are allowed to take part as members or associate members of permissible card networks.

- The inter-operability of Pre-Paid Instruments will facilitate transfer from one wallet to another via Unified Payment Interface. It will also facilitate transfer from wallets to bank also via Unified Payment Interface.

- Moreover, wallet organisations can now release cards and for this they don't require to partner with banks for Unified Payment Interface and card issuance.

- It will thus enhance digital payments, expand financial penetration in long term.

Canada becomes second country to legalises use of cannabis on - 17th October 2018

Canada legalised the possession and usage of recreational cannabis on October 17th, 2018. After Uruguay, Canada has become the 2nd nation and the largest nation to do so. The Canadian government will also pardon the Canadians imprisoned of possession of marijuana. PM Justin Trudeau would pardon people imprisoned in the past for possession of about 30 gm of marijuana. An opinion for possession of marijuana permits United States Border Patrol mediators to avoid Canadian inhabitants from entering their nation since Ottawa shares that



database with Washington. Execution of sale The Government of Canada is designing to send the mail to 15 million families, through which new cannabis laws will be elucidated and public awareness campaigns will be programmed. However, the government is worried about the readiness of the police to handle drug-impaired driving.

Legality of cannabis

- Uruguay and Canada are the only nations that have fully legitimate the consumption and sale of recreational cannabis around the nation. In the USA, 9 states and the District of Columbia have legal sales and consumption although its leftovers federally illegal.

- Court rulings in Georgia and South Africa have directed to the legalization of personal cultivation and usage of cannabis, but not legal sales.

- Nations that have legalized the medical use of cannabis are Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Sri Lanka and the UK with effect from November 1st, 2018.

- Others have more restrictive laws that only permits the usage of certain cannabinoid drugs, including Sativex or Marinol.

Spacecraft to be sent to Mercury in a first-of-its-kind mission by - ESA

In a 1st-of-its-kind mission, a United Kingdom-built spacecraft will set off for Mercury to regulate whether the planet, which is the closest to the Sun, contains water. The European Space Agency's 'BepiColombo mission' will direct 2 orbiters to explore the planet where the surface temperature is approximately 450 degrees Celsius.

Important Highlights

- With the mission, the space agency optimisms to receive answers to the questions by the earlier missions including whether the planet witnesses' water.

- The spacecraft will be initiated from the European Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana, on October 20th and will take 7 years to reach Mercury, arriving in 2025.

- During its 5.2 billion miles travel, the spacecraft will make a complex series of flybys of Earth, Venus and Mercury to benefit it slow down enough to evade the mega gravitational pull of the Sun.

- The mission is focused at increasing the present knowledge surrounding Mercury.

- Despite being the nearest to the Sun, the slope of the planet indicates that few of its areas are enduringly in shade and temperature can fall to -180 degrees Celsius, permitting formation of ice on the planet.

- Through the mission, the scientists also seek to learn more about Mercury's magnetic field. However, some of the old missions discovered a magnetic field signifying that it may have a molten interior.

Lady Irwin College, Ministry of Rural Development sign MoU for establishing - ROSHNI

The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission, under the Union Ministry of Rural Development inked the MoU with the Lady Irwin College for beginning ROSHNI- Centre of Women Collectives led Social Action. ROSHNI is officially and financially backed by UNICEF India that also works as a technical support unit at National level for Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihood Mission and is surrounded in the Department of Development Communication and Extension, Lady Irwin College, New Delhi.

More about ROSHNI

- Though India has made noteworthy strides in cultivating maternal survival, many encounters still persevere for females to attain their development and economic potential.

- About 1 in 10 girls marry in young age, every 5th female of reproductive age group is under-nourished and every 2nd woman is anaemic.

- A model that takes the much-needed emphasis on female's nutrition and that validates layering of Food, Health, Nutrition and WASH interventions on Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihood Mission platforms is Swabhimaan.

- Swabhimaan makes the last mile supply of Food Health Nutrition and WSAH interventions, which has been considered a voluntary purpose for field mobilisers for too long.

- Swabhimaan is a cooperative initiative of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihood Mission and UNICEF India in 5 poorest Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission resource blocks in 4 districts of 3 Indian states Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Odisha.

- ROSHNI goals to work with females collectives for social action on Food Health



Nutrition and WASH interventions for subsidiary implementation of convergent action plan under POSHAN Abhiyaan.

Union Minister MJ Akbar resigned from his post over sexual harassment charges on - 17th October 2018

Union Minister of State for External Affairs, MJ Akbar, resigned from his position on October 17th, 2018 over sexual harassment allegations against him by numerous female journalists in the wake of #MeToo movement. Akbar's resignation came 2 days after he filed a criminal defamation grievance in a Delhi's Patiala House Court against journalist Priya Ramani, who was the 1st to put #MeToo charges against Akbar. Following Ramani's complaint, about 20 females came out in support of Priya Ramani, condemning Akbar of sexual harassment and unsuitable behaviour when he worked as an Editor in 'The Asian Age' newspaper.

#MeToo movement in India

- The #MeToo campaign 1st started as a hashtag on Twitter in 2017, when Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein was suspected of sexual harassment by more than 70 females.
- Almost after a year, the movement has now initiated in the Bollywood, Indian film industry where it is scattering through India.
- The #MeToo movement initiated after former Bollywood actress Tanushree Dutta suspected that Nana Patekar sexually harassed her on a film set in 2008. However, Patekar has refused Dutta's charges.
- The movement has freshly gained momentum in India as extra females have started sharing their experiences of sexual harassment on social media.
- To name a few, these brave female actresses are Kangana Ranaut, actress Sandhya Mridul, writer-director-producer Vinta Nanda, singer Sona Mohapatra, journalist Avantika Mehta, writer Mahima Kukreja, reporter Anoo Bhuyan, journalist Sandhya Menon, and many more.

NITI Aayog launched guiding principles for public-private partnership in treatment of NCDs on - 17th October 2018

NITI Aayog on October 17th, 2018 released the model instructions for Public-Private partnership in Non-Communicable Diseases. Under the guiding principles, the private partner will invest in advancing, building and deploying human resources. They will be accountable for operational

management and service delivery.

Key Highlights

- The model guiding principles propose that the state governments will provide the essential physical space.
- They also propose that the tariff structure for the services offered under the Non-Communicable Diseases care facility may be connected to the present state and central government health insurance plan.
- Further, in case a government health insurance plan is initiated in a state following the adoption of Centre Government Health Scheme tariff, the tariff rates would be reviewed in accordance with the newly introduced scheme in the state.
- All categories including trusts, businesses will also be permitted to bid for the project and no limitations will be forced on any of these categories.
- The freshly released guiding principles will assist streamline private participation and inspire world-class infrastructure and patient care in the health sector.

Victims of child sexual abuse can file complaint at any time, irrespective of present age by - The Minister of Women and Child Development

The Minister of Women and Child Development, Maneka Gandhi elucidated freshly that a victim of child sexual abuse can lodge a complaint at any time irrespective of his or her current age. She further advised the victims to report the cases through POCSO e-Box.

The illumination came after Women and Child Development Ministry accessed with the Ministry of Law in view of the overriding provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act over other criminal laws and necessities of mandatory reporting of such offences.

The Law Ministry after examining the provisions of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act with regard to the provisions of Code of Criminal Procedure recommended that there appears no period of restriction mentioned in Section 19 in regard to reporting of the offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

Key Highlights

- The Law Ministry distinguished that the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences



Act does not deliver for any period of limitation for reporting the child sexual offences.

- After this, the Women and Child Development Ministry informed that 'now any victim, at any age, can complain about the sexual abuse faced by him/her as a child'.

- She said that investigations have also demonstrated that the child continues to carry the trauma of sexual abuse till very late in life.

- Hence, in order to overwhelmed this trauma, many grown-up people have started coming out to report the exploitation faced by them as children.

- Irish Author Anna Burns wins Man Booker Prize 2018 for her novel - Milkman**

Irish Author Anna Burns on October 16th, 2018 secured the Britain's famous Man Booker Prize 2018 for her 3rd novel Milkman. Burns received the award from Prince Charles' wife Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, and 50000 pounds as the prize money.

With this, Burns became the 1st writer from Northern Ireland to secure the Booker Prize. The earlier Irish winners were John Banville, Anne Enright and Roddy Doyle. She is also the 1st woman to secure the award since 2013, when Eleanor Catton took the award for 'The Luminaries'.

The judges of the yearly award applauded Anna Burns work as absolutely distinctive. Burns was born in the Northern Irish capital Belfast in 1962 and now living in southern England. She had formerly authored 2 novels including No Bones and Little Constructions.

More about Milkman

- Milkman is an exploration of Northern Ireland's 3 decades of violence expressed over the voice of a young woman.

- The novel accounts the struggles of a middle sister in a family as she opposes rumour, social pressures and politics amid violent sectarian divisions in her community.

- Milkman is a story of brutality, sexual encroachment and resistance negotiated with astringent humour.

- In an interview published by the Booker Prize foundation, Anna Burns informed that the Milkman was enthused by her own experience. She grew-up in a place that was prevalent with violence, distrust and paranoia, and peopled by entities trying to navigate and endure in that world as best as they could.

Man Booker Prize

- Recognized in 1969, the Man Booker Prize establishes the judges choice of "the best original novel written in English and published in the United Kingdom."

- Primarily, Man Booker Prize was only open to writers from Britain, Ireland and the Commonwealth countries until it started allowing authors from other English-speaking nations in 2014.

- Past year's Booker Prize was given to "Lincoln in the Bardo," by American writer George Saunders.

US tops; India ranked 58th in WEF's Global Competitiveness Index 2018 on - 16th October 2018

The World Economic Forum on October 16th, 2018 published the Global Competitiveness Report 2018. The report issues the Global Competitiveness Index, ranking 140 nations on the basis of 98 indicators arranged into 12 pillars. These 12 pillars are Institutions, Infrastructure, ICT adoption, Macroeconomic constancy, Health, Skills, Product market, Labour market, Financial system, Market size, Business dynamism, and Innovation competence.

Key Highlights

- The report explains that the global economy is predictable to grow nearly 4% in 2018 and 2019.

- On the list of 140 economies, the 'USA' topped the list with a points of 85.6, followed by Singapore and Germany at the 2nd and the 3rd place respectively.

- Other nations in the top 10 consist Switzerland at 4th, Japan at 5th, Netherlands at 6th, Hong Kong at 7th, UK at 8th, Sweden at 9th and Denmark at tenth.

- In Europe, Sweden is positioned the highest among the Nordic economies at 9th position, while France at 17th is among the top 20. Nations such as Germany and Switzerland set the global morals for innovation.

- Chile at 33rd leads the Latin America and the Caribbean area by a wide margin, ahead of Mexico at 46th and Uruguay at 53rd. Uncertainty and weak institutions are 2 of the biggest challenges for most nations in the region.

- Competitiveness performance in the Middle East and North Africa leftovers diverse, with Israel at 20th and the UAE at



27th, leading the way in their respective regions.

- India continued the South Asia's main driving force with 58th position.

- Among the BRICS economies, China surpassed the list at 28th place with points of 72.6, followed by Russia, India, South Africa and Brazil correspondingly.

Not a single mobile phone faces disconnect threat- Department of Telecommunications

The Department of Telecommunications and UIDAI on October 18th, 2018 elucidated in a joint statement that a few news reports explaining that 50 crore mobile numbers are at the danger of disconnection are completely untrue and fantasy. These news reports attempt to create unnecessary panic among mobile handlers by claiming that there are chances of disconnection, if SIM cards obtained on the grounds of Aadhaar verification are not supported by a fresh identification.

The Clarification

- The joint statement elucidates that the Supreme Court in its judgement in Aadhaar case has nowhere instructed that the mobile number which has been released via Aadhaar eKYC has to be disconnected.

- Therefore, there is no reason for panic or fear at all.

- The Court has also not asked to remove all the eKYC information of telecom subscribers after six months.

- However, the Supreme Court has asked that Unique Identification Authority of India should not retain authentication data for above six months. The restriction is on Unique Identification Authority of India and not on the telecom firms.

- The Apex Court banned the release of fresh SIM cards via Aadhaar eKYC authentication process.

- There are no guidelines to disconnect the old mobile phones.

Digital process for issuing new SIM cards

- The DOT and Unique Identification Authority of India are in a development to bring out a totally hassle-free and digital process for allotting fresh SIM cards via mobile App which will be completely compliant of the Supreme Court judgement in Aadhaar Case.

- In the fresh digital process, live photo of the user with latitude, longitude, and time stamp will be taken.

- The photo of ID such as Aadhaar card, voter ID, and many more, will also be captured.

- The SIM card agent will be authorised via One Time Password, and then the SIM card will be allotted.

Sajjan Jindal elected as Treasurer of World Steel Association on - 18th October 2018

JSW Steel CMD Sajjan Jindal was elected as the Treasurer of the World Steel Association (worldsteel) on 18th October 2018. The association has also appointed Tata Steel MD TV Narendran and ArcelorMittal Chief LN Mittal as its members.

The appointments were also made during the worldsteel General Assembly in Tokyo, Japan during which the Board of Directors have elected new officers for the period of 2018-19. The new officers were elected for a duration of one-year.

More about World Steel Association

- It is a non-profit organisation with headquarters in Brussels, Belgium and its second office in Beijing in China.

- It was also founded as the International Iron and Steel Institute in July 1967. It changed its name to the World Steel Association in October 2008.

- It represented more than 160 steel producers national and regional steel industry associations, and steel research institutes.

- The worldsteel members cover approximately 85 percent of world steel production.

- The association celebrated its 50th year anniversary back in 2017.

Union HRD Ministry releases revised CBSE affiliation bye-laws for smooth functioning on - 18th October 2018

The Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Prakash Javadekar on 18th October 2018 released the revised CBSE Affiliation Bye Laws to ensure hassle-free procedures, speed, transparency and business ease with the CBSE Board.

The revised affiliation byelaws has indicated a major shift from the highly complex procedures to a simplified system based on preventing process duplication. In the beginning of this year, the HRD Ministry had



directed the Board to completely revisit its affiliation bye laws to make the system more robust and quality driven.

Who has been elected as Treasurer of World Steel Association ? - Sajjan Jindal

JSW Steel CMD Sajjan Jindal was nominated as treasurer of World Steel Association. He was designated for 1-year term period from 2018 to 2019 by Board of Directors of World Steel Association at Worldsteel General Assembly held in Tokyo, Japan. The board also has designated Tata Steel Managing Director T.V.Narendran and ArcelorMittal Chief L.N.Mittal as its members. Andre Johannpeter, Executive VC of Gerdau S A was designated as the Chairman. YU Yong, Chairman HBIS Group and Kosei Shindo, Representative Director, Nippon Steel and Sumitomo Metal Corporation were also designated as Vice-Chairman.

More about World Steel Association

- World Steel Association is a non-profit association and is one of the largest industry organisations in world.
- It was originated in July 1967 and is HQ in Brussels, Belgium.
- Its associates represent about 85 percent of the world's steel production.
- It consists of more than 160 steel generators with 9 of the 10 largest steel firms, national and regional steel industry associations, and steel research institutes.

Dedicated e-mail address to report instances of sexual harassment at workplace launched by - National Commission for Women

The National Commission for Women- NCW has published enthusiastic e-mail address “ncw.metoo@gmail.com” to report sexual harassment instances at workplace. On getting the complaint mail, National Commission for Women will take forward complaints of sexual harassment at workplace received so that suitable action may be taken, according to the law.

Important Facts

- The release of dedicated e-mail address comes after various such complaints were reported by females from numerous fields to National Commission for Women by females who have described their ordeal under the “#Metoo” initiative on social media.

- It is also undertaking of National Commission for Women's aim of zero tolerance of sexual harassment of females at all workplaces and obligation to make sure safety and dignity of females including at all workplaces.

- Freshly National Commission for Women had received various formal written complaints from different females about instances of sexual harassment at their workplace.

National Commission for Women

- National Commission for Women is a statutory organisation founded under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990.
- It was recognized in January 1992 to evaluate the constitutional and legal protections for females.
- It endorses remedial legislative measures, advise Government on all policy matters distressing females and simplify redressal of grievances associated to females.

12th ASEM Summit held in - Brussels, Belgium

The 12th Asia-Europe Meeting- ASEM Summit was organised in Brussels, Belgium. The theme of summit was “Global Partners for Global Challenges”. It was led by European Council President Donald Tusk. The summit was witnessed by state heads of 51 European and Asian nations, representatives of European Union and Secretary General of Association of Southeast Asian Nations. India was signified by Indian VP M. Venkaiah Naidu. This edition of summit has prioritised problems related to trade and investment, connectivity, sustainable development, climate change, terrorism, migration, maritime security and cyberspace.

More about Asia-Europe Meeting Summit

- Asia-Europe Meeting is unofficial political dialogue and collaboration forum that brings 53 entities consisting 51 nations including India, from Asia and Europe and 2 regional bodies European Union and Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

- It represents approximately 62.3 percent of the world's population, 57.2 percent of the global Gross Domestic Production and about 60 percent of the world's trade.

- Asia-Europe Meeting was formally recognized in March 1996 at the 1st summit in Bangkok, Thailand.

- The dialogue addresses political, economic and cultural matters between the 2



regions. It also pursues to toughen relationship between the 2 regions in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership.

- 3 main pillars Asia-Europe Meeting process are Political-Security, Economic-Financial and Social, Cultural and Education.

Shahi litchi from Bihar gets - Geographical Indication tag

Shahi Litchi from Bihar has received Geographical Indication- GI tag from Chennai based

Geographical Indication Registry and Intellectual Property India. The Geographical Indication registration was

completed in name of Muzaffarpur-based Litchi Growers Association of Bihar, which had filed for the tag. Shahi Litchi which famous for its sweet, juicy, unique flavour and aroma is generally grown in Muzaffarpur and adjoining areas of East Champaran, Vaishali, Samastipur and Begusarai districts of state. Bihar harvests 40 percent of the litchis grown in India on 38 percent of the area.

Importance

- The Geographical Indication tag for Shahi Litchi will improve needed for fruit and decrease fear of fake and poor-quality litchis.

- It will also assist and advantageous for thousands of litchi cultivators who will gain access to more markets and get better price for their produce in the nation and overseas.

- Shahi Litchi is 4th agricultural product from Bihar after Katrani rice, Jardalu mango and Magahi paan, to receive Geographical Indication tag.

- In addition to 4 Geographical Indication tags in agricultural field, few art-forms from Bihar including Madhubani painting, applique – Khatwa patch work, Sikki grass work, Sujini embroidery work and Bhagalpur silk have also been given Geographical Indication tag under handicraft category.

Geographical Indication

- Geographical Indication tag is name utilised on certain items which resemble to specific geographical location/derivation.

- It is utilised for agricultural, natural and manufactured items having distinct quality and recognized reputation.

- The goods and products having this tag are known for their origin, quality and reputation and issues it an essential edge in global market.

- It also makes sure that no-one can custom their name, giving them individuality.

- The registration of Geographical Indication is effective for ten years after which it requires to be renewed. Violation of Geographical Indication tags is punishable offence under law.

- The motive of Geographical Indication tag enables shareholders to validate their production while earning a premium and derive an enhanced income.

- Geographical Indication is covered as element of intellectual property rights under Paris Convention for Protection of Industrial Property.

- At international level, Geographical Indication is ruled by World Trade Organisation's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

PM Narendra Modi chairs 6th meeting of NDMA at - New Delhi

PM Narendra Modi chaired 6th meeting of National Disaster Management Authority-NDMA at New Delhi. In this meeting, he reviewed activities of National Disaster Management Authority to successfully manage and respond to disasters affecting nation. He also reviewed enduring projects undertaken by National Disaster Management Authority. During this meeting, PM Modi stressed on urge for better management between various shareholders and undertake additional joint exercises to bring about effective response to protect life and property. He also urged upon necessity to bring in global expertise in the field of disaster management.

National Disaster Management Authority

- It is a statutory organisation under the guidance of Ministry of Home Affairs. It was founded in 2009 and its necessities are envisaged in Disaster Management Act, 2005.

- Its mandate is to synchronize the response to natural and man-made disasters and capacity-building in case of disaster resiliency and emergency response.

- It is also accountable for designing policies, laying down strategies and best-practices and harmonizing with State Disaster Management Authorities to make sure a holistic and disseminated approach to disaster management.

- It is ruled by 9-member board led by PM India.



Former UP and Uttarakhand CM Narayan Dutt Tiwari passed away in - New Delhi

Earlier UP and Uttarakhand CM Narayan Dutt Tiwari deceased in New Delhi. He was 93 years old. He is the only Politician who has worked as Chief Minister of 2 states. He was known as Vikas Purush and was contributory in evolving the industrial sector in Uttarakhand.

More about Narayan Dutt Tiwari

- Born on October 18th, 1925 in Baluti, United Provinces in then British India which these days is in Uttarakhand, India.

- He was 3-time Chief Minister of UP and was 1st nominated Chief Minister of Uttarakhand as well. His 1st stint as Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister was from January 1976-April 1977 and then again from August 1984-September 1985 and from June 1988-December 1988.

- He was nominated to Lok Sabha in 1980 and Rajya Sabha in 1985.

- He was also Union minister and had apprehended a variety of portfolios. He was Union Minister of External Affairs in late Rajiv Gandhi's cabinet and thereafter he became Minister for Finance and Commerce and detained the ministry till June 1988.

- He was CM of Uttarakhand from 2002-2007 following Uttarakhand was carved-out of Uttar Pradesh in November 2000. He also had worked as Governor of AP from 2007-2009.

- He was 1st nominated to Uttar Pradesh Assembly on Praja Samajwadi Party ticket from Nainital in 1952 and 1957.

- He linked with Congress in 1963 and designated to Uttar Pradesh Assembly from Kashipur in 1965. He was 1st president of Youth Congress in 1969.

- He had floated the All India Indira Congress (Tiwari) in 1995 along with Arjun Singh after he had left Congress party. He also had secured the Lok Sabha polls in 1996 and 1999.

Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa party got majority in -Bhutan general elections

Dravk Nyamrup Tshogpa Party has secured the current general elections organised in Bhutan. This party secured 30 of the total National Assembly's 47 seats. The National Assembly is the Lower House of Bhutan Parliament. This was total 3rd general election since democracy was implemented in Bhutan in 2008 and the 1st

general elections were organised same year itself.

Important Facts

- In 2018 general elections of Bhutan, Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa developed as largest single majority party by securing 30 seats, while Druk Fenasum Tsogoga got only 17 seats.

- PM Tshering Tobgay of ruling People's Democratic Party was defeated in this general election. In this general election, there was 71 percent voter turnout.

- This poll percentage was higher than 66 percent in 2013. Late Tshering, President of Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa, will be the succeeding Prime Minister of Bhutan.

United States merges its embassy and Consulate General in Jerusalem into - Single diplomatic mission

US has finalised to unite its Consulate General with its new embassy in Israel into single diplomatic mission in Jerusalem. This conclusion was accepted as part of United States' global efforts to advance efficiency and effectiveness of its operations.

Important Highlights

- It also comes following United States under President Donald Trump administration predicted Jerusalem as Israel's capital in December 2017 and shifted its Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in May 2018.

- The embassy general in Jerusalem was top mission of United States for Palestinians, who want East Jerusalem for their capital.

- After this merger, United States will begin new Palestinian Affairs Unit inside embassy in Jerusalem to endure reporting, outreach and programming in West Bank and Gaza and with Palestinians in Jerusalem.

Did you know?

The status of Jerusalem is one of prickliest disagreements between Israel and Palestinians. Palestinians, with broad international backing, pursue East Jerusalem as capital of state they want to begin in occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. However, Israel regards all of city, with eastern sector it captured in 1967 Middle East war and occupied, as its eternal and indivisible capital, but this is recognized internationally.

Who has been honoured with Presidential Medal for Combating Human Trafficking? - Minal Patel Davis



Indian-American Minal Patel Davis was bestowed with Presidential Medal for Fighting against Human Trafficking'. She was honoured with award by United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for her extraordinary contribution towards fighting against human trafficking. It is United States' highest honour in the field.

More about Minal Patel Davis

- Minal Patel Davis is special advisor on Human Trafficking to Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner.
- She was designated to this position in July 2015 and since then she has created local influence on human trafficking in America's 4th largest city.
- She has accomplished this from policy-level perspective and by assisted in advancing systems change.
- She is presently implementing Mayor Turner's Anti-Human Trafficking Strategic Plan, which is 1st comprehensive municipal response to human trafficking by United States city.
- She was also earlier speaker at United Nations World Humanitarian Summit. She grabbed her MBA from the University of Connecticut and Bachelors of Arts from New York University.

India's longest river bridge will be built on Brahmaputra river in - Assam

India's longest river bridge with total length of 19.3 kms will be constructed on river Brahmaputra in Assam. This bridge will join Dhubri of Assam to Fulbarani of Meghalaya. This bridge will decrease the distance between these 2 places by 203 kilometres and also travel time. Presently, India's largest river bridge is Dhola-Sadia bridge, its length is 9.15 kms.

Important Points

- This bridge will have total length will be 19.3 kms and will be 4-lane. Its edifice will be accomplished by 2026-27 and will be public-funded work.
- Japanese Finance Agency has permitted the loan for this project as part of road infrastructure improvement package in the north-east following evaluating the economic advantage of the big project.

- Presently, the road connecting Assam and Meghalaya is approximately 200 kms long.

- This bridge will decrease travel time to 15-20 minutes to cross the river post it becomes working from 2.5 hours.

- Two north-eastern states of Assam and Meghalaya will be linked by NH127B with the assistance of this bridge. On completion this bridge will push economic actions and progress on both sides of the river.

- It will also progress connectivity from West Bengal to Assam.

US to pull out of Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces treaty signed with - Russia

United States President Donald Trump has declared that United States will individually pull out of 3 decades old Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces- INF treaty inked with Russia during Cold War.

Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty

It was vital Cold War-era treaty prohibition development, testing and possession of short as well as medium range ground-launched nuclear missiles with range of 500 to 5,000 kilometres. The treaty was inked in December 1987 between then United States President Ronald Reagan and his USSR complement Mikhail Gorbachev.

The treaty prohibited all nuclear and conventional missiles, including their launchers, with ranges of 500 to 1,000 kilometres and 1,000 to 5,500 kilometres intermediate-range. This treaty was essential to ending arms race between both superpowers during cold war and safeguarded America's NATO allies in Europe from Soviet missile attacks. It was planned to issue measure of some strategic stability on continent of Europe.

Reasons behind this withdrawal

United States President Trump has suspected that Russia has dishonoured treaty and has been violating it for many years. This desecration comes after Russia's suspected development and deployment of Novator 9M729 missile, that could attack Europe at short notice.

Allegations of Russia violating this pact pre-dates Trump presidency and go back to 2008 during President Obama management. Under earlier President Barack Obama highlighted issue of Russia testing ground-fired cruise



missile with Russian President Vladimir Putin in 2014. But Russia had rejected allegations and lime-lighted counter-allegations of the United States installing missile defence systems in Europe. While both nations failed to discovery resolution using dispute resolution mechanism in treaty, United States remained to remain-party to pact under pressure from its European allies.

Union HRD Ministry releases revised CBSE affiliation bye-laws for - Smooth functioning

The Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Prakash Javadekar on October 18th, 2018 published the reviewed Central Board of Secondary Education Affiliation Bye Laws to make sure fast, transparency, hassle-free measures and ease of doing business with the CBSE.

The reviewed affiliation byelaws specify a major shift from the highly complex actions to a simplified system based on avoiding duplication of processes.

Previously this year, the Human Resource Development Ministry had instructed the Board to entirely revisit its affiliation bye laws to make the system more vigorous and quality driven.

Important highlights

- The Board shall not revisit any of the features assessed by the state during inspection; and the suspension due to scrutiny and non-compliance of deficiencies in these documents shall be extremely curtailed.
- Checking of schools will now be outcome-based and extra academic and quality oriented, rather than concentrating only on school infrastructure.
- The checking will aim on academic excellence and development of students over time, innovations and excellence of pedagogy, capacity of teachers and teacher training, inclusive practises in school, quality of co-scholastic activities, whether curricular load is according to guidelines.
- It will not only aid the Board and the school to track students' improvement over time, but will also classify areas that would require further efforts.
- Concerning fee, the provisions include complete fee disclosure to be done and no

hidden charges to be charged by schools in the garb of fees.

• Also, for the 1st time, the byelaws inspire schools to encourage environmental conservation via harnessing solar energy, rain water harvesting, campus greening, recycling and segregation of waste, Swachhata on campus, and many more.

Green fund approves \$1 billion to assist poor countries to tackle - Climate change

Green Climate Fund, backed by United Nations has sanctioned above \$1 billion for 19 new projects to benefit developing nations for tackling climate change. The decision was granted during a 4-day meeting in Manama, Bahrain that finished late on October 20th, 2018.

The delegates overseeing the Climate Fund also settled to initiate seeking fresh money subsequent year as its initial capital of about \$6.6 billion will soon be used-up.

Important Highlights

- The funding was sanctioned for projects connected to geothermal energy in Indonesia, greener cities in Europe and the Middle East and shielding for coastal communities in India.
- Besides this, host country Bahrain put forward an appeal to sanction funding for a project focused at safeguarding its freshwater resources.
- The appeal led to a debate among the officials present, in which the environmentalists pointed out that the Gulf country could pay for the project itself using the money it has made off its huge reserves of oil and gas.
- The questioned project was eventually sanctioned, but with only \$2.1 million of the \$9.8 million demanded by Bahrain.
- In other decisions, the decision on a funding proposal by China was put on hold after concerns from Japan and the US about the likelihood that the money could be utilised to subsidise research into new technology.

US-based Dalit writer Sujatha Gidla wins - 2018 Shakti Bhatt Prize

United States based Dalit writer Sujatha Gidla secured 2018 Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize for her debut book "Ants Among Elephants: An Untouchable Family and the Making of Modern India". Her book was nominated by award panel from of other 60 participants. It takes readers through 4



generations of her family at centre and mainly her uncle K.G.Satyamurthy, a Maoist leader who founded Left-wing guerrilla movement called People's War Group to takeover Indian state. It also demonstrated undramatised lives of poverty, patriarchy, and rebellion, and meeting with subaltern Communism.

Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize

The Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize is sponsored by the Shakti Bhatt Foundation. It was formed in 2008 in memory of young writer and editor Shakti Bhatti. It bestows 1st-time writers from Indian sub-continent for their tremendous work of fiction or non-fiction. It carries cash prize of Rupees Two lakhs. Sri Lankan author Anuk Arudpragasam had secured this prize in 2017 for his debut novel "The Story of a Brief Marriage" set in the backdrop of the civil war.

27th Fusion Energy Conference held in - Gandhinagar, Gujarat

The 27th Fusion Energy Conference- FEC 2018 was organised in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The 6 days programme is organised by the International Atomic Energy Agency and held by Department of Atomic Energy and Gandhinagar-based Institute of Plasma Research.

FEC 2018

The objective of Fusion Energy Conference-2018 was to deliver forum for discussion of crucial physics and technology issues and innovative perceptions of direct relevance to the usage of nuclear fusion as a source of energy. During this conference, worldwide specialists deliberated innovative concepts on consuming nuclear fusion as source of energy. They also talked about new challenges being faced by fusion community in the light of a number of next-step fusion strategies being executed presently. Among contestants included international bodies like ITER Organisation and European Atomic Energy Community. The research institutes consisted in developing smaller plasma devices also took part.

PM inaugurates National Police Memorial in - New Delhi

PM Narendra Modi initiated and dedicated National Police Memorial- NPM to nation in New Delhi on the occasion of National Police Commemoration Day celebrated on October 21st. The memorial has been formed to recognise supreme sacrifices made by police personnel since independence.

National Police Memorial

The memorial has been constructed on 6.12 acres land in central Delhi's Chanakyapuri area. It was constructed a few years ago, has now been renovated and central structure has been improved by replacing old rock structure. This memorial represents all State, UT Police Forces and Central Police Organisations of the nation.

The central sculpture of National Police Memorial is 30-feet monolith build of single piece of granite obtained from Khammam, Telangana which weighs about 238 tonnes. Its outline was conceptualised by Advaita Gadanayak of National Gallery of Modern Art.

Its weight and colour represent gravitas and solemnity of the supreme sacrifice of police forces. Moreover, the Wall of Valour inscribed on it has names of all 34,844 martyrs engraved on granite.

The memorial also has nation's 1st national police museum which captures history, artefacts, uniform and gear of central and state police forces. The museum is underground facility in the locations of the NPM. The museum project was steered by Intelligence Bureau in synchronization with central armed police forces that operates under Union Home Ministry.

PM announces national award in Netaji's name for - Disaster relief workers

PM Narendra Modi broadcasted launch of national award in name of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose to facilitate those involved in disaster response operations. It was declared on the eve of 75th anniversary of Bose's declaration of formation of Azad Hind Government, India's 1st independent government on October 21st, 1943.

He was great Indian freedom fighter who was born on 23rd January 1897 in Cuttack, British India which presently is in Odisha. Primarily, he had joined Congress and was the president of the Congress during 1938-39. Later, because of differences in Congress, he resigned from Congress and formed Forward Bloc. He tried to liberate the nation via Azad Hind Fauj.

Azad Hind Fauj was originated in Singapore on October 21st, 1943. It was founded by exiled Indians.

Important Facts

- The national award named after Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose will be given annually to police personnel who do excellent work in



rescue and relief operations during any kind of disaster. It will be declared every year on January 23rd on Netaji's birthday.

- The award will assist to identify exemplary services rendered by NDRF and SDRF workers in rescue and relief works during the time of any disaster. National Disaster Response Force and State Disaster Response Force are established with officers from Central paramilitary forces and State police organisations respectively. These forces are directed under Disaster Management Act, 2005 for effective management of disasters and for issues connected therewith or incidental thereto.

India inked agreement on security cooperation with - China

India and China have inked contract on internal security cooperation. It is the 1st such pact to be inked between the two nations. The pact was inked by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and China's State Councillor and Minister of Public Security Zhao Kezhi in New Delhi.

Important Points

- The contract on internal security cooperation goals to fortify and consolidate assistance in counter-terrorism, organised crimes, drug control, human trafficking and information exchange, marking a new start between the both nations.
- It covers areas of intelligence sharing, exchange program, sharing of best practices, teamwork in disaster mitigation besides others.

First high-level meeting

The contract followed 1st high-level meeting on bilateral security cooperation co-chaired by Rajnath Singh and Zhao. During this meeting, both sides deliberated counter-terrorism assistance and welcomed amplified collaboration between the both nations in the area of security during the meeting.

Zhao was leading delegation of more than 30 Chinese officials during his visit to India from October 21st-25th, 2018. As China's State Councillor and Minister of Public Security, accountable for day-to-day law enforcement in China and guides approximately 19 lakh personnel. While, India's Rajnath Singh is the head of 8 central armed police forces with a joint strength of around 10 lakh personnel.

SC permits sale, manufacture with stringent conditions of which type of crackers - green crackers

The Supreme Court of India on October 23rd, 2018 ruled not to levy a blanket ban on the sale and production of firecrackers ahead of the popular Indian festival, Deepawali.

The supreme court, however, finalised to permit the same with a set of strict conditions. The Supreme Court bench consisting Justices A.K.Sikri and Ashok Bhushan allowed the sale and production of green and low emission crackers alone.

SC Judgement

- The top court governed that only firecrackers with decreased emission and decibel levels will be allowed during all festivals.
- The court also well-ordered a restriction on the online sale of firecrackers and put a limitation on e-commerce portals from selling them. The accountability of the same has been placed on the firms.
- Should the e-commerce firms be utilised for the sale of the restricted firecrackers then, the concerned firm will be apprehended for contempt.
- The top court has also fixed a time limitation for the bursting of the crackers. On Diwali, people will only be permitted to burn crackers between 8 pm to 10 pm. The time limitations for New Year and Christmas has been set from 11:45 pm to 12:15 am.
- The apex court has instructed the Central Pollution Control Board to record air quality seven days earlier and seven days following Deepawali.
- Further, the court has allowed bursting of crackers in only selected community areas in Delhi National Capital Region acknowledged by CPCB.

Significance

The Apex Court's rulings apply to all festivals and functions including marriages.

Only crackers with decreased emission would be allowed to be manufactured. Hence, noisy crackers for instance chain firecrackers will be restricted.

The sale of the crackers will also only occur via licence holders. In case of sale of the restricted firecrackers, the station house officers of the local police station concerned will be held responsible.



Harit Diwali-Swasth Diwali campaign launched by - Ministry of Environment

Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has initiated Harit Diwali-Swasth Diwali campaign focused to decrease adverse environmental conditions especially pollution in the nation post Diwali celebrations due to extreme bursting of fire crackers which results expressively to air and noise pollutions.

Harit Diwali-Swasth Diwali campaign

This campaign was started in 2017-18 to educate children about injurious fire crackers and encourage them to celebrate Diwali in environment-friendly manner and not to buy fire crackers, instead buy gifts, food products or sweets for poor and deprived children living in their locality.

Under this campaign, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change will undertake different actions for spreading and generating awareness among various shareholders and inspire people to participate in fighting against air pollution. This campaign was tremendously successful and the air quality had not worsened after Deepawali in 2017 unlike what was knowledgeable in 2016.

2018 Campaign:

After its earlier preference, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has started similar campaign. It also fused this year's campaign with "Green Good Deed" movement that has been started as social mobilization for maintenance and shielding environment. All schools and colleges have been stimulated to be part of this campaign.

Did you know?

Air pollution is a thoughtful health issue in the nation especially in northern parts during winter as well as festival seasons. The air pollution in northern region is mainly due to dust, burning of kharif crop residue in certain states, construction activities and prevailing climatic conditions. This air pollution has bad impacts on health of children, aged people and people suffering from respiratory illness. Deepawali festival also falls during same period and people have been celebrating this festival by bursting crackers. Crackers contains combustible chemicals including potassium chlorate powdered magnesium, aluminium, salts of barium, copper, sodium, lithium, strontium etc. and releases hazardous smoke along with sound. This smoke and sound have serious

health impacts on children, aged people and also animal and birds.

UAE, US to conduct military exercise Iron Magic 19 near - Dubai

The joint military exercise Iron Magic 19 among UAE and United States started near Dubai. The 2-week military exercise is part of series of joint military exercises organised throughout the year between United Arab Emirates armed forces and armed forces of other nations.

More about Iron Magic 19

- The exercise pursues to reinforce teamwork, joint actions and exchange of expertise in military areas between both nations.

- This will contribute to maximizing battle capabilities and growing synchronization between United Arab Emirates and the United States armed forces.

- The majority of United Arab Emirates military hardware, for instance F-16 fighter jets, Mirage jets and Apache Longbow attack helicopters are mostly mass-produced by organisations from United States, Britain and France.

- United Arab Emirates, which is a major oil supplier, has recognized growing defence industry in recent years, mainly in armoured vehicles and naval military equipment.

India, Myanmar sign MoU on operationalisation of - Sittwe Port

India and Myanmar signed Memorandum of Understanding for employment of private port operator for Operation and Maintenance of Sittwe Port, Paletwa Inland Water Terminal and related amenities included in Kaladan Multi Model Transit Transport Project. The Memorandum of Understanding was inked by Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale on behalf of Government of India and by U Win Khant, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Communications on behalf of Myanmar Government.

Important Facts

- Sittwe port in Myanmar will join India's landlocked north-east region to Bay of Bengal through Mizoram.

- It will also deliver alternate route to Kolkata. After this Memorandum of Understanding, process of identifying bidders to maintain these amenities will be initiated by floating Request for proposal.



- Succeeding to commencement of operations at this port, it will propose new infrastructure for trade including between India and Myanmar.

- It is also important step in implementation of India's Act East Policy as it will enhance connectivity, job creation and development in whole region, particularly in Myanmar's strife-torn Rakhine and Chin States.

Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project

- This project seeks to connect seaport of Kolkata with Sittwe seaport in Myanmar by sea.

- It will then connect Sittwe seaport to Lashio in Myanmar via Kaladan river boat route and then from Lashio to Mizoram in India by road.

- This project will decrease distance from Kolkata to Mizoram by about 1000 kilometres and slash travelling time to 3-4 days for transport of goods.

- It will deliver alternative to current route from North East to Kolkata port via chicken neck which faces heavy traffic and transportation of cargo via this route takes many days to reach port.

Fali S. Nariman awarded 19th Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in - Public Administration

Eminent jurist Fali S. Nariman aged 89 was bestowed 19th Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration. He was given the award by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu at a function organised in New Delhi.

More about Fali S. Nariman

- Nariman is one of India's most distinguished constitutional lawyers and he has claimed several leading cases.

- He was the senior advocate to Supreme Court of India since 1971 and has continued President of Bar Association of India since 1991. He is internationally recognised jurist on international arbitration.

- He was Additional Solicitor General of India from May 1972 to June 1975. He has been bestowed Padma Bhushan award in 1991, Padma Vibhushan in 2007 and Gruber Prize for Justice in year 2002.

- He was designated by President as member of Rajya Sabha, Upper House of

Parliament for single term from 1999 to 2005.

Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award

- The award was initiated in 1999 by Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Management in memory of India's 2nd Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri.

- It is presented yearly to Indian who is exceptionally outstanding and distinguished business leader, management practitioner, public administrator, educator for his/her continued individual contributions and accomplishments.

- The award consists of cash award of Rupees 5,00,000 with citation and plaque.

- In 2017, it was given to Bindeshwar Pathak, originator of Sulabh International.

United Nations Day 2018 observed across the world on - 24th October 2018

The United Nations Day was celebrated worldwide on October 24th, 2018, marking the 73rd anniversary of the United Nations Charter's entry into force. The United Nations Day was celebrated with an objective to celebrate everything that the United Nations represents and has attained since its establishment in 1945. On this eve, all the associate states of the UN donated finances to its operation to support further its goals.

In 1948, the UN General Assembly acknowledged 24th October, the anniversary of the Charter of the UN, as the United Nations Day. In 1971, the UN General Assembly accepted a further resolution known as United Nations Resolution 2782 announcing that UN Day shall be an international holiday and suggested that it should be celebrated as a public holiday by all UN member states.

Charter of United Nations

- The United Nations Charter of 1945 is the foundational treaty of the United Nations.

- It was inked at the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Centre in San Francisco, USA, on 26th June 1945, by 50 of the 51 original member nations.

- It came into existence on 24th October 1945, after being sanctioned by the original 5 permanent members of the Security Council.

- As a charter, it is a constituent treaty, and all members nations are guaranteed by its articles.

- Furthermore, Article 103 of the United Nations Charter explains that responsibilities to the United Nations overcome over all other treaty compulsions.



- Foreigners seeking Indian visa must reveal criminal records now by - Union Home Ministry

Foreign immigrants seeking for Indian visa will now have to affirm their criminal records as a part of India's new visa format. The ruling to introduce such a provision for processing of visa applications of the foreigners was taken by the Union Home Ministry after a request from the Women and Child Development Ministry.

In a series of tweets, Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi assured that her request to review the visa application procedures for foreigners travelling to India by necessitating them to affirm any criminal record has been acknowledged.

Objective

The initiative goals to make sure the placement of protective processes to avoid travelling child sex offenders from entering into India and committing sexual violence on children here. Hence, it goals to check child sexual abuse and other crimes accomplished by travellers.

Important Highlights

- Under the fresh updated format, a suitable questionnaire and a declaration will be introduced in the visa application form, which will have to be completed by the visa applicants.
- India on account of its lenient visa rules has continued to a favourite point for child traffickers and paedophiles convicted in their nations of origin.
- There have been several illustrations where foreign immigrants convicted of child abuse at home have travelled to India to operate child sex rackets.
- The latest known crime includes an Australian, Paul Dean, who was sentenced recently of abusing a host of differently-abled poor children from Vishakapatnam and Puri during his 3-decade stay in India.
- In another example, a United States citizen John Jones was detained recently by the Hyderabad police for socializing child sex abuse literature online.

No sale of Bharat Stage-IV vehicles across the country from April 1st, 2020 by - Supreme Court

The SC on October 24th, 2018 governed that no BS-IV vehicle shall be sold across the nation with effect from April 1st, 2020. The

Bharat Stage-VI emission guidelines would come into effect from April 1st, 2020 across the nation.

The governing was declared by a 3-judge bench led by Justice Madan B Lokur. The bench elucidated that only BS-VI compliant vehicle will be sold in India from April 1st, 2020. The court governed for no grace period for automobile producers for the sale of Bharat Stage-VI non-compliant vehicles after April 1st, 2020. Previously, advocate Aparajita Singh, assisting the top court as amicus curiae, had conflicted the Union Government's initiative to extend time till June 30th, 2020 to automobile producers to sell their Bharat Stage-VI non-compliant vehicles produced till March 31st, 2020.

Need For BH-VI grade Fuel

- The BS emission norms were introduced by the Government to legalize the output of air pollutants from motor vehicles. The Bharat Stage-IV standards were in force across the nation since April 2017.
- In 2016, the Union Government finalised to switch over to Bharat Stage-VI grade fuel directly from Bharat Stage-IV skipping Bharat Stage-V, after Environment Pollution Control Authority in its April 2017 report informed the supreme court that only Bharat Stage-VI emission norms complaint vehicles should be permitted to be sold from April 1st, 2020.
- India had switched over to Bharat Stage-IV grade fuel in April 1st, 2017 after the guidelines of the court restricting Bharat Stage-III grade fuel.

World's longest ocean bridge linking Hong Kong, Macau and Zhuhai opened by - China

China initiated Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, world's longest ocean bridge with total length of 55

kilometres. The new ocean bridge will join the east and west sides of Pearl River Delta of the South China Sea, joining 2 Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau with Zhuhai which is mainland China.

More about Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge

- It includes dual 3-lane, oversea stretch of 22.9 kilometres and undersea tunnel of about 6.7 kilometres which reaches depth of 44 meters. The rest 25.4 kilometres of the bridge runs over land.

- The both ends of tunnel of bridge are linked to 2 artificial islands, each million square feet, build in shallow areas of



Pearl River Estuary to permit transit between bridge and tunnel sections.

- The 6.7 kilometres undersea tunnel is made of chain of 33 submerged hollow blocks, each 38 meters wide, 11.4 meters high and weighing 80,000 tonnes. The bridge consists of 400,000 tonnes of steel.

- It is intended to withstand magnitude-8 earthquake and assaults by super-sized cargo ships.

- The project was primarily conceived in 2003, and construction started on December 2009. Its total cost was 120 billion yuan.

- This has been shared in various proportions by Hong Kong, Macau and Zhuhai governments. It is believed that 29,000 vehicles would cross the bridge every day.

Importance

- China considers this mega bridge as crucial component of its plans to advance Greater Bay Area.

- This area will be business hub including Hong Kong, Macau and 9 cities of Guangdong province.

- This bay area is being established with an objective to rival New York and Tokyo in terms of technological innovation and economic achievements.

- This bridge will play dynamic role in facilitating creation of a single market by connecting.

PM Narendra Modi awarded 2018 Seoul Peace Prize by - Seoul Peace Prize Committee

Seoul Peace Prize Committee has finalised to confer 2018 Seoul Peace Prize on PM Narendra Modi. He is the 14th recipient of this award. The award will be given to him by Seoul Peace Prize Foundation at mutually convenient time.

Important Points

- Prime Minister Modi was nominated for this prestigious award in gratitude of his dedication for civilizing international cooperation, levitation global economic growth, accelerating Human Growth of people in India by fostering economic growth and furthering expansion of democracy through anti-corruption and social integration efforts.

- It also documented Prime Minister Modi's helps to growth of Indian and global economies, credited 'Modinomics' for dropping social and economic disparity between rich and poor.

- It also praised Prime Minister's initiatives to make government cleaner through anti-corruption actions and demonetization.

- It also credited Prime Minister for his involvement towards regional and global peace through proactive foreign policy with nations worldwide under Modi Doctrine and Act East Policy.

More about Seoul Peace Prize

- It was recognized in 1990 to honor success of the 24th Olympic Games held in Seoul, South Korea.

- It was recognized to crystallize Korean people's yearning for peace on Korean Peninsula and in the rest of the world.

- It is presented biennially to those people who have made their mark via contributions to harmony of mankind, reconciliation between nations and worldwide peace.

- The awardee receives diploma, plaque and honorarium of US \$200,000. Previous laureates consist of distinguished global personalities like German Chancellor Angela Merkel, earlier United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and renowned international relief organizations like Doctors Without Borders and Oxfam.

Invest India wins UN Award for excellence in promoting investments in Sustainable development

Invest India, has secured United Nations Award for excellence in encouraging investments in sustainable development. The award was given by Armenian President Armen Sarkissian to CEO of Invest India Deepak Bagla at the World Investment Forum, Geneva. It is authorized Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of Central Government. It is mandated to simplify investments in the nation. It is 1st stop for potential global investors in nation. It has been formed as non-profit project under Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industries.

Important points

- Invest India got this award for excellence in servicing and supportive major global wind turbines firm in formation of blade manufacturing plant in India while committing to train local staff and produce One GW of renewable energy.



- Execution of this project is predictable to decrease India's wind energy cost expressively.

- Apart from Invest India, agencies from Lesotho as Lesotho National Development Corporation, Bahrain as Bahrain Economic Development Board and South Africa as Invest South Africa also secured highest honours at United Nations Investment Promotion Awards for excellence in improving investment into sectors having social and economic advantages and will assist meet Sustainable Development Goals.

UN Investment Promotion Award

- The awards are presented yearly by UN Conference on Trade and Development since 2002 as part of its investment promotion and facilitation program.

- It honours investment promotion agencies and their governments for their accomplishments.

- It also looks forward to present best practices in fascinating investment into Sustainable Development Goals related plans that can motivate investment promotion practitioners in developing and developed nations.

- The 2017 winners were EIC Ethiopia, COFIDES of Spain and Board of Investment of Mauritius.

Government constitutes GoM to look into sexual harassment at workplace on - 24th October 2018

The Union Government on October 24th, 2018 founded a 4-member Group of Ministers to inspect and reinforce the current legal and institutional frameworks for dealing with issues of sexual harassment of females at the workplace. The Group of Ministers has been formed in view of the felt necessity for broader consultation on the matters, from the point of view of evolving suitable recommendations and forming a complete plan of action and for ensuring its time-bound execution.

Important Details

- The GoMs will endorse action compulsory for effective execution of the present provisions, and for consolidating the present legal and institutional frameworks for tackling matters related to sexual harassment at workplace.

- The Group of Ministers will be needed to inspect the present provisions for the safety of

females and endorse further measures, within 3 months of its constitution.

- The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act is the important legislation for shielding females against sexual harassment in the workplace and to make sure effective redressal of criticisms.

- Besides this, the Women and Child Development Ministry has also initiated an Electronic Complaints Box that enables females, irrespective of their work position, to complain against sexual harassment at workplace.

- Once a complaint is submitted to the 'SHe-Box', it will be straight way forwarded to the related authority having jurisdiction to act in the issue.

- The government would be putting into place a process to regularly monitor the action accomplished on the complaints.

India, Iran, Afghanistan hold first trilateral on -Chabahar port project

The 1st trilateral meeting between India, Afghanistan and Iran of Coordination Council of Chabahar Agreement was organised in Tehran, Iran. India, Iran and Afghanistan in May 2016, had inked contract which necessitated establishment of transit and transport corridor among 3 nations using Chabahar Port as one of regional hubs.

Highlights of Meeting

- Complete discussions were organised between 3 sides on full operationalisation of trilateral Agreement for global transit and transport via Chabahar port.

- They shared view that complete operationalisation of Chabahar port will encourage connectivity and economic development of Afghanistan and region.

- They also revised its implementation.

- They also finalised to form follow-up committee that will organise its 1st meeting within 2 months in Chabahar port. This committee will debate and goal to finalise protocol to harmonise transit, roads, customs and consular issues for making the route attractive and decline logistic costs.

- It was also finalised to plan subsequent meeting of the coordination council in India in the 1st half of 2019.

- The meeting assumes significance as strategically-located Chabahar port on energy-



rich Iran's southern coast was coming under domain of United States sanctions on Iran.

- The sanctions were proclaimed following United States under President Donald Trump administration withdrew from 2015 Iran nuclear deal that raised most of embargoes on Iran forced for its alleged nuclear weapons program.

- India is dedicated to Chabbar project despite threat of United States permissions on countries performing business with Iran including buying oil or investing in the nation.

- It also has conveyed to United States importance of Chabahar project, saying it can be mega connect for trade with war-ravaged Afghanistan.

Virat Kohli becomes fastest batsman to reach 10,000 ODI runs on - 24th October 2018

Virat Kohli on October 24th, 2018 became the fastest batsman to score 10,000 runs in one-day internationals, accomplishing the milestone in just 205 innings. With the accomplishment, he surpassed the record made by Sachin Tendulkar, who had attained the feat in 259 innings. Virat Kohli grasped the milestone while batting on 81 during the 2nd One Day International against West Indies in Visakhapatnam, India. He reached 10,000 runs with a single off the bowling of spinner Ashley Nurse. India are presently leading the series by 1-0. They secured the 1st 72 by 8 wickets at Guwahati.

Important Highlights

- Virat Kohli became the 5th Indian batsman and thirteenth overall to accomplish 10000 One Day International runs.

- The other Indians in the leading 10K club are Sachin Tendulkar with 18426, Sourav Ganguly with 11221, Rahul Dravid with 10768 and M.S.Dhoni with 10123 runs.

- Generally, 12 other batsmen have scored more than 10,000 runs in the One Day International format.

- Sachin Tendulkar was the 1st in history to breach the 10,000 mark in One Day Internationals. He got there in 2001 against Australia in Indore.

- While Tendulkar leads the list with 18,426 runs, Kumar Sangakkara is 2nd with 14,234 runs.

- Besides Kohli, the only other active player on the list is M.S.Dhoni, who completed the milestone against England at Lord's earlier in 2018.

- Government to create special fund to boost fish production by 2020 , endorsed on - 24th October 2018

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs led by the PM Narendra Modi on October 24th, 2018 gave its endorsement for the creation of a special Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund. The fund amount is projected to be about Rupees 7,522 crore, out of which about Rupees 5,266.40 crores would be fetched from the Nodal Loaning Entities, Rupees 1,316.6 crore through beneficiary's contribution and Rupees 939.48 crore via budgetary support from the central government.

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, National Cooperatives Development Corporation and all listed Banks will be the nodal loaning entities.

Important Highlights

- The formation of the special fund will facilitate the formation of fisheries infrastructure amenities both in marine and inland fisheries sectors.

- It focuses to increase fish production and assist attaining the target of producing 15 million tonnes of fish by 2020, which was marked under the Blue Revolution.

- The deposit will also improve employment options for more than 9.40 lakh fishermen and other entrepreneurs in fishing and allied actions.

- It will also fascinate private investment in the formation and management of fisheries infrastructure services.

- Further, it will boost the adoption of new technologies in the fisheries sector.

Ethiopia appoints Sahle-Work Zewde as first female president on - 25th October 2018

Ethiopia on October 25th, 2018 designated diplomat Sahle-Work Zewde as its 1st-ever female President. The post of the President is largely ceremonial in the country. Sahle-Work Zewde was designated by the Ethiopian law formers via a unanimous vote. She would be replacing Mulatu Teshome Wirtu who resigned on October 24th. Preceding to her nomination, she was working as the United Nation's elite official at the African Union. She is now supposed to work for two 6-year terms as President.

More about Sahle-Work Zewde



- The 60 years old Zewde has earlier worked as Ethiopia's ambassador to France, Djibouti, Senegal and the regional bloc, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

- She started her diplomatic career as an ambassador to Senegal in 1989 with accountabilities in neighbouring African nations and further went to Djibouti prior eventually working as ambassador to France.

- She is fluent in English, French as well as Amharic. So far she was working as the special representative of the UN Secretary General to the African Union.

IDFC Bank renamed as IDFC First Bank on - 25th October 2018

IDFC Bank on October 25th, 2018 projected to change its name to "IDFC First Bank Ltd" in the wake of its merger with the non-banking financial firm Capital First. This decision was made during the meeting of the Board of Directors of IDFC Bank. IDFC was unified on January 30th, 1997. It started as a non-operative financial holding company in 2014. It manages its 5 subsidiaries including IDFC Bank, IDFC MF, IDFC Alternatives, IDFC IDF and IDFC Securities according to the Reserve Bank of India norms. The proposal now requires the endorsement of the RBI. It would additionally need the endorsements of regulatory authorities including the Registrar of Companies and other Shareholders.

Merger of Capital First with IDFC Bank

- The merger of Capital First with the IDFC Bank is currently at an advanced stage and has got endorsements from the Competition Commission of India, stock exchanges, Reserve Bank of India, stakeholders and creditors of all the parties involved.

- With this amalgamation, Warburg Pincus funded Capital First and IDFC Bank, in an all-stock deal, would form Rupees 88000 crores joint entity.

- The share swap ratio for the merger is fixed at 139:10. The IDFC Bank will release 139 shares for every 10 shares of Capital First.

- After the amalgamation, V Vaidyanathan, Chairman and MD Capital First, will succeed Rajiv Lall as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the joint entity.

World Polio Day observed worldwide on - 24th October 2018

The World Polio Day was celebrated annually worldwide on 24th October to spread awareness about hazards of the crippling Polio disease. The day was introduced by Rotary International to honour birth of Jonas Salk who had headed 1st team of scientists which had developed vaccine against poliomyelitis virus. This development had resulted into extensive use of this inactivated poliovirus vaccine and later usage of oral poliovirus, developed by Albert Sabin. It also had resulted further into founding of Global

Polio Eradication Initiative- GPEI in 1988 which has assisted to diminish polio cases around the world by 99 percent.

More about Global Polio Eradication Initiative

- Global Polio Eradication Initiative launched in 1988 has played crucial role in eradication of crippling poliovirus.

- When it was initiated wild poliovirus existed in 125 nations. Now, it occurs in 2 nations including Pakistan and Afghanistan.

- Till 2012, Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation was reservoir of above half of the Polio cases in the world.

- But in 2015, it was detached from list of Polio endemic nations by World Health Organization.

Poliovirus Poliomyelitis is a highly infectious viral disease, which mainly infect young children below age of five.

- The virus is communicated from person-to-person. It mainly passes via polluted water or food. After entering body, it grows in the intestine, from where it can attack the nervous system and can cause paralysis.

- Its starting symptoms include fever, fatigue, headache, vomiting, stiffness in the neck, and pain in the limbs.

- In few cases, it causes permanent paralysis. There is no treatment for polio, however it can only be prevented by immunization.

- Polio vaccine is given multiple times to almost always protects a child for life.

Satish Kumar Gupta appointed as new CEO of Paytm Payments Bank on - 24th October 2018

The Paytm Payments Bank proclaimed on October 24th, 2018 that they have designated Satish Kumar Gupta as its new MD and CEO. Gupta would be succeeding Renu Satti, who



stepped down from her current post to head the bank's new retail segment. SK Gupta, who has more than 35 years of leadership experience, formerly worked as the Chief Product Officer at National Payments Corporation of India and the State Bank of India. His nomination comes a few months after Renu Satti had stepped down as the Chief Executive Officer of Paytm Payments Bank to take over as the Chief Operating Officer of Paytm's new retail segment. With his appointment, SK Gupta has become the 3rd Chief Executive Officer of the Paytm Payments Bank in the span of just 2 years. The 1st Chief Executive Officer Shinjini Kumar had left Paytm in May 2017.

More about SK Gupta

- Satish Kumar Gupta joined the State Bank of India in April 1979.
- He apprehended various posts in the Bank and served as Branch Manager in rural, semi-urban and urban branches for a time period of 5 years, staff training centre in Jammu for 2 years, credit appraisal cell for 4 years and the corporate centre in Mumbai for 8 years.
- In totality, he worked with State Bank of India for above 3 decades. In February 2011, he deputed to the National Payments Corporation of India to form India's own card-RuPay.
- He completed the task in less than 1 year and sustained to work for the National Payment Corporation of India even after retirement. He was designated as the Chief Project Officer and Chief Project Advisor.
- The payments bank had recently come under inspection following the RBI instructed the bank to stopover enrolling new clienteles following audit annotations.
- The bank is still awaiting Reserve Bank of India's authorization on enrolling new customers.

Bank of Baroda, Vijaya Bank, Dena Bank to set up internal committees to merge operations on - 24th October 2018

Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank on October 24th, 2018 finalised to establish internal committees to assist integrate the workings of the banks prior to the merger occurs. These committees consist of committees on credit, human resources and IT. The committees will include the CEOs and Executive Directors of all the 3 banks. The banks also finalised to employ 3 separate

valuers to fix the swap ratios of merger. The valuer selected by one bank will also evaluate the other two banks, before a common ratio is concluded at.

The merger of Bank of Baroda, Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank

- The Union Finance Ministry on September 17th, 2018 proclaimed the proposal to merge 3 public sector banks including Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank.
- The joint lending entity is supposed to form India's 3rd largest bank with a sum business of above Rupees 14.82 lakh crore, following the State Bank of India and ICICI Banks.
- The merger would be through share swap which will be the part of scheme of merger. The plan of merger will be presented before Parliament.
- This merged entity will raise banking operations and expansion is inevitable. The 3 banks will continue to work autonomously after amalgamation.
- The merger would be carried out under Alternative Mechanism. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, the leader of Alternative Mechanism, guaranteed capital support to the merged entity.
- After this amalgamation, the number of PSU banks will come down to 19.

• India's first engineless train set for trials on - 29th October 2018

India's 1st Made in India engineless train 'Train 18' is planned to hit the tracks for trials on October 29th, 2018. The train will be unveiled on October 29th for 3-4 days trial outside the Coach Factory's premises. Following successful trials, the train will be handed over to Research Design and Standards Organisation for further tests. The Train 18 will be verified at a speed of 180 km/h. It will feature a stainless-steel body, with full escape windows and driver's cabin at both ends of the train.

Important Highlights

- Train 18 is started by a self-propulsion module without a separate engine.
- It is capable of operating at a speed of about 160 km/h. It will slash travel time by 15% as compared to the Shatabdi Express.
- The superior 16-coach model of the train has been built by the Chennai-based Integral



Coach Factory in time span of just eighteen months.

- It took an investment of about Rupees 100 crores to shape this prototype and the subsequent production would diminish the cost.

- It will be fully air-conditioned train and the train will also be loaded with CCTV cameras.

- It will have 2 executive compartments in the middle with 52 seats each and the trailer coaches would have 78 seats each.

- Train 18 has soft lighting, automatic doors, footsteps and GPS grounded Passenger Information System.

- The脚步 in a coach's doorway slides outward when the train halts at a station enabling travellers to board/deboard safely with comfort.

- Train 18 is regarded as a successor to the 30 years old Shatabdi Express. Shatabdi was introduced in 1988 and is currently working on more than 20 routes connecting metros with other significant cities.

India Mobile Congress 2018 held in New Delhi between - 25th October 2018

The 2nd edition of India Mobile Congress-IMC 2018 was organised New Delhi from October 25th-27th, 2018. It was held by Department of Telecommunications and Cellular Operators Association of India. The theme of IMC 2018 was "New Digital Horizons. Connect. Create. Innovate".

India Mobile Congress 2018

- It witnessed contribution of above 200,000 specialists from telecom industry, encompassing 5G, start-up ecosystem, Internet of Things, Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, Smart Cities and allied industry sectors.

- The display highlighted above 1,300 exhibitors.

- It witnessed greater International presence with involvement of policy makers and regulators from ASEAN partner nations and Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, besides United States, Canada and European Union.

More about IMC

- Indian Mobile Congress was released in 2017 to deliver platform for policy makers, industry and regulators to involve in meaningful

discussions to drive the future direction of telecom industry.

- The 1st Indian Mobile Congress organised in September 2017 was witnessed by approximately 2,000 representatives, 32,000 visitors, 152 speakers, 100 exhibitors and 100 start-ups.

Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board to issue masala bonds worth Rs 5,000 crore for - Development works

Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board- KIIFB is planning to release masala bonds worth Rupees 5,000 crores to mobilise funds for numerous development works. Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board has selected Standard and Poor's and Fitch Ratings for rating the masala bonds issue. The bonds will be registered in London and Singapore stock exchanges. The funds will be collected in tranches over period of ten years.

More about Masala bonds

- Masala bonds are rupee-denominated bonds through which Indian units can generate money from foreign markets in rupee and not in overseas currency.

- Basically, it is debt instruments utilised by corporates to generate money from overseas investors in local currency.

- The issuance of rupee-denominated bond transfers risk linked with currency fluctuations to investors and not to the issuers, especially during depreciation of domestic money and when borrowing is in foreign denomination as company has to pay more while repaying its debt.

- From the issuer's motive, masala bonds deliver cheaper borrowings rates as compared to generating funds in India besides assistance in spreading its sources of fund-raising.

- Besides, it also assists in internationalization of the rupee and in development of Indian bond markets.

- Its issuance in long term can assist to check transparency of rupee and also decrease present account deficit over time.

Winners of Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony announced by - Ministry of Culture

Ministry of Culture has proclaimed winners of Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony for year 2014, 2015 and 2016. The awardees were nominated by



award jury led by PM Narendra Modi and involved Chief

Justice of India Justice Ranjan Gogoi, former chief election commissioner N.Gopalaswami and National Vice President BJP Vinay Sahasrabuddhe.

Awardees

- Awardee for 2014 is Rajkumar Singhajit Singh. He is leader of Manipuri dance. He is also teacher, performer and choreographer.

- Awardee for 2015 is Chhayanaut. It is the cultural group of Bangladesh recognized in 1961. It has played leading role in encouraging Tagore's works in Bengali culture, music and literature not only within Bangladesh, but worldwide.

- Awardee for 2016 is Ram Vanji Sutar. He is famous sculptor and his 1st notable work was the 45-feet Chambal monument at the Gandhi Sagar Dam in MP.

- He is also recipient of Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.

Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony

- This is an annual award introduced by Government of India in 2011 as part of honour of 150th Birth Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore.

- The award is issued for cultural harmony and has amount of Rupee One crore, citation in scroll, plaque as well as exquisite traditional handicraft/handloom item.

- The award is open to all regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or sex. It was deliberated for 1st time on Indian Sitar Maestro Pt. Ravi Shankar in 2012 and 2nd time on Shri Zubin Mehta in 2013.

Government to set up National Sports Stadium for differently-abled in - Meghalaya

The Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Thaawarchand Gehlot, proclaimed on October 25th, 2018 that a stadium of international standard for differently-abled people will be constructed in Meghalaya. The stadium will be built at an approximate cost of more than Rupees 200 crore. The declaration was done at the Samajik Adhikarita Shivir, aids and assistive devices distribution camp, for differently-abled people.

Important highlights

- The Union Social Justice Ministry proposes to construct national sports stadium

for differently-abled people in 5 states across the nation and Meghalaya is one of the states.

- The conclusion was taken after Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma came forward with the suggestion and also issued 50 acres of land for this stadium.

- The detail project report for this stadium will be arranged soon. The stadium is anticipated to be completed before National Games 2022.

- The Social Justice Ministry would also be forming up a Composite regional centre in Meghalaya, which will begin working once space is allocated.

Asma Jahangir won UN Human Rights Prize posthumously by - 26th October 2018

Asma Jahangir, late Pakistani human rights activist and lawyer was posthumously announced as one of the winners of the UN Human Rights Prize on 26th October 2018. This announcement was made through the official Twitter account of President of the UN General Assembly Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces.

Jahangir was chosen for the prize along with three other including Tanzania's Rebeca Gyumi, first indigenous lawyer Joenia Wapichana from Brazil and Ireland's human rights organisation Front Line Defenders,

Before Jahangir only three other Pakistani women, Begum Ra'ana Liaquat Ali Khan (1978), Benazir Bhutto (2008) and Malala Yousufzai (2013) have been accorded the honour till date.

More about Asma Jahangir

- Asma Jahangir passed away on 11th February 2018 due to cardiac arrest at the age of 66.

- She was known for her outspoken nature and unrelenting pursuit of human rights and for remaining undaunted in the face of extreme pressure and opposition.

- She was the first woman who served as the president of Pakistan's Supreme Court Bar Association.

- She co-founded the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan and became its Secretary-General in 1987.

- She was elevated as the commission's chairperson in 1993.



- Between 2004 to 2010, she served as the Special Rapporteur on Religion Freedom or Belief of the UN Commission on Human Rights.

- Overall, Asma Jahangir is remembered as a champion of the disenfranchised and for her services for building a democratic and more inclusive Pakistan.

Pakistan to send its first own manned space mission in - 2022

The decision is made by Pakistan to launch its first manned mission in 2022, the same year that India has planned to launch its own manned space mission. The decision was taken on 25th October 2018 during Pakistan's federal cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan. The cabinet approved the plan of sending an astronaut to space for the first time in 2022 with the help of China. Pakistan's Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry shared the same information.

Important Highlights

- For the same mission, an agreement among Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) and a Chinese company has already been signed.

- Pakistan and China already have robust defence ties and Pakistan is one of the top buyers of Chinese military hardware at the same time.

- Pakistan had launched two satellites into orbit, using a Chinese launch vehicle earlier in 2018.

The satellites were launched aboard a Chinese Long March (LM-2C) rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre located at the Gobi desert in China.

- The satellites included a remote sensing satellite (PRSS1) which is a dual-purpose Earth observational and optical satellite and PAK-TES-1A.

- Developed by SUPARCO, the PAK-TES-1A satellite was launched to improve satellite manufacture

capabilities in the country that would be helping to end Pakistan's dependency on commercial satellites for information related to weather, environment and agriculture.

- The satellites had to be transported to China as Pakistan lacks the infrastructure to launch these objects to space.

Who has sworn in as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka ? - Mahinda Rajapaksha

Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena has dismissed Ranil Wickremesinghe, obligatory PM of Sri Lanka and designated earlier President Mahinda Rajapaksha as new PM.

In fresh times, the politics of Sri Lanka is in turmoil due to the tension among President Sirisena and P.M.Vikramasinghe. In an unexpected move, the United People's Freedom Alliance, the Political Front of President Mittipala Sirisena, removed support from the coalition government with Ranil Vikramasinghe's United National Party. This coalition government was fashioned in 2015, when Sirisena became President by the support of Ranil Vikramasinghe. This unexpected move also specifies a constitutional crisis prowl in Sri Lanka. As per to the 19th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution, Vikramasinghe could not be detached from the position without the majority.

More about Mahinda Rajapaksa

- Mahinda Rajapaksa was born on November 18th, 1949 in the southern province of British Sri Lanka.

- He was the 18th Prime Minister of Sri Lanka from April 6th, 2004 to November 19th, 2005. After that, he was the 6th President of Sri Lanka from November 19th, 2005 to January 9th, 2015.

India wins CAPAM International Innovations Awards 2018 on - 23rd October 2018

India on October 23rd, 2018 secured the Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management Award-CAPAM 2018 for a creativity that envisages quality education for all. The initiative authorized Unnayan Banka- Reinventing Education Using Technology of Banka District',

state of Bihar has been bestowed under the category 'Innovation Incubation'. Unnayan Banka Initiative It is a resourcefulness that envisions 'quality education for all' especially for those at the bottom of the pyramid, using the latest technologies.

It is a holistic model focused at making sure the complete development of youngsters starting from education to employability.



Besides this, another resourcefulness known as "Unified Agriculture Markets" of Co-operation Department of Government of Karnataka was nominated under the group of 'Innovation in Public Service Management'. The initiative has also been awarded the inclusive Gold Award at Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management Awards, 2018.

More about CAPAM

- The Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management is a non-profit connotation representing an international network of more than 1100 senior public servants, Leaders of Government, leading academics and scientists situated in more than 50 different nations across the Commonwealth.
- The connotation is directed by international leaders who believe in the value of networking, knowledge exchange and the promotion of good supremacy for the betterment of inhabitants in the Commonwealth nations.
- It has been proclaiming its International Innovations Awards Program bi-annually, since 1998.

India Building World's Highest Railway Line between Delhi - Ladakh

India railways proclaimed its plan to link New Delhi and Ladakh by railway line that will operate along the India-China Border. The planned 'Bilaspur-Manali-Leh Line' would be the world's highest railway line once initiated.

Key Points

- The projected cost to build the 465 kilometres line will be Rupees 83,360 crores.
- The railway line will be the world's highest at 5,360m above mean sea level which is analogous to China's Qinghai-Tibet Railway Line at 2,000m.
- The project comprises of 74 tunnels, 124 major bridges, 396 minor bridges and 30 stations.
- Keylong station on the route will be built inside a tunnel at the height of 3000m which will be the first if its kind in India. Notably, above half the train route would be sheltered via tunnels, the longest of which is 27 kilometres.
- Whole length of the tunnels would be 244 kilometres.
- The route will connect key locations between Bilaspur and Leh including

Sundernagar, Mandi, Manali, Keylong, Koksar, Darcha, Upshi and Karu and various other towns of Himachal Pradesh and J&K.

- After the accomplishment, the rail line will halve the time taken to cover the distance between Delhi and Leh from the present 40 hours to 20 hours.
- In addition to delivering quick all-weather access to the armed forces, the railway line will also augment tourism in the Ladakh region which currently is linked by road and air.
- The Ladakh-Himachal Pradesh areas encounters heavy snowfall and the road and air connectivity.

Former Delhi CM Madan Lal Khurana passed away on - 27th October 2018

Former Delhi CM, Madan Lal Khurana, deceased on October 27th, 2018 after a continued illness. He was 82. The veteran Bhartiya Janta Party leader was suffering from a chest infection and fever since the last some days. He had ached with a brain haemorrhage around 5 years ago and was ailing since then. He is survived by his wife, a son and 2 daughters. His another son, had died last month. His last rites would be organised on October 29th. Delhi government on October 28th announced a 2 days state mourning as a mark of respect.

More about Madan Lal Khurana

- Madan Lal Khurana was born on October 15th, 1936 in Lyallpur, Punjab Province of then British India, which now is called as Faisalabad in Pakistan.
- Khurana was hardly 12 years old, when his family was pushed to migrate to Delhi after Partition and started to piece its life together again at a refugee colony Kirti Nagar, New Delhi.
- He completed his degree of bachelor's from Kirori Mal College, Delhi University. As a youth, Khurana became a teacher at PGDAV College evening department earlier deciding to join politics.

• Afterwards he along with Vijay Kumar Malhotra, Kedar Nath Sahani and Kanwar Lal Gupta started the Delhi chapter of the Jan Sangh, which in 1980 altered into Bhartiya Janta Party and kept the party afloat in New Delhi for above 4 decades from 1960-2000.

- Khurana was the Jan Sangh's general secretary from 1965-1967.



- He subjugated 1st Municipal Corporation politics and then the Metropolitan Council where he was the Chief Whip, Executive Councillor and Leader of the Opposition by shots.

- Bhartiya Janta Party suffered badly in 1984 general elections, which were organised after the death of Indira Gandhi. Khurana is attributed with reviving the party in the New Delhi. He served tirelessly and his efforts earned him the title of Dilli Ka Sher.

- He worked as the CM of Delhi from 1993-1996, after which he resigned within controversy.

- He also performed as the Union Minister of Parliamentary affairs and Tourism in the late PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government, before resigning in January 1999, due to a fallout with the senior leadership of the party.

- He also performed as the Governor of Rajasthan from January 2004-October 2004, after which he resigned to enter into politics again in Delhi after nearly half a dozen Members of Legislative Assembly from Delhi went up to him in Jaipur Raj Bhawan demanding him to return to active politics.

North East Festival and Experiencing the North East held on - 28th October 2018

The 6th edition of North East festival was held till October 28th, 2018 in New Delhi and the 15th edition of Indian International Centre festival is also planned to organise from 27th-31st October 2018.

Important feature of North East Festival

- Cultural presentations involving Bagrumba dance, Hozagir dance of Tripura, Bihu dance of Assam, Garo Wangla dance and Manipuri martial arts acts called Thang Ta.

- There was a fashion shows with traditional patterns and textiles.

- There was a presentation about organic food and vegetables cultivated in the region along with agriculture, horticulture and food processing stalls.

- About 150 craft stalls showcasing exotic handloom and handicrafts items of North-East region.

There were special performances by Nise Meruno, who is classical pianist and vocalist.

- The festival is a part of Destination North East Series being planned by North Eastern Council, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.

- The festival was planned by Indian International Centre as 15th anniversary of its annual festivals. The theme for present year is 'Experiencing the North East'.

- To display the richness of cultural heritage of North-East region, there was emphasis on presenting dance, music, theatre, exhibitions, and special cuisines to the invitees and visitors.

- There was an exhibition specially engrossed on Bamboo items.

- A literary programme known as 'These hills we come from'...Voices from North East also occurred concentrating on literature of the region.

- Some Films of the North-East region were also displayed in the festival.

Researchers develop web-based tool to monitor fake news on - Social media

Academics from the University of Michigan in the United States have established a web-based tool to monitor fake news on social media platforms including Twitter and Facebook.

The tool utilises a Platform Health Metric known as the "Iffy Quotient", which draws information from 2 external entities consisting NewsWhip and Media Bias/Fact Checker.

Important Highlights

- The NewsWhip is a social media engagement tracking organisation, which gathers URLs from number of sites every day and then collects information on, which of these sites have engagements on Facebook and Twitter.

- The Iffy Quotient queries NewsWhip for the leading 5000 most popular URLs on the 2 social media platforms.

- Then the tool checks to see if those domain names have been flagged by Media Bias/Fact Check, which is an autonomous site that categorizes various sources based on their reliability and bias.

- The tool splits the URLs into 3 categories based on the media bias and fact checklists including-

1. Iffy: If the site is on the Questionable Sources/Conspiracy lists

2. OK: If the site is on any other list, such as Left-Bias, Right-Bias or Satire

3. Unknown: If it is not on any list.

SBI to issue and encash electoral bonds soon by - The Government of India



The Government of India has informed the sale of electoral bond through State Bank of India via its 29 approved branches from 1/11/2018 to 10/11/2018. These State Bank of India branches are in cities including New Delhi, Gandhinagar, Chandigarh, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Mumbai, Jaipur, Lucknow, Chennai, Kolkata and Guwahati. The idea of electoral bond was started in Union Budget 2017. Later on, Electoral bond scheme 2018 was announced.

More about Electoral Bond

- An Electoral Bond is just similar to a promissory note that will be payable to carrier on demand and without any interest.

- It can be bought by an inhabitant of India or anyone incorporated in India.

Advantages of an Electoral bond

- It will enhance transparent political funding.
- It will protect donors from any harassment.
- It will have no disclosure of information to third parties.
- It will enhance achieving Digital India vision.
- It will facilitate bringing donations under tax preview.

Electoral Bonds Scheme 2018

- The scheme presented that a party recorded under the Representation of People's act, 1951 and securing not less than 1% of the votes polled in the preceding election is eligible to get the electoral bonds.

- Electoral Bonds may be bought by only inhabitants of India.

- These bonds can only be encashed by an entitled political party only via a bank account with the approved bank. Electoral Bonds are valid for 15 calendar days from the date of issue.

- If the Electoral Bond is deposited after validity expiry, no payment is transacted to any Political Party.

- The Electoral Bond dropped by an eligible Political Party in its account is transferred on the same day.

- The bonds are dispensed in multiples of 1000, 10000, One lakh, Ten lakh, One crore. The cash donation has been capped at Rupee 2000 and beyond that donations are via electoral bonds.

Arunachal Pradesh, British Council sign MoU for cultural, educational cooperation on - 27th October 2018

The state government of Arunachal Pradesh on October 27th, 2018 inked a MoU with the British Council to fortify educational and cultural assistance, in order to support the knowledge ambitions and economic growth of the state.

The MoU goals to improve the prospects for the youth of Arunachal Pradesh and link them to international proficiency and ideas. It was inked by Tayek Talom, Director of Higher and Technical Education of Arunachal Pradesh and Alan Gemmell, Director of British Council India, on the side-lines of the Tawang Festival. Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu also witnessed the occasion.

Important Provisions

- According to the necessities of the Memorandum of Understanding, as many as 50 faculty associates from government higher education institutions will be skilled by the British Council yearly, begining from December 2018.

- Among these, 30 faculty associates will be from government colleges, Ten from governmental polytechnic institutes, 8 from central institutions recognized in Arunachal Pradesh and Two from officers of the higher education administration.

- Besides this, 50 students of higher and technical education associations will be skilled by the British Council in English language skills every year.

- The MoU will also work for educating English communication of Arunachal Pradesh's civil servants.

- It will also benefit developing capacity-building initiatives in the Arunachal Pradesh and backing developments in the teaching mathematics and science and capacity-building programs for faculty and senior administrators of higher education institutions.

Far-right candidate Jair Bolsonaro wins Brazil's Presidential election on - 28th October 2018

Far-right candidate Jair Bolsonaro was announced as the Brazil's 2018 Presidential Elections winner on October 28th, 2018 with a great margin. Bolsonaro swept the election results with 55.1% of the votes casted, against 44.8% votes of his opponent, Fernando Haddad from the left-wing Workers' Party.



Jair Bolsonaro had also secured the 1st round of the elections in October among a field of Thirteen candidates, but he had fallen short of the 50% required to win and sidestep a runoff against Haddad. The clear victory of Bolsonaro now enlighten a rightward swing in the largest democracy of Latin America, which was administered by the left-wing party for past Thirteen years between 2003-2016.

More about Nothim Campaign

- Bolsonaro's augmented visibility encouraged a social media backlash called as #elenao, or #nothim, which got support throughout the nation as well as internationally.

- The right-winger was also compared to United States President Donald Trump and Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte, because of his misogynistic, racist and homophobic comments.

- Many named the presidential campaign of both Bolsonaro and Haddad as tremendously aggressive and division.

- Bolsonaro had campaigned on an ability to eliminate corruption and to drive down Brazil's increased crime levels. He will be sworn into his new position on January 1st, 2019.

More about Jair Bolsonaro

- 63 years old Jair Bolsonaro, is a retired army officer and member of the Social Liberal Party, that syndicates social conservatism and pro-market policies.

- Casting himself as a political outsider, Bolsonaro contended a campaign characterised by violent talk and far-right posts.

- He has in the earlier defended the killing of opponents to the nation's past military regime and said he is in favour of dictatorship 2 years ago he remarked that the dictatorship's mistake was 'to torture and not kill' leftist rebels, and during his campaign he sworn to send opponents 'into prison'.

Supreme Court prohibits plying of 15-year-old petrol, 10-year-old diesel vehicles in Delhi-NCR on - 29th October 2018

The Supreme Court on 29th October 2018 banned operating 15 years old petrol and 10 years old diesel motor vehicles in the Delhi-National Capital Region in an initiative to tackle the prevailing very critical and horrible pollution situation in Delhi- National Capital Region.

A bench comprising Justices Madan B Lokur,

S Abdul Nazeer and Deepak Gupta also simplified that these over aged petrol and diesel vehicles would be held, if found on roads in Delhi- National Capital Region.

The ruling

- The Supreme court instructed that a list of 15 years old petrol and 10 years old diesel vehicles will be issued on the website of the Central Pollution Control Board and transport departments of the National Capital Region area.

- The bench instructed the Central Pollution Control Board to instantly create a social media account on which residents could lodge their complaint about pollution straight, which will be acted upon by the task force accountable for implementation of the Graded Response Action Plan.

- It said a "meaningful advertisement shall be printed in a local newspaper for convenience of the owners of such vehicles.

- It allowable the court-mandated Environment Pollution Control Authority to accept preventive measures under the Graded Response Action Plan without stringent adherence to pollution stages defined in the plan.

- The Transport Departments of National Capital Region will instantly publicize that all the diesel vehicles above 10 years and petrol vehicles above 15 years shall not operate in National Capital Region in terms of the order of the National Green Tribunal dated April 7th, 2015 that was challenged in the court and the civil appeal was terminated.

Graded Response Action Plan

- The Graded Response Action Plan is focused at undertaking air pollution in Delhi-National Capital Region and contiguous areas and it is designed to take imperative corrective action, when air quality deteriorates.

- This Plan envisions to roll out a host of emergency measures like the closure of power units and schools. It also issues advisories asking people to avoid polluted areas and restrict outdoor movement.

India, Qatar establish joint commission to strengthen bilateral ties on - 29th October 2018

India and Qatar on 29th October 2018 recognized a joint commission to review all bilateral issues, as well as regional and global matters of mutual interest. A joint statement was released to this effect. The decision was granted after a meeting between Indian



External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Qatari Deputy PM and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, during former's visit to Qatar. Both the sides held comprehensive talks on bilateral ties and regional and international matters during the meeting.

Important Points

- India and Qatar have finalised to start a joint commission to reinforce the ties among the two nations in numerous fields with a view to further the common interests of their people.
- The commission will be charged with the following tasks:

1. Formulating the obligatory basis to fortify the ties among the two nations particularly in economic, commercial, cultural, scientific, technological, information technology and educational fields.
2. Follow-up the execution of the treaties concluded among the two nations.
3. Finding appropriate solutions for the resulting issues of the implementation.
4. Smoothing the exchange of data and proficiency and encouraging bilateral consultation in service of assistance among the two nations.

The commission will be co-chaired by the Ministers of External Affairs and Foreign Affairs of the both nations or their representatives and may consist representatives of the sectors related with bilateral assistance in both the nations.

Seychelles launches world's first sovereign Blue Bond on - 29th October 2018

The Republic of Seychelles launched the world's first Sovereign Blue Bond, a financial instrument designed to support sustainable marine and fisheries projects on 29th October 2018. This bond raised USD 15 million from international investors. The bond has demonstrated the potential for countries to harness capital markets to finance the sustainable use of marine resources.

AlongWith this, Seychelles has become the first nation to pioneer such a novel financing instrument.

Prime Minister Modi to unveil world's tallest statue - Statue of Unity

PM Narendra Modi will reveal the bronze statue of India's 1st deputy PM, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on October 31st, 2018 at

Kevadia in Gujarat's Narmada district. The "Statue of Unity" devoted to the 'Iron Man of India' has been built on a river island on the Narmada river in Kevadiya town.

Important Highlights

- The PM will initiate the structure on the eve of Sardar Patel's 143rd birthday, devoting the Statue of Unity to the nation.
- At 182m, the statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel will be the tallest statue in the world, exceptional the height of Spring Temple Buddha in China, which had formerly captured the record at 153m.
- The statue will be double the size of the Statue of Liberty in New York city in the USA.
- A inspecting gallery has been formed at a height of 135m, which can lodge 200 visitors at single time.
- It suggests a spectacular view of the Sardar Sarovar Dam.
- The enthusiasm ceremony shall include a flypast of Indian Air Force aircraft and performances of cultural troupes.
- The Surya Kiran of the Air Force will act aerobatics in the sky above the statue while spreading the colours of the Indian flag in the sky.
- Besides, cultural programs and folk-dance performances by artists from Gujarat, Punjab, Assam and Mizoram have also been prearranged.

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas 2018 observed to commemorate 143rd birth anniversary of Sardar Patel on - 31st October 2018

India celebrated Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, also called as National Unity Day, on October 31st, 2018 to memorialize the 143rd birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India.

On this occasion, PM Narendra Modi will bestow world's tallest "Statue of Unity" to the country at Kevadiya in Narmada district of Gujarat. The PM Modi would also release the "Wall of Unity", a wall created with the earth samples gathered from different states across the nation.

Activities planned for the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas 2018

- Various programmes are being organised by various Ministries, Public Sector Undertakings and organisations across the nation to observe the Day.
- The Central Armed Police Forces will actively take part in State-level and other field level events and will plan March pasts.



- A team of Jaguar fighter aircraft will also fly, and a team of MI-17 choppers will shower rose petals on the sculpture.

- The Ministry of Railways will plan pledge and March Past at its Zonal and Divisional HQs.

- Under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, numerous programmes including Run for Unity, pledge, floral tribute, competitions involving all citizens of Tier-I and Tier-II cities including SMART and AMRUT cities and towns will be planned.

- The National School of Drama will plan a special play on Sardar Patel. Cultural events and folk-dance performances by artists from Gujarat, Punjab, Assam and Mizoram have also been prearranged.

13th India-Japan Annual Summit organized on - 28th October 2018

The yearly bilateral India–Japan summit was organised on 28th and 29th October 2018 in Japan. The Indian PM visited Japan to participate in the summit. The partnership among the both nations has been transformed a lot and it has now become as a ‘special strategic and global partnership’.

Key Highlights

- Japan investors will capitalize approximately \$2.5 USD in India. Both sides decided for a 2+2 dialogue between our foreign ministers and defence ministers to further effort towards world peace.

- An ‘India-Japan Business Platform’ will be formed to augment the development of industrial corridors and industrial network in the area.

- The two nations will collaborate for the 1st time in the areas of traditional medicinal including Yoga and Ayurveda.

- This will ease a boost in the healthcare in both the nations.

- The two nations have settled to synchronize upon exchanging benefits of the Ayushman Bharat scheme and the Japanese healthcare program.

- There will be inauguration of talks on a ‘Military Logistics Pact’, the Acquisition and Cross Servicing MoU, between the both countries that will make sure the admission to each other’s military and naval bases.

- The both nations will work in collaboration to enhance access to education, health and other facilities to the people of the Indo-Pacific, including Africa.

- Japan-India Investment Promotion Roadmap improved the contribution of Japan in India’s Make in India initiative with institution of Business Support Centre in Ahmedabad.

CSIR developed Less Polluting Firecrackers named – SWAS, SAFAL and STAR

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research- CSIR researchers has formed less polluting green firecrackers termed as SWAS, SAFAL, STAR. Green crackers are so called because they do not have harmful air polluting chemicals.

Key Features

- SWAS describes safe water releaser, SAFAL denotes safe minimal aluminium and STAR denotes safe thermite cracker.

- These crackers are 15 to 20% cheaper than the traditional crackers.

- STAR eradicates use of Potassium nitrate and sulphur, whereas SAFAL has less use of aluminium as compared to salable crackers.

- The new crackers have been developed by Central Electrochemical Research Institute based in Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu and National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur.

- The firecrackers have an exceptional property of releasing water vapour. The scientists at Central Electrochemical Research Institute have produced green crackers by altering the chemical formulations for flower pots, “jilji” and utilised flower pots as a replacement for barium nitrate.

- The crackers will come in the market for sale following the sanction from nodal agency for safety requirements in manufacture, storage, transport of all types of explosives- Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organization.

- It compares the sound intensity of commercial crackers in the range of 105-110 decibels.

Gandhian Thought and Swachhata Seminar Organized in - Wardha

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has planned a seminar on Gandhian thoughts and Swachhata to make



India a Swacch Bharat by 2019 as 150th birth anniversary celebration of Mahatma Gandhi. It was being held in the Wardha district of Maharashtra with an aim on attainment of the goals of sanitation and Gandhian thoughts via Swacch Bharat Mission.

The themes for address in the seminar were suitable technologies in rural sanitation, organic waste management, and preventive sanitation. Gandhi's concept of 'Swachh evam Swawalambhi Sankul' was the main attention of the seminar. The seminar concluded with a visit to 'Sevagram Ashram' to attain experience from Gandhiji's life.

Important facts about Swacch Bharat Mission

- It is a programme initiated by Indian PM to make India Swacchh by 2019 which is the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

- Swachh Bharat Abhiyan was initiated on 2nd October 2014 with 2 submissions, including Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Gramin) and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Urban).

- The mission is jointly managed Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (Gramin) and the Ministry of Urban Development (Urban).

- The mission has mechanisms including Construction of Household Toilets, Community and Public Toilets, Solid Waste Management, Information, Education and Communication and Public Awareness, Capacity Building and Administrative and Office Expenses.

- It is a mass people's movement and the rural sanitation coverage having raised from 39 percent, at the launch of the Swachh Bharat Mission in 2014, to more than 95 percent till date.

Delhi Metro Pink Line from Trilokpuri Sanjay Lake - Shiv Vihar section opens for public on - 31st October 2018

The Trilokpuri Sanjay Lake to Shiv Vihar Delhi Metro Pink Line was inaugurated by Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia on October 31st, 2018.

With the inauguration of this 17.86 kilometres long section, Delhi Metro linked the league of leading metro networks worldwide which have a working length of more than 300 kilometres like those in London, Beijing, Shanghai and New York. Delhi Metro Network has now become 314 km long with 229 metro stations. Now onwards,

Delhi Metro will be operating 4,749 trips per day, which are the highest ever so far. **Highlights of the Trilokpuri Sanjay Lake - Shiv Vihar section (Pink Line)**

- The 17.86 kilometre long Shiv Vihar to Trilokpuri Sanjay Lake section is part of 59 kilometre long Majlis Park -Shiv Vihar corridor of Phase-III of the Delhi Metro, which is also known as the Pink Line.

- 3 interchange services at Welcome, With Red Line, Karkarduma and Anand Vihar Inter-State Bus Terminal will extremely improve the connectivity of areas including Shiv Vihar, Gokul Puri, Maujpur, Jaffrabad, etc.

- This extension will later get joined with the currently operational Majlis Park to Lajpat Nagar section of Pink Line.

- The Majlis Park to Shiv Vihar Corridor is crossing the current Vaishali-Dwarka elevated line 21m above the ground and is 10m above the present Metro line.

- This stretch will be a major boon for the eastern as well as northern zones of the National Capital.

Anupam Kher resigns as Chairman of Film and Television Institute of India on - 31st October 2018

Anupam Kher on October 31st, 2018 resigned as Chairman of the Film and Television Institute of India- FTII, citing international film and TV projects. Film and Television Institute of India is considered as a leading institute for training in Cinema and Television. It is an independent institute under the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and is funded by the Central Government.

It is located on the premises of the erstwhile Prabhat Film Company in Pune. Film and Television Institute of India is a member of the International Liaison Centre of Schools of Cinema and Television, which is an organisation of the world's leading schools of film and television. Anupam Kher took office as the Chairman of the admired organisation in October 2017. Erstwhile to Kher, Gajendra Chauhan was the Chairman of Film and Television Institute of India who left office in March 2017. Kher offered his resignation via a letter addressed to the Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore.

Reason behind this resignation



- When Kher was contacted for the position by Smriti Irani, who was the former Minister of Information and Broadcasting, kher had informed her of his promises with an international TV show, 'New Amsterdam'.

- As the show has now been stretched, he will be mandatory to be in the USA for approximately nine months between 2018-2019, and a similar period for another 3 years.

- Anupam Kher's 'New Amsterdam' show necessitates him to shoot in New York. The actor will portray the role of a neurosurgeon in the series that also stars Ryan Eggold, Janet Montgomery, Jocko Sims and Tyler Labine.

19th meeting of FSDC organised in - New Delhi

The 19th meeting of Financial Stability and Development Council- FSDC was organised in New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley. The meeting was witnessed by Reserve Bank of India's Governor Dr.Urjit R. Patel, SEBI chairman, IRDAI Chairman along with heads and other senior officers of Government and financial sector controllers.

Financial Stability and Development Council is super regulatory body for regulating financial subdivision which is vigorous for bringing healthy and efficient financial system in economy of the nation. It was initiated in 2010 by then Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee.

Important Highlights of Meeting

- It reviewed health of economy, both domestic as well as global, financial sector presentation and subjects due to rising oil prices. It also deliberated issue of real interest rate, present liquidity situation, including segmental liquidity position in NBFCs and mutual fund space.

- It also reviewed expansions regarding establishment of Cyber Security in Financial Sector and progress done towards initiation of Computer Emergency Response Team in the Financial Sector under Statutory Framework.

- It also considered on necessity for recognizing and securing critical information infrastructure in financial sector.

- It also pondered on matters and challenges of Crypto Assets and Currency. It was informed about deliberations of High-level Committee led by Secretary (Economic Affairs) to invent suitable legal framework to prohibit usage of private crypto currencies in India.

- It also deliberated market expansions and financial stability insinuations of usage of RegTech and SupTech by financial organizations and regulatory and supervisory authorities.

- It also debated implementation of guidelines of 'Sumit Bose Committee' on measures, including promoting suitable disclosure command for financial distribution costs.

First India-US Dialogue on Intellectual Property held in - New Delhi

The 1st ever India-United States Dialogue on Intellectual Property was initiated in New Delhi to extend bilateral strategic assistance on Intellectual Property policy. It was initiated by United States Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Center and Industry body Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce Industry in collaboration with United States-India Business Council. It will be organized yearly, alternating between New Delhi and Washington, DC.

India-US Dialogue on Intellectual Property

- The dialogue goals to recognize solutions and also share technical information and proficiency between both nations in Intellectual Property domain.

- It will deliver platform to specialists from both nations to develop tougher understanding of uniform Intellectual Property frameworks and create solutions in cooperative way.

- The deliberations under this dialogue comprised emphasis on joint opportunities and challenges associated to whole spectrum of Intellectual Property, including patent filing, regulatory landscape, copyright and violation, technology transfer, and enforcement.

- Its guidelines will be communal with both governments to strengthen strategic cooperation on Intellectual Property policy.

World Bank's Ease of Doing Business 2019 on - 31st October 2018

The World Bank on October 31st, 2018 published the Doing Business Report 2019 titled as "Doing Business 2019: Training for Reform", evaluating and ranking nations on the basis of ease of doing business in the year 2018.

According to the 2019 Report, India elevated 23 places on the Ease of Doing Business Index to 77th position, up from 100th position previous year. Present year, India's Distance



to Frontier score enhanced to 67.23 from 60.76 in the last year.

Important Findings of 2019 Doing Business Report

- Doing Business took note of record 314 governing reforms announced by 128 nations between June 2nd, 2017, and May 1st, 2018 for making it easier to perform business in all areas measured by Doing Business.

- The topmost 10 economies in the ease of doing business positions are New Zealand, Singapore, Denmark, Hong Kong SAR, Korea, Georgia, Norway, USA, UK and FYR Macedonia.

- The economies with the most prominent improvement in Doing Business 2019 are Afghanistan, Djibouti, China, Azerbaijan, India, Togo, Kenya, Cote d'Ivoire, Turkey & Rwanda.

- Around 1/3 of all business regulatory reforms verified by Doing Business 2019 were in the economies of Sub-Saharan Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa executed a sum of 107 reforms.

- Brazil, Russia, India and China, the BRICS economies, presented a sum of 21 reforms, with getting electricity and trading across borders the most common areas of improvement.

- Training chances for service providers and subscribers are positively linked with the ease of doing business score.

Who has been appointed Director General of Indo-Tibetan Border Police ? - SS Deswal

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has designated senior IPS officer S.S.Deswal as Director General of Indo-Tibetan Border Police- ITBP. He will succeed R.K.Pachnanda, who retired from office and shall be in office for period up to his retirement on August 31st, 2021. S.S.Deswal is 1984 batch IPS officer Haryana cadre. Earlier to this employment, he was Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal.

Indo-Tibetan Border Police

- Indo-Tibetan Border Police is one of 5 Central Armed Police Forces of India.

- It was elevated on 24th October 1962, under Central Reserve Police Force Act, in wake of 1962 Sino-Indian War.

- It was provided complete independence after Parliament ratified ITBPF Act, 1992. It

functions under command of Union Home Ministry. It is HQ in New Delhi.

- Its aim is Shaurya–Dridhata–Karm Nishtha as Valour – Steadfastness and Commitment. Presently, Indo-Tibetan Border Police is strong Central Armed Police Force of 90000 staff.

- Its chiefly guards the 3,488 kilometres long Indo-China border along Tibet Autonomous Region from Karakoram Pass in Ladakh to Jachep La in Arunachal Pradesh.

- It is dedicated mountain force and man's border outposts on heights ranging from 9000' to 18700' in Western, Middle and Eastern sectors of Indo-China Border.

- It is also involved in variation of internal security responsibilities including anti-naxal operations, disaster management, civil Medical Camp, nuclear, biological and chemical disasters and United Nations peacekeeping missions worldwide.

World Cities Day observed on - 31st October 2018

The World Cities Day was celebrated worldwide on 31st October 2018 and is celebrated annually to work together for intentional and sustainable urban life in the wake of speedy growth of population and problems.

Important Highlights

- The compliance of this day goals to encourage international community's interest in global urbanization, push forward cooperation among nations in meeting options and addressing challenges of urbanization, and donating to sustainable urban development worldwide.

- The global celebration of 2018 World Cities Day was observed in Liverpool, UK.

- 2018 Sub-theme is 'Building Sustainable and Resilient Cities'.

- It goals to highlight importance to support cities to become resilient and develop their capacity to absorb impact of hazards, protect and preserve human life and border damage to and destruction of public and private assets while continuing to deliver infrastructure and services after disaster.

Did you know?

The World Cities Day was recognized by UN General Assembly by approving resolution 68/239 in December 2013. This day was established in recognition of importance of



urban basic services as foundation for overall social and economic expansion. The 1st World Cities Day was observed in Shanghai, China on 31st October 2014 under sub-theme “Leading Urban Transformations”.