

TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCTOBER 2018

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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Kumar Tuhin (IFS:1991), presently High Commissioner of India to Namibia has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Hungary.
- ❖ Vikram Misri (IFS:1989), presently Ambassador of India to Myanmar has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the People's Republic of China.
- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurated the Conference on Academic Leadership on Education for Resurgence at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- ❖ Four-time Olympic gold medallist athlete Sanya Richards-Ross has been named as the event ambassador for the Delhi Half Marathon scheduled to be held on October 21.
- ❖ Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has launched Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) aimed at providing sustainable alternative towards affordable transportation.
 - The initiative was launched with PSU Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs i.e. IOC, BPCL and HPCL).
- ❖ All India Council for Technical Education will establish country's first AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy in Jaipur, capital of Rajasthan. Moreover, 3 more ATAL academies will come at Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), Guwahati (Assam) and Baroda (Gujarat) by 2019.
- ❖ Prime Minister has inaugurated the Sikkim's first ever Airport on Sep 24th, 2018 at Pakyong. The airport is India's 100th functional airport. It has to be noted that Sikkim was the only state in India until now, without a functional airport.
- ❖ The Supreme Court dismissed a petition seeking a declaration that a person cannot be permitted to perform the dual role of a lawyer and a legislator (MP/MLA) and ruled that it cannot restrict MPs and MLAs from practising law.
- ❖ Chennai Kamarajar Port has created a record by unloading 56,750-metric tonne consignment of sand imported from Malaysia through the Vessel, M.V. Aurelia within 48 hours.
- ❖ A statue of Tiruvalluvar has been unveiled at the Colombo Tamil Sangam.
- ❖ The Measles-Rubella Vaccination campaign was launched across Jammu district for children between 9 months to 15-year age group. The campaign marks the introduction of the rubella vaccine in [India's childhood immunisation programme for the first time](#).
- ❖ Nilgiris police have decided to promote traditional "Kurumba" painting. The police will adopt tribal villages in the forest areas along Kerala-Tamil Nadu border in Nilgiris to create an awareness about the dying 'art' form.

- ❖ The Haryana government has decided to institute Kalpana Chawla Haryana Solar Award, named after the India-born US astronaut, to encourage the participation of scientists in solar sector.
- ❖ **TRAI** (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India) is going to be **renamed** as **Digital Communications Regulatory Authority of India**.
- ❖ Seven district hospitals and six primary health centres in Tamil Nadu have won the National quality assurance award from the Centre for excellence in Health services of the State.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh Governor and Chief Minister inaugurated the "Lal Bahadur Shastri Smriti Bhavan Sangrahalay", a Memorial for the former PM Lal Bahadur Shastri at Ramnagar.
- ❖ The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has constituted the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) Society, nominating actor Kangna Ranaut, singer Anup Jalota, noted directors and producers Rajkumar Hirani and Vidhu Vinod Chopra, among others, as members.
 - Their nomination comes about a year after actor Anupam Kher was appointed as the chairman of FTII.
- ❖ Tribes India and TRIFED under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched "Punch Tantra Collection and Ms. Mary Kom as Brand Ambassador of Tribes India".
- ❖ Lok Manthan 2018, a 4-day National literary and intellectual conference, has been inaugurated by M Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President in Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- ❖ Germany won the race to host the 2024 European Championship after beating Turkey, the only other bidder for the mega event. Germany had last hosted the World cup in 2006.
- ❖ The Airports Authority of India (AAI) is planning to set up GBAS, a satellite-based system for helping planes approach the runway from any direction and to make the landing smoother at Chennai airport within two years.
- ❖ Urban Tree, a real estate company based in Chennai, has launched Swachh Chennai programme, as a part of its corporate social responsibility.
- ❖ Life of Pi Actor Adil Hussain has become the 10,000th visitor to Raj Nivas, Lieutenant governor Kiran Bedi's official residence in Puducherry. He is the mentor and brand ambassador of the ongoing Pondicherry International Film Festival.
 - Raj Nivas, one of the heritage building in the Union Territory, was allowed entry to the public from May 1, 2017.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has remodified its earlier decision and decided to establish the National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR) in Sehore District (Bhopal-Sehore highway) instead of Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

- NIMHR will be the first of its kind in the country in the area of mental health rehabilitation.
- ❖ According to recently released World Economic Forum (WEF) “Future of Work in India” report, companies in India experiencing highest growth prefer hiring men than women.
 - The report was prepared by WEF and Observer Research Foundation (ORF).
- ❖ Sable Avinash has created a new national record in men’s 3000 m steeplechase at the 58th National Open Athletics Championships held at Bhubaneswar. He broke the record of Gopal Saini set in 1981.
- ❖ Jayant Mammen Mathew, Executive Editor of Malayala Manorama, was elected as the president of the prestigious Indian Newspaper Society, an apex body of the country's print media industry.
 - He succeeds Akila Urankar of Business Standard.
- ❖ The ICICI Bank CEO and MD, Chanda Kochhar quit her position with immediate effect on October 4, 2018. Sandeep Bakhshi, who was appointed as the bank's COO in June 2018, has been named to succeed Kochhar as the bank’s new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.
 - He has been appointed for a period of five years until October 3, 2023.
- ❖ Senior diplomat Sanjay Verma has been appointed as India's Ambassador to Spain, who is presently Additional Secretary in the ministry of external affairs.
- ❖ Arindam Bagchi has been appointed as the next Indian Ambassador to the Republic of Croatia.
- ❖ India’s Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and the Russian Federation’s SIRIUS has recently signed a MoU to promote innovative cooperation between students of India and Russia.
- ❖ The National Stock Exchange’s (NSE) MD and CEO Vikram Limaye has been appointed as the chairman of the working committee and director on the board by the international industry body–World Federation of Exchanges (WFE).
 - The decision was taken at the global body’s 58th general assembly and annual meeting held at Athens, Greece.
- ❖ Justice Surya Kant, on 5th October, sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh high court. He was administered oath of office by Governor Acharya Devvrat.
- ❖ India Chem 2018, the 10th Biennial International Exhibition & Conference was held at Mumbai. It is the largest event of Chemicals and Petrochemical Industry in India, which was held from 4th to 6th October.
- ❖ Ramon Laguarta assumed the role of Chief Executive Officer (6th CEO) of global beverage giant PepsiCo, succeeding India-born Indra Nooyi who had helmed the American company for 12 years.

- She was appointed as CEO in 2006, becoming PepsiCo's 5th chief executive in its 41-year history, and the 1st woman.
- ❖ The First ever Regional Conference on 'Women in Detention and Access to Justice' was organised at Shimla by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), Ministry of Home Affairs in collaboration with the Himachal Pradesh Prison Department on October 4-5, 2018.
- ❖ Vadapalani police station in Chennai was recently conferred with the ISO certification for maintaining cleanliness and installation of various facilities in the station.
- ❖ According to Women and Child Development (WCD) ministry, the pilot project to test 'panic button' feature on mobile phones to ensure women safety has successfully completed its trial in Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Goa will be hosting the 36th National Games which will be held from March 30 to April 14, 2019.
- ❖ Vice president M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated Smart City Expo India-2018 in Jaipur.
- ❖ The Government constituted a seven-member ministerial panel headed by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi to examine modalities for revenue mobilisation in case of natural calamities and disasters.
- ❖ The Portuguese Environment Ministry and Goa Public Works Department (PWD) has signed a MoU for Water and Sewage Management.
- ❖ Teenage shooting star Manu Bhaker was named as the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for the 3rd Youth Olympic Games to be held in Buenos Aires from October 6-18.
- ❖ National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has partnered with Tata Steel Adventure Foundation (TSAF) and launched a month-long rafting expedition, which will be led by the first Indian woman to scale Mount Everest Ms. Bachendri Pal.
 - The expedition will start from Haridwar on October 5th 2018 and will conclude in Patna in Bihar.
- ❖ Rakesh Kumar took charge as the 36th Chairman and Managing Director of Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited.
- ❖ The International Cricket Council released the updated version of the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) System along with the new ICC Code of Conduct and ICC Playing Conditions.
 - It came into effect on 30 September when the first ODI between South Africa and Zimbabwe was played in Kimberley.
- ❖ Paytm registered over 137 million UPI transactions in September, becoming the leading contributor to Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments with over 33% of the overall market share.
- ❖ Gita Uplekar - The girl holding the lamp in the iconic painting 'Glow of Hope', also known as the Woman with the Lamp, has died at 102.

- ❖ Assam on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi unfurled the India's third highest national flag and tallest from the average city elevation. The 319.5 feet flag pole is the highest in the country with respect to the average elevation of the city.
- ❖ Google will shut down the consumer version of its failed social network 'Google+'.
- ❖ Sunil Bhaskaran has been selected as the new Chief Executive and Managing Director at Air Asia India.
 - Air Asia is jointly owned by Tata Group and AirAsia Berhad of Malaysia.
- ❖ Kirloskar Systems executive director and CEO Manasi Kirloskar has been appointed as the first United Nations in India Young Business Champion for sustainable development goals (SDGs).
- ❖ Cyclone 'Titli', which means butterfly in Hindi, categorised as a "very severe cyclonic storm", has left behind massive destruction in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.
- ❖ India and Australia held their 2nd edition of '2+2' secretary-level dialogue in Canberra.
- ❖ The 29th Accountants General conference was inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind in New Delhi. The two-day conference is being organised by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.
- ❖ Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and World Bank have jointly released report on Strengthening Forest Fire Management in the Country.
 - It discusses policies on forest fire prevention and management (FFPM) at national, state and local levels.
- ❖ The Vision Award 2018 of the FAO was conferred upon the TEEBAgriFood, an initiative of "The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity" (TEEB) by UN Environment.
 - TEEBAgriFood developed a comprehensive evaluation framework for food systems to value food more accurately.
- ❖ The country's first India-Israel Innovation Centre (IIIC), an entrepreneurial technology hub, was launched in Bengaluru. The IIIC is a significant step towards facilitating penetration of Israeli companies in India.
- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has signed an MoU with the Central University of Jammu (CUJ) in Jammu for setting up of the Satish Dhawan Center for Space Science in the University
 - This is the first of its kind institute coming up in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Delhi government signed a twin-city agreement with the government of Moscow for cooperation in various fields like environment, culture and education, for the next 3 years.

- ❖ The 6th Interregional Ministerial Meeting of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) was held in Singapore.
- ❖ Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Dr Shekhar Mande as the Director General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Secretary of the Department of Scientific and Research (DSIR).
 - He will succeed Girish Sahni who superannuated in August 2018.
- ❖ The 46th edition of world's largest IHGF-Delhi Fair was held at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida. The IHGF fair is held biannually and is organised by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts.
- ❖ The 13th Convention of Central Information Commission was held in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind.
- ❖ India and Azerbaijan have signed protocol on trade and economic, science and technology cooperation. It was signed at 5th meeting of India-Azerbaijan Inter-Governmental Commission held at New Delhi.
- ❖ Prime Minister has unveiled a 64-foot-tall statue of peasant leader Sir Chhotu Ram at his native village Sampla in Rohtak district of Haryana. The statue has been sculpted by renowned sculptor and Padma Bhushan-recipient Ram Vanji Sutar.
- ❖ The Oxford English Dictionary (OED) has officially added word 'Idiocracy' in it. It is among 1,400 new words, senses, and phrases added to the latest update of OED. OED also added term 'trapo'.
 - Idiocracy - society consisting of or governed by people characterized as idiots or government formed of people considered stupid, ignorant/idiotic.
 - Trapo - politician perceived as belonging to conventional and corrupt ruling class.
- ❖ The India International Silk Fair (IISF-2018) has been inaugurated by Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
- ❖ Priyank Kanoongo has been appointed as the new Chairperson of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) for a period of 3 years. He replaces Stuti Kacker's, whose tenure ended recently.
 - The NCPCR is a statutory body, which was set up by an Act of Parliament in 2007 under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005.
- ❖ India and China have launched their first joint programme for Afghanistan to train its diplomats under the aegis of the Trilateral Cooperation between India, China and Afghanistan.
- ❖ Tracey Crouch, the world's first minister for loneliness appointed by the UK government this year, is set to launch her first anti-loneliness strategy to combat the scourge of isolation.

- ❖ Nimesh Shah, MD and CEO of ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund, has been elected as Chairman of trade body, Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI). Shah has replaced A Balasubramanian, CEO of Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund.
- ❖ Vice President has released a biography, titled 'Building a Legacy', of late Anumolu Ramakrishna, a pioneer in the application of innovative systems and construction techniques in the Indian construction sector.
 - It is authored by Chartered Accountant V Pattabhi Ram.
- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has approved a proposal to rename the historic city of Allahabad as Prayagraj. The new name derives from a place in the city called Prayag, where three rivers flowing across the state meet.
- ❖ The Indo- Mexican pair, Leander Paes and Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela has won the Santo Domingo Open trophy held at Dominican Republic.
- ❖ Microsoft Corporation's co-founder Paul Allen died at the age of 65.
- ❖ HMD Global has appointed Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt as the 'face of Nokia phones' in India.
 - HMD Global, designs and sells phones under the Nokia brand.
- ❖ Germany headquartered digital consumer lending platform Kreditech has received a licence from the Reserve Bank of India to operate as a Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) in India.
- ❖ After resignation of Chanda Kochhar, RBI has approved Sandeep Bakshi's appointment as Managing Director and CEO of ICICI Bank for three years.
- ❖ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman dedicated a DRDO website themed 'The Kalam Vision – Dare to Dream' to former president and 'Missile Man' Dr APJ Abdul Kalam on his 87th birth anniversary (15th October 2018).
- ❖ Virat Kohli overtook Pakistan captain Misbah ul Haq to become the highest scoring Test captain from Asia.
- ❖ After Switzerland, India has also signed an agreement with Liechtenstein for Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information to access information related to black money deposited in the banks.
- ❖ The governments of Germany and the UK, with support from the World Bank launched a new Global Risk Financing Facility (GRiF) to support vulnerable countries to climate and disaster shocks.
- ❖ Social Entrepreneur Suheil F. Tandon has won the International Olympic Committee's Sport and Active Society Commission's Grant Award for his contribution to sports for development.
 - Suheil is the founder of Pro Sport Development (PSD) and Executive Director of Martha Farrell Foundation.
- ❖ Nokia and the government-owned telecom operator BSNL announced to work together to leverage 4G LTE technology for enabling greater operational

efficiency at Nokia's Chennai plant and prepare it for the 5G era with smart manufacturing.

- ❖ The **Nilgiris district** has won the **JRD Tata Memorial Award** for the best implementation of government programmes in hygiene, drinking water, sanitation, child health, reproductive health and women empowerment.
 - The award was instituted in **1997 by the Population Foundation** of India to honour the best performing state and districts.
- ❖ Former Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand Chief Minister Narayan Dutt Tiwari passed away in New Delhi. He was 93-year-old. He is only Politician who has served as CM of two states.
 - He was three-time CM of Uttar Pradesh and was the first elected CM of Uttarakhand as well. The Birth date and Death date is same for him (October 18).
- ❖ Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun has signed two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) to launch 'Prakriti' programme.
 - The two MoUs have been signed for a period of 10 years.
- ❖ Digital security company Gemalto released the latest findings of the Breach Level Index, a global database of public data breaches, which ranked India at 2nd place next to US in terms of Data breach.
- ❖ The 7th edition of Hand-in-Hand (HIH) combat military drill between India and China to resume in December in the Chengdu region of China. The annual exercise was cancelled after the Doklam stand-off in 2017.
- ❖ Congress leader Shashi Tharoor introduced his new book "The Paradoxical Prime Minister" and a 29-letter word "floccinaucinihilipilification".
 - The word "floccinaucinihilipilification" means "The action or habit of estimating something as worthless."
- ❖ K Jennitha Anto (Tamilandu) won the gold medal in women's individual rapid P1 chess event by defeating Manurung Roslinda of Indonesia in the recently concluded Para Asian games 2018.
- ❖ The Vice President of India has recently released an autobiography 'Enadhu Porattam' on Mylapore Ponnusamy Sivagnanam (Ma.Po.Si) in Chennai. Mylapore Ponnusamy Sivagnanam was fondly called as Ma.Po.Si and Silambu Selvar.
- ❖ Stephen Hawking's final book "Brief Answers to the Big Questions" has been launched posthumously.
- ❖ The Prime Minister chaired the sixth meeting of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Prime Minister inaugurated and dedicated National Police Memorial (NPM) to nation in New Delhi on the occasion of National Police Commemoration Day (Observed on October 21).

- ❖ Indian-American Minal Patel Davis was honoured with Presidential Medal for Combating Human Trafficking'. She was presented with award by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for her extraordinary contribution towards combating human trafficking.
 - It is US's highest honour in this field.
- ❖ The seventh meeting of education ministers of member states of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held in Astana, capital city of Kazakhstan.
- ❖ Actor-turned-politician Kamal Hassan inaugurated a mobile app called Roudram created by a student named Sudha to empower women. Roudram app aims at giving women assistance in times of emergency.
- ❖ Veteran commentator and cricket statistician Vijayan Bala have come up with his new book "Indian Sports: Conversations and Reflections", a compilation of interviews of eminent sportspersons he has conducted since 1971.
- ❖ India, Japan and the U.S. are set to elevate the bilateral 'Cope India' air exercise to a trilateral format. The three countries already conduct naval war games under the expanded Malabar naval exercise.
- ❖ Paytm has launched a QR code-based smartphone payment service called PayPay in Japan, in a joint venture with SoftBank Corporation and Yahoo Japan Corporation.
 - With this launch, Yahoo Japan will terminate "Yahoo! Wallet"—its current smartphone settlement function.
- ❖ The Board of Directors of The Hindu Publishing Group unanimously appointed Suresh Nambath as Editor of The Hindu with effect from March 1, 2019. He will succeed Mukund Padmanabhan.
- ❖ Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has appointed former State Bank of India (SBI) chairman Arundhati Bhattacharya as an independent director of the company for a period of five years.
 - After Nita Ambani, Bhattacharya is the second woman director on the board of Reliance Industries.
- ❖ The 5th edition of the Women of India Organic Festival will be held from October 26 to November 4 at New Delhi. It is being organised by the Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry to promote women organic farmers and entrepreneurs.
- ❖ The 8th edition of the European Congress on SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) was held at Katowice, Poland with theme "Business-Self-Government Together for Economy".
 - Ms. Alka Arora (Joint Secretary in Ministry of MSME) is leading the delegation of 32 Indian SMEs.
- ❖ Senior Uttarakhand high court judge Vijay Kumar Bisht has been appointed as the new Chief Justice of Sikkim high court.

- ❖ PNB MetLife, a private life insurer, has gone live with an Artificial Intelligence-powered customer service app 'Khushi', which aims to aid policyholders for their insurance-related queries.
- ❖ According to data from the U.S. Department of Labour, Tata Consultancy Services is the only Indian company among top 10 firms to get foreign labour certification for the H-1B visas for the fiscal year 2018.
- ❖ The 2018 WETEX (Water, Energy, Technology, and Environment Exhibition) has started at the Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Dubai.
- ❖ The 15th edition of International Dance Festival "Udbhav Utsav 2018" was held in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The Government of India (GoI) has recently constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to examine the existing legal and institutional frameworks for dealing with the matters of sexual harassment of women at the workplace.
 - It will be chaired by the Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh.
- ❖ The President of India inaugurated the International Arya Maha Sammelan – 2018 in Delhi.
- ❖ The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the 10th Nuclear Energy Conclave in New Delhi on the theme: 'Nuclear Power- Towards a Clean & Base Load Energy'.
 - It was organized by the Indian Energy Forum (IEF).
- ❖ NASA scientists have devised a new set of 21 modern gamma-ray constellations and named them after fictional characters such as the Hulk and Godzilla. The names also include famous landmarks, such as Sweden's recovered warship Vasa, the Washington Monument and Mount Fuji in Japan.
- ❖ Saurabh Kumar was appointed the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Union of Myanmar. At present, he is the Ambassador of India to Iran. He will succeed Vikram Misri.
- ❖ Satish Kumar Gupta was appointed managing director and CEO of Paytm Payments Bank. He replaces Renu Satti.
- ❖ The Haryana Government has introduced the 'Pashu Sanjeevni Sewa' scheme to provide free of cost health care services to livestock in the state through mobile veterinary clinics.
- ❖ Former Prime Minister, HD Deve Gowda was conferred with Maharshi Valmiki Jayanti Award, on the occasion of Valmiki Jayanti (24 October), in Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
 - He is awarded for his contributions to the welfare of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes communities.
- ❖ K N Radhakrishnan has been appointed as Director and CEO at TVS Motors - for a period of five years commencing starting 23rd October, 2018.

- ❖ The Global Agriculture Leadership Summit 2018 opened in New Delhi. The theme of the 2-day summit is, 'Connecting Farmers to Market'.
- ❖ The Prime Minister inaugurated the 36th Indian Carpets Expo at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The United States Navy (USN) P-8A Poseidon Aircraft, along with the Indian Navy's P-8i airplane participated in 2-day anti-submarine conflict exercises at INS Hansa (Indian Naval Air Station) at Panaji, Goa.
 - This is the maiden visit of the P-8A Poseidon to INS Hansa.
- ❖ India will be among the top 3 aviation market by 2024 according to International Air Transport Association (IATA) in its 20th year air passenger forecast report. India is currently at 7th position in the Global Aviation market.
- ❖ Wipro announced appointment of former State Bank of India chairman Arundhati Bhattacharya as an independent director. Her term will begin from January 1, 2019. The tenure of her term is for a period of 5 years.
 - She recently also joined Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) as an independent director.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has created a national record by opening over 16 lakh postal savings accounts under the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana.
- ❖ Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) organized a day-long conference on Innovation in Cyberspace, Cyber Security – Challenges and Innovations, held in DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi.
- ❖ As a part of the country's first container movement on inland vessel post-independence in the Inland Waterways sector, the IWAI (Inland Waterways Authority of India) would transport a PepsiCo India cargo from Kolkata to Varanasi on river Ganga (National Waterway-1).
- ❖ Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the first Mega Food Park of Gujarat - The Gujarat Agro Mega Food Park, in Surat, Gujarat.

TAMILNADU

Swachhata Ranking Awards 2018

- ❖ The Union Human Resource Development Minister conferred Swachhata Ranking Awards 2018 for higher educational institutions in New Delhi.
- ❖ Best 51 higher educational institutions have been selected for Swachhata Ranking Awards in 8 different categories.



- ❖ Tamil Nadu has 18 institutions in the rankings and dominated in the national level for the second year in a row.
- ❖ Among the 8 categories, Tamil Nadu institutions bagged the top position in 4 categories and these include,
 - Residential technical university (Amritha Vishva Vidyapeetam, Coimbatore)
 - Residential technical college (Panimalar Engineering College, Chennai)
 - Non-residential college (Sri Parasakthi College of Education for Women, Tirunelveli)
 - Non-residential technical college (Easwari College of Engineering, Chennai)
- ❖ PSG college of Arts and science was ranked 2nd in the residential college category
- ❖ IIT Madras got the 8th place in the technical institution/universities (residential) category.
- ❖ Under Residential technical college category, 4 Tamil Nadu colleges figured in the top 6.

Dr. A Edwin Joe Committee Report

- ❖ The two-member committee under Dr A Edwin Joe, Director of Medical Education, submitted its report to health secretary, J Radhakrishnan.
- ❖ The committee has been appointed by the state health department to investigate the organ transplant racket.
- ❖ The committee suggests 3 separate “Waitlists” for patients awaiting organ transplants
 - Patients within Tamil Nadu
 - Patients from other states
 - Patients from abroad

TN signs MoU with ACT

- ❖ Tamil Nadu school education department has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with ACT Fibernet, a private internet service provider, to provide free internet services to 100 public libraries.
- ❖ ACT will be using its corporate social responsibility (CSR) fund to provide free internet to libraries in Chennai, Coimbatore, Tiruvallur and Kancheepuram for a period of 5 years.

Best State in Rural development

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has won the award for the Best State in Rural development at the 6th Edition of the ET (Economic Times) Rural Strategy Summit 2018, held at New Delhi.
- ❖ The award was received by S P Velumani, Minister for Municipal Administration and Rural Development.

World UAV Medical Express Challenge 2018

- ❖ South Indian actor Ajith's team, Dhaksha, has won the second place in the Challenge held at Queensland in Australia.
- ❖ Actor Ajith was appointed as the UAV System Adviser and Test Pilot by Madras Institute of Technology (MIT), Chennai.
- ❖ The Dhaksha (UAV) Team, Centre for Aerospace Research, Anna University was conferred with the Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam Award for the year 2018.
- ❖ They have been awarded for developing three Unmanned Aerial Vehicle systems to be used by various government departments.

Periyar University to offer courses in VR & AR

- ❖ Periyar University is going to offer the courses in Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) for the first time in the entire country.
- ❖ The courses are designed based on the MoU between Periyar University with a technical collaborator, Scopik Edu Services, Chennai.

Sahyog HOP TAC -2018

- ❖ The maiden joint exercise of Coast Guards of India and Vietnam "Sahyog HOP TAC -2018" was held in the Bay of Bengal off the Chennai coast, Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ It was aimed at strengthening the working level relationship between coast guards of both navies.
- ❖ From Indian side, Coast Guard ships Shaurya, Arnvesh and inreceptor boat C-431 along with Dornier aircraft and Chetak helicopter participated in the joint exercise.
- ❖ It also saw participation of Sagar Manjusa vessel of National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT).

NBE Scroll of Honour for Teaching Institutions

- ❖ 19th Convocation of the National Board of Examinations held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.
- ❖ The Southern Railway Headquarters Hospital at Perambur was conferred with a shield and citation under “NBE Scroll of Honour for Teaching Institutions” category for the year 2014.
- ❖ It was awarded by the National Board of Examinations for its outstanding commitment towards preserving the highest standards in higher medical education, clinical research and training.

Compensation scheme for sexual assault/acid attack victims

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has released a new Compensation Scheme for Women Victims/Survivors of Sexual Assault/Other Crimes based on the Supreme Court Verdict.
- ❖ The Scheme was announced based on the Supreme Court verdict given in the Nipun Saxena v Union of India case.
- ❖ By this, persons related to the victim can get the compensation as per the report from State Legal Services Authority and District Legal Services Authority.

Fingerprint Analysis and Criminal Tracing System

- ❖ A new Fingerprint ID system, FACTS 7.0 (Fingerprint Analysis and Criminal Tracing System)”, has been Installed at all the district headquarters and police Commissionerate of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ FACTS 7.0, developed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been in use, since October 4, 2018.
- ❖ It will be linked with the state crime records bureau’s (SCRB) data base in Chennai.

Puratchi Thalaivar Dr.MGR Bus Stand

- ❖ The Chennai Mofussil Bus Terminus (CMBT) at Koyambedu was renamed as 'Puratchi Thalaivar Dr.MGR Bus Stand'.



- ❖ This change came into effect from October 10, 2018.

New buses – Tamilnadu

- ❖ Tamilnadu Chief Minister flagged off 471 new buses at a simple function held at the Secretariat on October 10, 2018.
- ❖ Eight semi-sleeper buses with attached toilet buses will be introduced in the Chennai-Karur-Coimbatore, Chennai-Salem, Chennai-Trichy and Chennai-Thanjavur routes.



- ❖ He also declared open the Madhavaram suburban bus terminus constructed by Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority, through the video-conferencing facility.

Thamirabarani Maha Pushkaram

- ❖ Thamirabarani Maha Pushkaram has begun on Oct 11, 2018 at Papanasam in Tirunelveli district and it will be observed till October 23.
- ❖ The event was last organised in 1864 on the Thamirabarani river course.

- ❖ The Pushkaram is being organised once in every 12 years for the 12 zodiac signs.
- ❖ Since the pushkaram is being organized after 144 years (after completion of 12 zodiac cycles) it is called a maha pushkaram.

Smart identity cards

- ❖ Government Higher Secondary School in Porur has become the first government funded school in the state to issue smart identity cards to its students.
- ❖ The Government implemented this project in association with the firm, Brigantia.
- ❖ The project involves two major components
 - A Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) scanner and
 - ID cards fitted with microchips.
- ❖ The cards will help monitor the entry/ exit of students, and alert the headmaster and parents if students try to bunk classes.

Dr. Mohan Dharia Rashtranirman Puraskar award

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Governor presented the late Dr. Mohan Dharia Rashtranirman Puraskar award on agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan at Raj Bhavan.
- ❖ M.S. Swaminathan announced that the 1 lakh prize money associated with the award would be used to institute another award called Dr. Mohan Dharia Award for Coastal Ecological Security.
- ❖ It will be given to a lady scholar studying at the University of Mumbai in the field of Life Science, with attention to the conservation of mangroves along the Maharashtra Coast.

IIT-Madras and TN E-Governance Agency - MoU

- ❖ IIT-Madras will collaborate with Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA) to enhance data-driven governance.
- ❖ Through this engagement, the Robert Bosch Centre for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (RBC DSAI) at IIT-Madras has agreed to support the State government on various data science and ICT-related challenges.
- ❖ TNeGA is the State nodal agency under the IT department to support and drive all e-governance initiatives of the State government while RBC DSAI is an inter-disciplinary centre for research in AI.

5th World Tamils Economic Conference

- ❖ Puducherry CM along with Guyana PM has recently inaugurated the 5th World Tamils Economic Conference at Puducherry along with Pondicherry Global Economic Summit 2018.
- ❖ It was organized by World Tamils Economic Foundation and Madras Development Society with the support of Durban-Indian community.
- ❖ The last conference was held at Durban in South Africa.

Recital of Desika Prabandam banned

- ❖ The Madras high court has made it clear that there shall be no recital/chanting of Tamil Prabandam of Acharya Vedanta Desika at Sri Devarajaswamy temple in Kancheepuram until further orders.



- ❖ The issue aroused out of difference between Vadakalai and Tenkalai of Iyengar community, but the issue is yet to attain finality.

Pneumatic Tube Systems – Tamilnadu

- ❖ The Institute of Child Health (ICH) and Hospital for Children, Egmore and Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGGH) will soon establish “seamless laboratories” comprising pneumatic tube systems and automated processing of samples.
- ❖ The samples reception will be through the pneumatic tube system and there will be no manual carrying of samples within the campus.
- ❖ A prototype of the pneumatic system is getting installed at ICH, and will be launched on November 14, on the occasion of its golden jubilee celebrations.

Global Investors Meet – Tamilnadu and Australia

- ❖ The Australian government will engage actively with Tamil Nadu at the upcoming Global Investors Meet 2019, to pursue opportunities in education, road safety technology, urban infrastructure, fisheries and agricultural business.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu would be one of the priority States for increased Australian engagement.
- ❖ Currently, there are 83 active MoUs between Australian universities and educational institutions in Tamil Nadu.

Solar Park - Trichy

- ❖ Trichy Corporation has managed to obtain both administrative and technical approvals for establishing a 2.5 megawatt (MW) solar park under smart cities mission to generate electricity from sunlight.
- ❖ Panchapur has been chosen as apt location.
- ❖ The civic body has planned to join hands with Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO) for supplying the electricity generated through the solar park to a public grid.

12th Century stone inscription

- ❖ A stone inscription dating back to the 12th century AD has been found during an explorative study in Kailasanatha temple in Uttamasili.
- ❖ Uttamasili is a remote village near Trichy.
- ❖ The stone inscription has a miniature version of goddess Mahishasura mardhini.



- ❖ An icon of lord Narasimha in yohasana along with his consorts seated on a rectangular bench-like pedestal was found in the temple.
- ❖ A team from Dr M Rajamanikkanar Centre for Historical found a partially damaged inscription of Vikrama Chola.

- ❖ Vikrama Chola is the son of Kulottunga-I who had established Chalukya Chola dynasty in Tamil Nadu

Praveen Chitravel

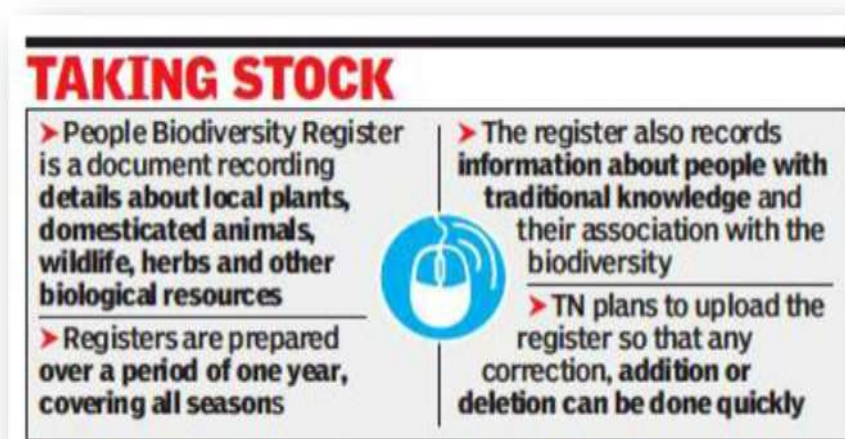
- ❖ Praveen Chitravel, a farm labourer's son from Tamil Nadu, clinched a bronze medal in the men's triple jump in the Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires.
- ❖ It gave India its second medal in the track and field events.
- ❖ Praveen Chitravel is son of a farm labour from Thanjavur.
- ❖ Praveen was trained by Indira Suresh, an athletics coach at the Centre of Excellence for Boys in Chennai under Sports Development Authority of India.

e-Visa on arrival – Madurai Airport

- ❖ e-Visa on arrival facility has been introduced at Madurai International Airport.
- ❖ Madurai airport is the fourth airport in Tamil Nadu and 26th in the country to get such a facility.
- ❖ Earlier, the visitors had to go to the Indian high commission in their respective countries to get the work done.
- ❖ Visitors now can apply online, minimum of four days and a maximum of 120 days before the trip.

PBR – Tamilnadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu plans to make available the People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR) online.



TAKING STOCK

- People Biodiversity Register is a document recording details about local plants, domesticated animals, wildlife, herbs and other biological resources
- Registers are prepared over a period of one year, covering all seasons
- The register also records information about people with traditional knowledge and their association with the biodiversity
- TN plans to upload the register so that any correction, addition or deletion can be done quickly

- ❖ It is an effort to protect its natural resources as well as traditional knowledge of its people.
- ❖ It will be the first in the country to make the inventory of valuable natural resources online.
- ❖ Making an inventory of animals and plants is mandated by the National Biological Diversity Act of 2002.
- ❖ The register apart from covering plants, herbs and wildlife, also covers cropland, fruit plants, fodder crops, people's scape, landscapes and waterscapes.

C-FLOWS

- ❖ National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) has invented Chennai Flood Warning System (C-FLOWS) to estimate & predict flooding within Chennai.
- ❖ It is a six-module ensemble which can predict flooding due to heavy rainfall sea-level rise and increase in water levels of the three rivers,
 - Cooum,
 - Adyar and
 - Kosasthalaiyar
 that traverse the Chennai city.
- ❖ The State government shared data such as ward boundaries, population details, and infrastructure available across Tamil Nadu, which have been used in the warning system.
- ❖ C-FLOWS will also be integrated with TN-SMART.



‘Tutor 365’

- ❖ A New e-learning analytical software named ‘Tutor 365’ was launched for students of government schools in Trichy by Its Chief Educational Officer.
- ❖ It helps the students to prepare for the board exams in Class XI and XII.
- ❖ It is created by a company called ‘Ebek’.

Tamil Nadu forms panel to pre-empt disaster

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has set up a ten-member sub-committee led by the public works department secretary.
- ❖ The committee has been formed to maintain high level of preparedness to pre-empt a disaster involving Mullaperiyar dam.
- ❖ The Theni collector (in whose jurisdiction the dam falls) is the vice chairman of the committee.
- ❖ It is the fourth committee set up for the dam’s safety. The committee will be headquartered in Theni.
- ❖ The Supreme Court committee led by Justice A S Anand had earlier certified that the dam was safe in all parameters in May 2014.

New WIM - Rakshitta Ravi

- ❖ Rakshitta Ravi has become the India’s latest WIM (Woman International Master) at the age of 13 years, 6 months and 3 days.
- ❖ She achieved this feat after bagging her third and final norm at the 22nd Hoogeveen Open chess tournament in Netherlands.

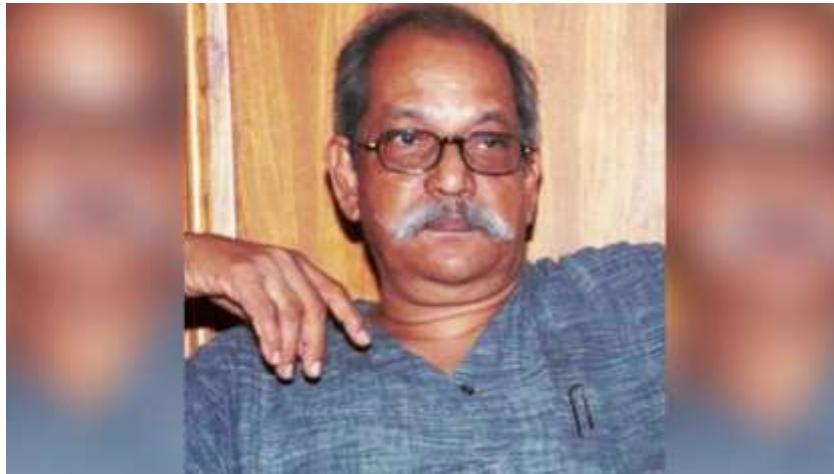
TN-SMART

- ❖ The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu launched a new initiative of Revenue and Disaster Management Department - Tamil Nadu System for Multi-Hazard Potential Impact Assessment and Emergency Response Tracking (TN-SMART) for use during the approaching of the northeast monsoon.
- ❖ This system will enable to get forecast for areas that will be inundated for a given amount of rainfall forecast and will help District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) to plan an appropriate response measures to prevent loss of lives and damage to movable assets during disasters, monsoon and drought periods.
- ❖ The TN-SMART has been developed in collaboration with the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES)

an inter-governmental organisation registered with United Nations, based in Thailand.

Na Muthusamy passed away

- ❖ Na Muthuswamy, the famous playwright and founder of the prominent theatre group, Koothu-P-Pattarai, passed away in Chennai.
- ❖ He died on 24 October 2018 at the age of 82.
- ❖ Muthuswamy, born in Tanjai, founded Koothu-p-pattarai in 1977 with a focus on training actors for his plays.



- ❖ Considered the first modern Tamil playwright, he gained prominence after staging the play, "Kaalam Kaalamaga".
- ❖ Muthuswamy was awarded the Padma Shri in 2012 and the Sangit Natak Akademi Award in 1999.
- ❖ Between 2000 and 2007, Koothu-p-pattarai was identified by UNESCO as one among the five learning centres for theatre.

NATIONAL

Air Safety Oversight Score

- ❖ A report on "Air Safety Oversight Score" was recently released by International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).
- ❖ It seeks to identify if countries have effectively and consistently implemented the critical elements of a safety-oversight system.
- ❖ India has slipped below its previous ranking of 66% to 57% and is one of the 15 countries that are below the minimum target rates.

- ❖ India's score is lower than that of Myanmar, Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and even North Korea in the Asia-Pacific region.
- ❖ The only countries that rank below India are small and little known such as Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu and Samoa.
- ❖ A downgrade would mean Indian airlines won't be able to mount new flights to the US or form alliances with US airlines.
- ❖ This can stifle Indian carriers' plans of global expansion.

Largest pictorial warning on cigarette packs

- ❖ India was ranked 5th among 206 countries in the Cigarette Package Health Warnings: International Status Report 2018 released by Canadian Cancer Society.
- ❖ India secured the 5th rank jointly with Hong Kong and Thailand for 85% warnings.
- ❖ The ranking of the countries was in terms of largest pictorial warning on cigarette packs.
- ❖ In India, 85% of both sides of cigarette packets are covered with warnings.
- ❖ In 2018 report, Timor-Leste has the largest warnings on cigarette packages in the world with 92.5% on front and back.
- ❖ It was followed by Nepal and Vanuatu with 90% and New Zealand at fourth with 87.5%.
- ❖ It was released in Geneva at 8th session of Conference of Parties to WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).

Karnataka Good Samaritan Protection Bill, 2016

- ❖ President has given assent Karnataka Good Samaritan and Medical Professional (Protection and Regulation during Emergency Situations) Bill, 2016 under Article 200 of the Constitution.
- ❖ With this, Karnataka became the 1st state to give legal protection to good Samaritans who help accidents victims with emergency medical care within golden hour.
- ❖ Golden hour in medical term is the first hour after traumatic injury when emergency treatment is very crucial.

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE BILL	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊃ No hospital should deny or delay treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊃ Police officer who violates the law will be guilty of offence and will be subjected to penalties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊃ No good Samaritan to be detained in hospital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊃ A good Samaritan need not fulfil any of the procedures related to the admission of an injured person at hospital
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊃ All hospitals should display the rights of a good Samaritan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊃ Doctor will attract punishment if he/she refuses to provide emergency care
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊃ Hospitals must inform the police as soon as an injured person is brought to hospital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊃ Educational institutions to impart training in first-aid emergency care to students
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊃ The Good Samaritan Fund to be set up 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊃ Remuneration of reasonable expenses to good Samaritan 	

- ❖ Under this law, Karnataka government will also provide financial help to Good Samaritans who help victims in a timely manner.

Parakram Parv

- ❖ Second Anniversary of Surgical Strike was celebrated as Parakram Parv or Surgical Strike Day on September 29 – 30, 2018 by the Indian Army.
- ❖ It is being celebrated to showcase gallant action of brave Army in the conduct of Surgical Strikes on September 29, 2016.
- ❖ This day was also marked to remember sacrifice of soldiers during ‘Uri incident’.

Disqualification of charge sheeted MPs/MLAs

- ❖ Supreme Court held that candidates contesting elections cannot be disqualified, in case they have charges framed against them in a criminal case.



- ❖ The court also directed that each candidate shall declare such charges to the election commission before contesting an election.
- ❖ The judgment came on a batch of petitions filed by advocate, Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, former Chief Election Commissioner JM Lyngdoh and NGO Public Interest Foundation.

4th India International Science Festival

- ❖ The 4th edition of India International Science Festival will be inaugurated by President of India in Lucknow on October 6, 2018.
- ❖ Theme of the Festival – “Science & Technology- Building Partnerships, Impacting Societies”.
- ❖ The Focal Theme of the festival is “Science for transformation”.
- ❖ It will be organized by Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences in association with Vijnana Bharati.
- ❖ In IISF 2018, a world record attempt will be made to "isolate DNA" by 500 students from classes VIII to X.
- ❖ The festival would be dedicated to the former PM, Atal Bihari Vajpayee who coined the slogan “Jai Vigyan” for developing Science.
- ❖ The 3rd IISF was held at IIT, Madras and Anna University, Chennai in Tamil Nadu in October, 2017.

Quit-line number for tobacco users

- ❖ India has launched a quit-line number ‘1800-11-2356’ on all the tobacco products packaged from Sep 1, 2018.



- ❖ India is the 4th such country in Asia after Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia to have a helpline number dedicated for helping people to quit tobacco products.
- ❖ India is also the only SAARC country to launch the helpline number.

Economic Freedom Index

- ❖ The Index of Economic Freedom 2018 was recently released by the Centre for Civil Society (CCS) in conjunction with Canada's Fraser Institute.
- ❖ India stands at 96th position among 162 countries in economic freedom. In overall ranking, India was evenly placed among BRICS nations.
- ❖ While Russia and South Africa are ahead of India at 87th and 94th, China and Brazil are behind at 108th and 144th positions.
- ❖ India was ranked 98th in the 2017 index. The 2018 report is based on data from 2016.
- ❖ Hong Kong and Singapore again topped the index, continuing their streak as the first and the second country, respectively.

Operation Samudra Maitri

- ❖ India has launched massive humanitarian operation Samudra Maitri to provide assistance to earthquake and tsunami victims in Indonesia.
- ❖ Under this operation, India has dispatched 2 aircraft and 3 naval ships carrying relief material and personnel to the country
 - C-130J and C-17 - aircrafts
 - INS Tir, INS Sujatha and INS Shardul
- ❖ A shallow earthquake of magnitude 7.5 (richter scale) had struck in neck of Minahasa Peninsula, Indonesia on 28 September 2018
- ❖ Its epicentre located in mountainous Donggala Regency, Central Sulawesi. The earthquake was followed by localised tsunami which had struck capital Palu.
- ❖ It was the deadliest earthquake to strike Indonesia since 2006 Yogyakarta earthquake.

NAREDCO signs MoU with Housing Ministry

- ❖ Realtors body National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to provide skill training and jobs in construction sector for 2.5 lakh poor people.
- ❖ The partnership will strengthen skill trainings and employment opportunities in construction sector for urban poor under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission.

National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO)

- ❖ It is autonomous self-regulatory body under Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. It was established in 1998 and is headquartered in New Delhi.

- ❖ It serves as apex national body for real estate industry.

World's largest dome inaugurated

- ❖ The world's largest dome was inaugurated at Maharashtra Institute of Technology (MIT)'s World Peace University (MIT-WPU) campus at Loni Kalbhor, Pune (Maharashtra).
- ❖ The dome has been named after 13th century poet-saint and philosopher Dnyaneshwar who was pivotal figure of Bhakti movement in Maharashtra.
- ❖ The dome has diameter of 160 feet, overtaking earlier record holding Vatican Dome having diameter of 139.6 feet.
- ❖ It stands 263 feet tall with bell hanging from centre and has prayer hall with area of around 30,000 sq ft.

IBSAMAR – VI

- ❖ The 6th edition of IBSAMAR, a joint multi-national maritime exercise between Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies was held at Simons Town, South Africa.
- ❖ The aim of this maritime exercise is to undertake collective training for participating navies, building interoperability and mutual understanding.
- ❖ The exercise IBSAMAR was initiated in 2006.
- ❖ The last edition of IBSAMAR V was conducted off Goa, India in February 2016 and all previous exercises were held in South Africa.

First Assembly of International Solar Alliance

- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurated the first Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA) in New Delhi.
- ❖ The same event also marked inauguration of 2nd Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting and 2nd Global RE-Invest (Renewable Energy Investors' Meet and Expo).
- ❖ RE-Invest is a global platform to explore strategies for development and deployment of renewables.
- ❖ 21 countries in Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) adopted Delhi Declaration on Renewable Energy in Indian Ocean Region.

Swachh Survekshan Grameen Awards 2018

- ❖ Prime Minister recently conferred Swachh Survekshan Grameen Awards 2018 to top ranked states and districts.

- ❖ Haryana was ranked as best State followed by Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- ❖ Satara District of Maharashtra was ranked as best district followed by Rewari (Haryana) and Pedapalli (Telangana).
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh was rewarded for maximum citizens' participation followed by Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- ❖ Nashik (Maharashtra) was rewarded for districts with maximum citizens' participation followed by Solapur (Maharashtra) and Chittorgarh (Rajasthan).
- ❖ The rankings were based on the National Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018 of the Union Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

2018 Government e-Payments Adoption Ranking (GEAR)

- ❖ India was ranked 28th among 73 countries in 2018 Government e-Payments Adoption Ranking (GEAR).
- ❖ India has jumped by 8 positions in this ranking from 36th in 2011 which reinforces country's progress towards digital transformation.
- ❖ Norway has topped 2018 GEAR list scoring 89.7 points in seven categories.
- ❖ 2018 GEAR is an Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) global Index and benchmarking study commissioned by financial services corporation Visa.

Udyam Abhilasha

- ❖ Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has launched Udyam Abhilasha, a national level entrepreneurship awareness campaign.
- ❖ It was launched in 115 Aspirational Districts identified by NITI Aayog in 28 States.
- ❖ For implementing this campaign, SIDBI has partnered with CSC e-Governance Services India Limited, a Special Purpose Vehicle, (CSC SPV) under the Ministry of Electronics & IT through their CSCs.

Closing the Skills Gap Task Force

- ❖ Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has launched Closing the Skills Gap Task Force in India in collaboration with World Economic Forum (WEF).
- ❖ It will be co-chaired by Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan along with Salil Parekh, CEO and MD of Infosys.
- ❖ The goal of Task Force is to develop action plan to address skills gaps in India and make Indian workforce ready for jobs of future.

19th India-Russia Annual Bilateral Summit

- ❖ The 19th annual India-Russia bilateral summit was held at New Delhi's Hyderabad House.
- ❖ India and Russia have signed a USD 5.43 billion deal for India to procure the S-400 Triumf missile system from Russia.
- ❖ This could result in the US sanctions on India under the Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA).

S-400

- ❖ S-400 is an upgraded version of the S-300 systems.
- ❖ It is a surface-to-air missile system that can take down enemies' aircraft in the sky from the surface itself.
- ❖ The missile system, manufactured by Almaz-Antey, has been in service in Russia since 2007.

'JIMEX 18'

- ❖ The 3rd edition of Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX) commenced at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ JIMEX-18 is aimed at enhancing interoperability, improve understanding and imbibe best practices between navies of two countries.

JIMEX

- ❖ India and Japan maritime exercise JIMEX was started in January 2012 with special focus on Maritime Security Cooperation.
- ❖ First time it was conducted off the Japanese coast.
- ❖ The second edition of JIMEX was conducted in December 2013 off Chennai.

Competition Law Review Committee

- ❖ Union Finance Ministry has constituted nine-member Competition Law Review Committee to ensure that legislation is in tune with changing business environment.



- ❖ It will be chaired by Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas.
- ❖ It includes Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) Chairperson M S Sahoo and Competition Commission of India (CCI) Chairperson as members.
- ❖ The Competition Act was passed in 2002 and Competition Commission of India (CCI) was set up in 2009.

BCCI brought under RTI

- ❖ The Central Information Commission brought the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) under the RTI (Right to Information) Act.
- ❖ The commission, the top appellate body in RTI matters, concluded that the status, nature and functional characteristics of the BCCI fulfil required conditions of Section 2(h) of the RTI Act.



- ❖ Section 2(h) of the Act defines criteria under which a body can be declared as public authority under the RTI Act.

“Swachh Campus rankings”

- ❖ Union Human Resource Development Ministry has announced the “Swachh Campus rankings” under various categories.
- ❖ The rankings were decided on the basis of a survey under the ‘Swachhta Hi Sewa’ campaign.
- ❖ Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham in Coimbatore has topped the Cleanest Technical Institutions' category under “Swachh Campus rankings”.
- ❖ Maharshi Dayanand University of Haryana has topped the Cleanest 'Government Universities'
- ❖ Symbiosis International University of Pune has topped the Cleanest Residential Campuses of 'Private Universities'

'India Skills 2018'

- ❖ The country's biggest skill competition, India Skills 2018 has concluded in New Delhi.
- ❖ 'India Skills 2018' was the second edition of the nationwide competition organized by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to identify, recognize, promote and reward the best talents in various skills.
- ❖ Some of the winners of the competition will be given additional training, before they represent India at the 45th World Skills Competition at Kazan, Russia in 2019.

Water flow target – Ganga

- ❖ The Union government has mandated ecological flow for various stretches of the Ganga river.
- ❖ Ecological flow/ Environmental flow describes minimum quantity, timing, and quality of water flows required to sustain freshwater and estuarine ecosystems and the human livelihoods and well-being that depend on these ecosystems.
- ❖ The National Mission for Clean Ganga has laid down the flow specifications.

India for Humanity

- ❖ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj formally launched 'India for Humanity' initiative to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ❖ The initiative will feature a year-long series of artificial limb fitment camps in a number of countries.
- ❖ The MEA (Ministry of External Affairs) is collaborating with the renowned charitable organisation - "Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti" (BMVSS).
- ❖ BMVSS is among the world's largest organisations for the fitment of artificial limbs.
- ❖ It was founded in 1975 and better known by its trademark limb 'Jaipur Foot'.

2018 Oxfam world inequality index

- ❖ The United Kingdom-based charity 'Oxfam International's report named 'Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index has been recently released.
- ❖ Out of 157 countries, India has been ranked 147th in the 2nd edition of the annual index.

- ❖ Ranking at 11th, Japan became the topper among the Asian countries.
- ❖ The index was topped by Denmark, followed by Germany, Finland, Austria and Norway.
- ❖ Among the emerging economies, China was ranked 81st, Brazil 39th, and Russia 50th.
- ❖ According to the report, countries such as South Korea, Namibia, and Uruguay have made commendable efforts towards reducing inequality.
- ❖ However, India and Nigeria fared poorly.

32nd world conference of WUWM

- ❖ The 32nd world conference of World Union of Wholesale Markets (WUWM) was inaugurated at Gurugram, Haryana.
- ❖ This is for the first time a WUWM conference is being organized in India at Gurugram.
- ❖ The theme for the conference is: 'The Wholesale Markets in the Digital Era: Challenges and Opportunities.'
- ❖ The conference was hosted jointly by
 - The Haryana State Agricultural Marketing Board (HSAMB), Panchkula.
 - The National Council of State Agricultural Marketing Boards (COSAMB), New Delhi.
 - World Union of Wholesale Markets (WUWM), Hague, Netherlands.

4-member committee to examine #MeToo cases

- ❖ Union Ministry for Women and Child Development has recently announced setting up a four-member committee to examine all #MeToo cases.
- ❖ The panel would consist of senior judicial and legal persons as members.
- ❖ It was placed through "The Sexual Harassment of Women at workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act' of 2013.

First Indo-US tri-services exercise

- ❖ The first India-United States tri-services exercise is likely to take place in 2019 in India.
- ❖ It will include all services of both countries and talks are on to include special forces.
- ❖ The USA will be the 2nd country after Russia with whom India conducts tri-services exercise.

- ❖ The tri-forces of India and US already take part in multiple bilateral exercises separately.
 - Armies of both countries - Yudh Aabyas (annual drill)
 - Navies of both countries – Malabar (also involves Japan).
 - Air Forces - Cope India (bilateral drill)
- ❖ But this will be the first time, three services of India and US will participate in drill together.

UN Human Rights Council

- ❖ India was recently elected to the United Nations' Human Rights Council' (UNHRC).
- ❖ UNHRC is the main body of UN charged with promoting and monitoring human rights.
- ❖ India secured 188 votes out of 193 in the Asia-Pacific category and won the seat to UNHRC with highest votes among all candidates.
- ❖ The 18 new members were elected by absolute majority through a secret ballot. Countries needed a minimum of 97 votes to get elected to the Council.
- ❖ The new members will serve a term of three years beginning January 1, 2019.
- ❖ This was the 5th time India has been elected to UNHRC, previously was elected 2006-2009, 2011-2014 and 2014-2017.

IND-INDO CORPAT

- ❖ The 32nd edition of India-Indonesia coordinated patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) is being held in Belawan, Indonesia.
- ❖ Navies of both countries have been carrying out coordinated patrolling twice year since 2002.
- ❖ The patrolling will be conducted in 3 phases, followed by closing ceremony at Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Island.
- ❖ It will be conducted near International Maritime Boundary Line in an effort to keep Indian Ocean region (IOR) safe and secure.

Global RTI rating

- ❖ According to the Global RTI rating (Right to Information) by Access Info Europe and the Centre for Law and Democracy, India ranked at 6th position out of 123 countries.

GLOBAL RTI RATINGS

RTI in India	
Total RTI pleas received in 2017: 66.6 LAKH	➤ Only 10 states have updated annual reports
Total number of RTI rejected: 4.8 LAKH (7.2%)	➤ 12 states have no vacancies in state information commissions
Total second appeals (to CIC): 18.5 LAKH	➤ 48 of 156 posts for information commissioners vacant at state and CIC level
Total penalty amount imposed by CIC: ₹1.9 CRORE	

Source: Access Info Europe and Centre for Law and Democracy; Transparency International India

- ❖ India made its debut at the 2nd rank in 2011 and continued to be at the same position till 2013.
- ❖ India performed worst under the section “Sanctions and Protections”, which shows that India doesn’t provide protection for whistle-blowers.
- ❖ The survey was carried by Transparency International India.
- ❖ Afghanistan topped the list followed by Mexico, Serbia, Sri Lanka and Slovenia.
- ❖ While Austria was placed at the bottom with just 33 points.

Swasth Bharat Yatra

- ❖ The Union Government has launched a national campaign ‘Swasth Bharat Yatra’ on the occasion of World Food Day (16th October).
- ❖ It aims to sensitise people about eating safe food and be healthy.
- ❖ The campaign has been launched in association with states and led by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

Youth Road Safety Learners Licence Programme

- ❖ Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has launched Youth Road Safety Learners Licence programme in New Delhi.
- ❖ It is Public-private partnership (PPP) initiative in collaboration with Diageo India and Institute of Road Traffic Education (IRTE).
- ❖ It is first-of-its-kind training programme in the country.

Award scheme under 'Saubhagya' launched

- ❖ The Union Government has launched an award scheme under 'Saubhagya' scheme.
- ❖ The new Award scheme will felicitate the power distribution companies (DISCOMs) and Power Department of the States and their employees for achieving 100% household electrification.
- ❖ The 8 states which have already achieved more than 99% household electrification before the launch of the scheme are ineligible for the awards.
- ❖ Those 8 states are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The 'Saubhagya' scheme is also known as 'Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana'.

National Health Profile 2018

- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has released an 12th edition of Analytical Report of the National Health Profile 2018.
- ❖ The report was prepared by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI), under the aegis of the Directorate General of Health Services.
- ❖ CBHI has been publishing the National Health Profile every year since 2005.

Restriction of foreign tourists

- ❖ Foreign tourists can now visit Andaman and Nicobar Islands without any restrictions.
- ❖ Earlier, it was mandatory for the foreigners to register with the Foreigners Registration Officer within 24 hours of their arrival.
- ❖ This order follows an earlier directive which allowed foreigners to visit 29 inhabited and 11 uninhabited islands in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which were prohibited for visitors under the Foreigners (Restricted Area) Order, 1963.
- ❖ The Ministry of Tourism has also proposed that travel restrictions be removed from border areas in Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh.

Deep submergence rescue vehicle (DSRV)

- ❖ Indian Navy has inducted its first deep submergence rescue vehicle (DSRV) at its base in Mumbai.
- ❖ The DSRV gives the navy the ability to rapidly attempt rescue of personnel in submarines in distress.

- ❖ The vessel has been built by the UK's James Fisher & Sons,
- ❖ The second DSRV will be inducted at Visakhapatnam by 2019.

Social Entrepreneur of the Year (SEYO) 2018

- ❖ Prema Gopalan, founder of Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), has been honored as the India Social Entrepreneur of the Year (SEYO) 2018.
- ❖ It has been awarded for her work in promoting women's entrepreneurship at the grassroots and ensuring rural livelihood.
- ❖ The SEYO award was jointly founded by Jubilant Bharatia Foundation and Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship in 2010.
- ❖ It recognizes promising and high-impact social entrepreneurs who implement practical and sustainable solutions.
- ❖ The Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship is a sister organization of the World Economic Forum (WEF).

12th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) summit

- ❖ The 12th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) summit was held in Brussels.
- ❖ Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu led the Indian delegation at the two-day summit.
- ❖ The theme for this year is, 'Global Partners for Global Challenges'.

Global Competitiveness Index 2018

- ❖ India has been ranked as the 58th most competitive economy on the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index for 2018 (GCI 4.0).



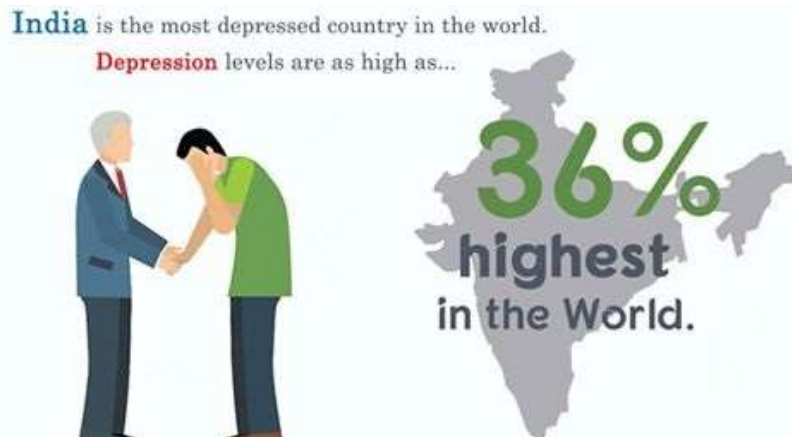
- ❖ The GCI 4.0 assesses competitiveness through the factors that determine an economy's level of productivity.
- ❖ India's rank rose by five places from 2017, the largest gain among G20 economies.
- ❖ On the list of 140 economies, the US topped the list and it is followed by Singapore and Germany at the 2nd and the 3rd positions respectively.
- ❖ Among the BRICS economies, China topped the list at 28th place. India, however, remained the "South Asia's main driving force".
- ❖ The report stated that the global economy is projected to grow nearly 4% in 2018 and 2019.

Rural development ministry inks MoU with Lady Irwin College

- ❖ The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM), under the Union Ministry of Rural Development has signed a MoU with the Lady Irwin College for establishing ROSHNI.
- ❖ ROSHNI is Centre of Women Collectives led Social Action. It is technically and financially supported by UNICEF India.

India - World's most depressed country

- ❖ According to a World Health Organization report, India is the world's most depressed country, closely followed by China and the US.



- ❖ According to the 2015-16 National Mental Health Survey (NMHS), at least 6.5% of the Indian population suffers from some form of serious mental disorder.
- ❖ The average suicide rate in India is 10.9 for every one lakh people. Worldwide, depression increased by 18% from 2005 to 2015.
- ❖ Depression is ranked by WHO as the single largest contributor to global disability.

Dharma Guardian

- ❖ The first joint military exercise named “Dharma Guardian” between India and Japan will be held at Vairengte (Mizoram) from November 1 to 14, 2018.
- ❖ The exercise is aimed at developing mutual understanding and respect between militaries of both countries, as also facilitate in tracking worldwide phenomenon of terrorism.

NCR Mobile Applications

- ❖ The North Central Railways (NCR) has launched two mobile apps,
 - 'NCR RASTA' - for its employees
 - 'Yatri RASTA' - for its passengers
- ❖ The 'NCR RASTA' (Railway assets Summarised Tracking Application) app is for the use of railway officers and staff and has exact mapping of all railway assets.
- ❖ 'Yatri RASTA' (Railway Approach to Station Tracking Application) app will allow general public to locate the railway stations easily.

75 years of 'Azad Hind Government'

- ❖ The Prime Minister on 21st October hoisted tricolour at the Red Fort to mark the 75th anniversary of the 'Azad Hind Government' headed by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.



- ❖ Traditionally, the Prime Minister hoists the national tricolour at the historic Red Fort on Independence Day on August 15.
- ❖ Bose had announced the formation of the country's first independent government - 'Azad Hind Government' - on October 21, 1943.

- ❖ It was a part of the freedom movement, originating in 1940s outside India with a purpose of allying with Axis powers to free India from British rule.

Nation Brands 2018 report

- ❖ According to Brand Finance's recently released Nation Brands 2018 report India was ranked 9th out of top 50 valuable national brands.
- ❖ Italy replaced India to secure the eighth spot.

Top 10 Most Valuable Brands	
 1 Rank 2018: 1 2017: 1 → BV 2018: \$25,899bn BV 2017: \$21,055bn +23% Brand Rating: AAA	 6 Rank 2018: 6 2017: 6 → BV 2018: \$3,224bn BV 2017: \$2,909bn +9% Brand Rating: AA+
 2 Rank 2018: 2 2017: 2 → BV 2018: \$12,779bn BV 2017: \$10,209bn +25% Brand Rating: AA	 7 Rank 2018: 7 2017: 7 → BV 2018: \$2,224bn BV 2017: \$2,098bn +6% Brand Rating: AAA-
 3 Rank 2018: 3 2017: 3 → BV 2018: \$5,147bn BV 2017: \$4,021bn +28% Brand Rating: AAA	 8 Rank 2018: 8 2017: 9 ↑ BV 2018: \$2,214bn BV 2017: \$2,034bn +9% Brand Rating: AA-
 4 Rank 2018: 4 2017: 5 ↑ BV 2018: \$3,750bn BV 2017: \$3,129bn +20% Brand Rating: AAA	 9 Rank 2018: 9 2017: 8 ↓ BV 2018: \$2,199bn BV 2017: \$2,048bn +8% Brand Rating: AA
 5 Rank 2018: 5 2017: 4 ↓ BV 2018: \$3,598bn BV 2017: \$3,439bn +5% Brand Rating: AAA-	 10 Rank 2018: 10 2017: 10 → BV 2018: \$2,001bn BV 2017: \$1,845bn +8% Brand Rating: AA

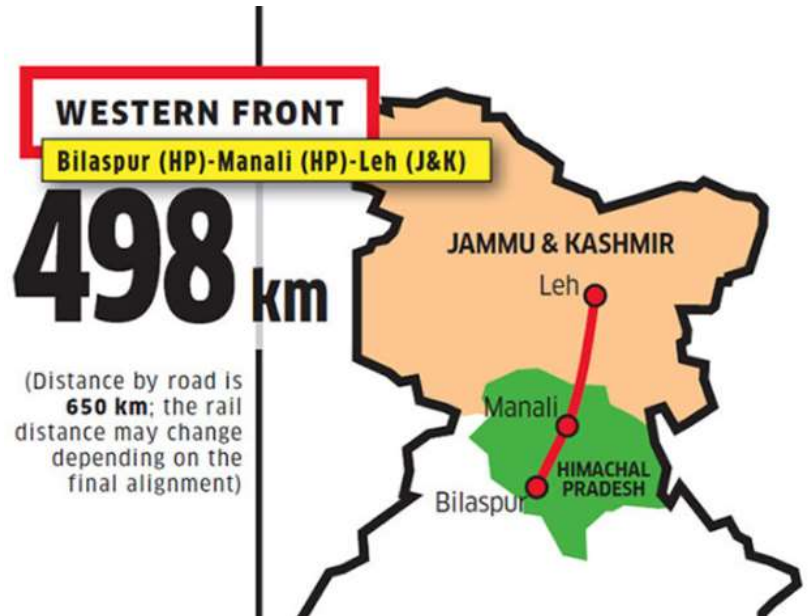
- ❖ India fell in the list for 2nd consecutive year despite a positive 5% growth in brand value from the previous year.
- ❖ The US grabbed the first spot in the list again, where its brand value rose 23% from the past year.
- ❖ China again came on the 2nd position followed by Germany, UK, Japan and France.
- ❖ The methodology used by the London-headquartered consultancy, Brand Finance, is based on the royalty relief mechanism employed to value the world's largest companies.

India's longest river bridge

- ❖ India's longest river bridge, connecting Dhubri in Assam to Phulbari in Meghalaya, will be built across the Brahmaputra by 2026-27.
- ❖ It will be a 19.3 km, a four-lane bridge that will cut road travel by 203 km. The new bridge will complete the missing link of NH127-B from Assam to Meghalaya.
- ❖ Currently, the longest river bridge in India, at 9.15km, is the Dhola-Sadiya bridge, which was inaugurated by PM in 2017.

India's first railway station inside tunnel

- ❖ For the first time in India, a railway station built inside a tunnel is to come up in Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The railway station named, the Keylong station, will be built along the Bilaspur-Manali-Leh line close to the Sino-India border.



- ❖ Many metro stations in Delhi and other cities are inside tunnels but it will be the first on the railway network to be inside a tunnel.

Parliamentary panel to examine functioning of EPFO

- ❖ A parliamentary panel will examine the functioning of retirement fund body Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), its coverage and recovery of arrears.
- ❖ The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour has also decided to review the implementation of labour laws, social security and welfare scheme for workers.
- ❖ The panel will be headed by BJP MP Kirit Somaiya.
- ❖ At present, the EPFO is not the sole PF organisation or regulator in the country.
- ❖ The provident fund of private establishments/organisation/PSUs largely come under the EPFO purview.

Panel to study feasibility of paying claims in instalments

- ❖ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has formed a panel to examine the feasibility of payment of general and health insurance claims in instalments.
- ❖ It will be headed by Suresh Mathur, Executive Director (Health) in IRDAI.
- ❖ The panel will look into the need for allowing settlement of personal accident and benefit-based health insurance claims in instalments by general and health insurance companies.

India's First Domestic Cruise - 'Angriya'

- ❖ Angriya, India's first luxury cruise ship, has been inaugurated at Mumbai.
- ❖ Union minister for shipping Nitin Gadkari and Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis flagged-off the cruise which will operate between Mumbai and Goa.
- ❖ It has been named after the first Maratha Navy Admiral Kanhoji Angre and the Angria bank coral reef near Vijaydurg.

REVAMPED WATERFRONT: GOOD NEWS FOR CRUISERS

ANGRIYA, INDIA'S 1ST CRUISE SHIP

- > Angriya will sail three days a week for Goa. It will depart from Ferry Wharf at 4pm and on the return journey, will leave from Marmugao at 9am the next day
- > It houses multiple restaurants with 24-hour coffee shops & bars, a lounge and discotheque, infinity pool & spa, 104 staterooms/cabins

The newly refurbished domestic cruise terminal at Victoria Dock

'NO. OF CRUISERS TO TRIPLE'

- > Number of cruise tourists in Mumbai is set to triple to 1.2 lakh in 2018-19 from a little over 37,000 in 2015-16, according to national estimates
- > 155 tourist ship services scheduled to arrive at and depart from Princess Dock between Oct 2018 and May 2019
- > Number of services likely to touch 219 in 2019-20, with another pvt cruise liner

Minimum fare **₹7,500** with meals

Agreement on security cooperation

- ❖ India and China have signed agreement on internal security cooperation.
- ❖ It is first such agreement to be signed between the two countries.
- ❖ It aims to strengthen and consolidate assistance in counter-terrorism, organised crimes, drug control, human trafficking and exchange of information.

MoU on operationalization of Sittwe Port

- ❖ India and Myanmar inked a crucial MoU for appointment of private port operator for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of Sittwe Port, Paletwa Inland Water Terminal and associated facilities included in Kaladan Multi Model Transit Transport Project.
- ❖ Sittwe port in Myanmar will connect India's landlocked north-east region to Bay of Bengal through Mizoram.
- ❖ It will also provide an alternate route to Kolkata. It is also significant step in the implementation of India's Act East policy.

Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project

- ❖ This project aims to connect seaport of Kolkata (India) with Sittwe seaport in Myanmar by sea.



- ❖ It will then link Sittwe seaport to Lashio in Myanmar via Kaladan river boat route and then from Lashio to Mizoram in India by road transport.
- ❖ This project will reduce distance from Kolkata to Mizoram by approximately 1000 km and cut travelling time to 3-4 days for transport of goods.

India's first engine-less train - Train 18 (T-18)

- ❖ India's first engine-less train, Train 18, which is being regarded as a successor to the 30-year-old Shatabdi Express, is set to hit the tracks for trials on October 29.
- ❖ The swanky train is a 100% 'Make in India' project, manufactured at the ICF (Integral Coach Factory), Chennai.
- ❖ The full AC train is equipped to run at a speed of up to 160 kmph as against Shatabdi's 130 kmph which will cut down travel time by 15%
- ❖ T-18 is not only a self-propelled engine-less train (similar to the Metro trains) but also energy-efficient as its coaches will be fitted with LED lights.

Nageshwar Rao - Interim Director of CBI











- ❖ Alok Kumar Verma, Director of CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) and Rakesh Asthana, Special Director of CBI were divested of their roles.
- ❖ The move comes following allegations of corruption by senior functionaries of CBI one against another.
- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of M. Nageshwar Rao as Interim Director of CBI with immediate effect (October 24).
- ❖ He is currently working as Joint Director of CBI.

Web portals of two research-oriented schemes launched

- ❖ The Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched the web portals of two schemes
 - IMPRESS (Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences) and
 - SPARC (Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration)
- ❖ The aim of the two schemes is to build a research ecosystem in educational institutions.
- ❖ IMPRESS will be dealing with social science research projects and it will be coordinated by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR).
- ❖ SPARC involves foreign collaboration mainly in science research and it will be coordinated by IIT Kharagpur.

QS Asia Rankings 2019

- ❖ According to a report named QS Asia University Rankings 2019 by Quacquarelli Symonds, India doubled their presence in the ranking.
- ❖ National University of Singapore has been assessed as Asia's best university.
- ❖ It is followed by University of Hong Kong, Nanyang Technological University (Singapore), Tsinghua University (China) and Peking University (China).

1	 NUS National University of Singapore (NUS)	More	Singapore
2	 The University of Hong Kong	More	Hong Kong
=3	 Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU)	More	Singapore
=3	 Tsinghua University	More	China
5	 Peking University	More	China
6	 Fudan University	More	China
7	 The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	More	Hong Kong
8	 KAIST - Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology	More	South Korea
9	 The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)	More	Hong Kong
10	 Seoul National University	More	South Korea

- ❖ India has the third largest number of universities and institutes, after mainland China (112) and Japan (89).
- ❖ There are 40 new Indian institutions taking the total number to 75 at the top 500 list. But none made it to the top 20.
- ❖ IIT-Bombay remains the highest ranked institution. It moved one place to the 33rd position.

Vigilance Awareness Week 2018

- ❖ The Central Vigilance Commission observes the Vigilance Awareness Week every year during the week in which birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (31st October) falls.
- ❖ The 2018 Vigilance Awareness Week is being observed from 29th October to 3rd November, 2018.
- ❖ The theme of Vigilance Awareness Week-2018 is 'Eradicate Corruption-Build a New India'.

SAGAR Discourse 2.0

- ❖ The Vice President of India inaugurated 3-day Sagar Discourse 2 conference in Panaji, Goa.
- ❖ The Maritime Conference SAGAR Discourse 2.0, was organized by Forum for Integrated National Security.
- ❖ It aimed to highlight technological, economic and developmental opportunities with space and research.

Jean Monnet Centre of excellence award

- ❖ The European Union has announced the selection of Department of European Studies (DES) of Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) for the prestigious Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (CoE) Award.
- ❖ It became the only Centre of Excellence in European Studies in the country.
- ❖ Earlier, MAHE had been titled as an Institute of Eminence by the Government of India.

World's Highest Railway Line

- ❖ India railways announced its plan to link New Delhi and Ladakh by means of a railway line that will run along the India-China Border.
- ❖ The proposed Bilaspur-Manali-Leh Line would be the world's highest railway line once launched.
- ❖ The railway line will be the world's highest at 5,360 metres above mean sea level which is comparable to China's Quinghai-Tibet Railway Line at 2,000 metres.
- ❖ After the completion, the railway line will halve the time taken to cover the distance between Delhi and Leh from the current 40 hrs to 20 hrs.

NOTE

- ❖ Keylong station on the route will be constructed inside a tunnel at the height of 3000 metres which is a first in India.

STAPCOR – 2018

- ❖ International Conference on Status and Protection of Coral Reefs (STAPCOR – 2018) was held at Bangaram Island, Union Territory of Lakshadweep.
- ❖ The theme of the conference was “Reefs for Life”.
- ❖ It was jointly organized by Department of Environment and Forest, Union Territory of Lakshadweep Administration with the technical support of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and in association with
 - Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC),
 - International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN),
 - Environmental Information System (ENVIS)in consonance with declaration of year 2018 as 3rd decadal International year of Reefs.
- ❖ International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) has declared year 2018 as International Year of the Reef (IYOR 2018).

Experts' group to cut schoolbag weight formed

- ❖ Union HRD Ministry has constituted an Expert Group to formulate a draft policy to reduce weight of schoolbag.
- ❖ It will be convened by Professor Ranjana Arora of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).
- ❖ Maharashtra and Telangana already have a policy in form stating the weight of school bag not to exceed 10% of the students' body weight.

North East festival

- ❖ The sixth edition of North East festival was held in New Delhi on October 28.
- ❖ The 15th edition of Indian International Centre festival is to be held from 27-31 October 2018.
- ❖ The festival is a part of Destination North East Series being organised by North Eastern Council, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER).
- ❖ The festival is organised by Indian International Centre as 15th anniversary of its annual festivals.
- ❖ The theme for this year is "Experiencing the North East".
- ❖ The festival depicts the rich cultural diversities of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim.

India Mobile Congress

- ❖ The 2nd edition of the 3-day long India Mobile Congress has been concluded at Aero city, New Delhi.
- ❖ It is a regular platform for exploring area of digital communications with specific focus on South and South-East Asia.
- ❖ The theme for this year was: "New Digital Horizons. Connect. Create. Innovate".
- ❖ It was organized by the Department of Telecommunications, GOI and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI).

INTERNATIONAL

U.S.A - Mexico- Canada Agreement (USMCA)

- ❖ The United States, Canada and Mexico recently concluded an agreement on a revised trade deal called the USMCA.

- ❖ USMCA will replace the 25-year old North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which was created in 1994.



- ❖ It gives the U.S greater access to the dairy markets of Canada and Mexico and allows extra imports of Canada cars.
- ❖ It is intended to last 18 years and will be reviewed every 6 years.

GCTF Terrorist Travel Initiative

- ❖ United States and Morocco have launched GCTF Terrorist Travel Initiative under the auspices of Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF).
- ❖ The new initiative will strengthen UNSC Resolution 2396 aiming to stop terrorist travel altogether.
- ❖ It will improve capabilities for detecting and interdicting terrorist travel through enhanced terrorist screening and information sharing.

Global Counter Terrorism Forum

- ❖ GCTF is international apolitical, multilateral counter-terrorism (CT) platform of 29 countries and European Union (EU).
- ❖ It was launched officially in New York on 22 September 2011.

Delivery of S-300 missile systems to Syria

- ❖ Russia has delivered S-300 surface-to-air missile systems to Syria to improve safety of its military personnel deployed in the country.
- ❖ The action comes following downing of a Russian Il-20 reconnaissance aircraft which was hit by a Syrian missile.

Global Guidelines on Sanitation and Health

- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched the first global guidelines on sanitation and health.
- ❖ These guidelines summarize evidence on effectiveness of range of sanitation interventions.
- ❖ According to the estimation, for every US\$ 1 invested in sanitation a nearly six-fold return can be expected.

World Internet Conference

- ❖ China will be hosting the 5th World Internet Conference (WIC) in November, 2018.
- ❖ The conference will be held in the river town of Wuzhen, eastern China's Zhejiang Province.
- ❖ The theme of 5th WIC is "creating a digital world for mutual trust and collective governance -- toward a community with a shared future in cyberspace".
- ❖ The conference, also known as Wuzhen Summit is held annually since 2014.
- ❖ It is organized by the Government agencies in China to discuss Internet issues and policies.

Honorary citizenship stripped

- ❖ Canada's parliament voted unanimously to effectively strip Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi of her honorary Canadian citizenship over the Rohingya crisis.
- ❖ She received this honour in 2007 at Ottawa.
- ❖ Only 5 others have been given this honorary citizenship by Canada so far, which includes Dalai Lama, Malala Yousafzai and Nelson Mandela.

New president of Iraq

- ❖ Iraq's parliament elected veteran politician Barham Salih as the country's eighth president.
- ❖ Mr Salih ran against the Fuad Hussein.



- ❖ According to the Iraqi constitution, the president-elect needs to gather at least two thirds of the votes of the 329 parliament members.
- ❖ Barham Ahmed Salih was former prime minister of Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan from 2001 to 2004.

Background

- ❖ According to an informal power-sharing arrangement dating back to the 2003, United States-led invasion, senior government roles are divided between the predominant ethno-sectarian groups – with
 - The Prime minister being a Shiite Arab,
 - The Speaker of parliament a Sunni Arab, and
 - The President a Kurd.

114th justice of the US Supreme Court

- ❖ Brett Kavanaugh was sworn in as the 114th justice of the US Supreme Court.
- ❖ The Senate voted 50-48 to confirm him, which made it the closest Supreme Court confirmation vote since 1881.
- ❖ Chief Justice John Roberts administered the constitutional oath, and retired Justice Anthony Kennedy administered the judicial oath.
- ❖ He replaces Justice Kennedy, who was nominated to the Court by President Reagan in 1987.

Iran Passes Counter Terrorist Financing Bill

- ❖ Iran's Parliament approved a Bill to counter terrorist financing.

- ❖ It was strongly opposed by conservatives but seen as vital to salvaging the nuclear deal with European and Asian partners.
- ❖ The objective of the Bill is to bring Iran's laws in line with international standards and allow it to join the UN Terrorism Financing Convention.
- ❖ The Bill, that was put forward by Iran's government, is a bid to meet demands by the international Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

First female major general - Bangladesh

- ❖ Bangladesh has appointed a female officer, Dr Susane Giti, as a major general for the first time in the country's 47-year history.
- ❖ Giti joined the medical wing of the Bangladesh armed forces in 1986 as a captain.

New Chief of ISI - Asim Munir

- ❖ Lt Gen Asim Munir was recently appointed as the new chief of Pakistan's powerful spy agency ISI.
- ❖ Munir, who previously served as the head of the Military Intelligence (MI), was recently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General.
- ❖ He replaces Lt Gen Naveed Mukhtar.
- ❖ He was conferred Hilal-i-Imtiaz, the second highest civilian award, in March 2018.

World's first minister for suicide prevention

- ❖ On the occasion of World Mental Health Day (10 Oct), the United Kingdom has appointed the world's first minister for suicide prevention.
- ❖ Britain's PM Theresa May has appointed Jackie Doyle-Price, a Conservative MP and current health minister, as the minister of suicide prevention.
- ❖ According to a new report by WHO, suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death globally for young people aged between 15 and 19, with at least one death every 40s.

Malaysia to abolish the death penalty for all crimes

- ❖ Malaysia's Cabinet has agreed to abolish death penalty for all crimes and halt pending executions.
- ❖ This decision was taken in pursuance of strong domestic opposition to colonial practice and is also in line with move away from capital punishment in the rest of the world.

ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY



- Murder
- Drug trafficking
- Discharging firearms

Are offences punished with mandatory death penalty in Malaysia.

The government amended the **Dangerous Drugs Act 1952** which retains the mandatory death penalty for all but extremely narrow circumstances.

Drug-related offences do not meet the threshold of "most serious crimes" under international law and must not be punished by death.

- ❖ Currently capital punishment in Malaysia is mandatory for murder, kidnapping, possession of firearms, treason and drug trafficking, among other crimes.
- ❖ At present, the sentence of death penalty has been abolished in 103 countries.

World's Most Innovative University

- ❖ Stanford University was named as the World's Most Innovative University by Reuters news agency rankings.
- ❖ Stanford University has topped this list for four consecutive years.
- ❖ The 2nd and 3rd spots have been held by US's Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard University respectively.
- ❖ US dominated the list with 46 universities among the top 100. No Indian was able to make it to the list.
- ❖ The Reuters' top 100 World's Most Innovative University ranking recognises universities from across the world for their work in inventing new technologies, advance science and power new markets and industries.
- ❖ It was first published in 2015, since then there has been no mention of any Indian university in the list.

Bangladesh enacts Digital Security Bill, 2018

- ❖ Bangladesh's President has given his assent to the controversial Digital Security Bill, 2018, by enacting it as a law.
- ❖ This new law combines previous colonial-era Official Secrets Act with tough new provisions such as arrests without warrant.
- ❖ It aims to deal with cybercrimes, including hurting religious sentiment, spreading negative propaganda against 1971 Liberation War and Bangabandhu (Sheikh Mujibur Rahman).

Global Hunger Index 2018

- ❖ As per the 2018 Global Hunger Index (GHI), the level of hunger and undernutrition worldwide fell to 20.9, down from 29.2 in the year 2000.
- ❖ The 2018 GHI report was prepared jointly by global NGOs namely – Concern Worldwide (Ireland) and Welthungerhilfe (Germany).
- ❖ The GHI combines 4 component indicators:
 - 1) Proportion of the undernourished as a percentage of the population;
 - 2) Proportion of children under the age of five suffering from wasting;
 - 3) Proportion of children under the age of five suffering from stunting;
 - 4) Mortality rate of children under the age of five.
- ❖ The under-five mortality rate was 4.2% as of 2016, down from 8.1% in 2000.
- ❖ In its findings, it states that,
 - 50 countries will fail to achieve low hunger levels by 2030,
 - 79 countries have already failed to reach the goal.
- ❖ Top 5 countries are - Belarus, Cuba, Estonia, Kuwait, Latvia (all tied to 1st rank).
- ❖ Bottom 5 Countries are - Zambia, Madagascar, Yemen, Chad and Central African Republic/CAR (CAR at last in 119th position).
- ❖ As per the report, around 124 million people suffer acute hunger in the world, a striking increase from 80 million two years ago.

Background

- ❖ Created in 2006, the GHI was initially published by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Welthungerhilfe.
- ❖ In 2007, the Irish NGO Concern Worldwide also became a co-publisher.
- ❖ In 2018, the GHI was a joint project of Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide, with IFPRI stepping aside from its involvement in the report.

India and Its Neighbours

- ❖ According to the report, India has been ranked at the 103rd position among 119 countries.
- ❖ India is among the 45 countries that have "serious levels of hunger".
- ❖ The GHI, now in its 13th year, ranks countries based on four key indicators - undernourishment, child mortality, child wasting and child stunting.
- ❖ India is ranked below many neighbouring countries, including China (25th spot), Nepal (72), Myanmar (68), Sri Lanka (67) and Bangladesh (86).
- ❖ Pakistan is placed at the 106th position.

World's Most Powerful Passport

- ❖ According to 2018 Henley Index, Japan surpassed Singapore to have the most powerful passport.

rank	passport	no. of countries that can be accessed
1	Japan	189
2	Germany, Singapore	188
3	Finland, France, Italy, Sweden, Spain, South Korea	187
4	Norway, United Kingdom, Austria, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, United States	186
5	Denmark, Belgium, Switzerland, Ireland, Canada	185
6	Australia, Greece	183
7	New Zealand, Czech Republic, Malta	182
8	Iceland	181
9	Hungary, Slovenia, Malaysia	180
10	Slovakia, Latvia, Lithuania	179

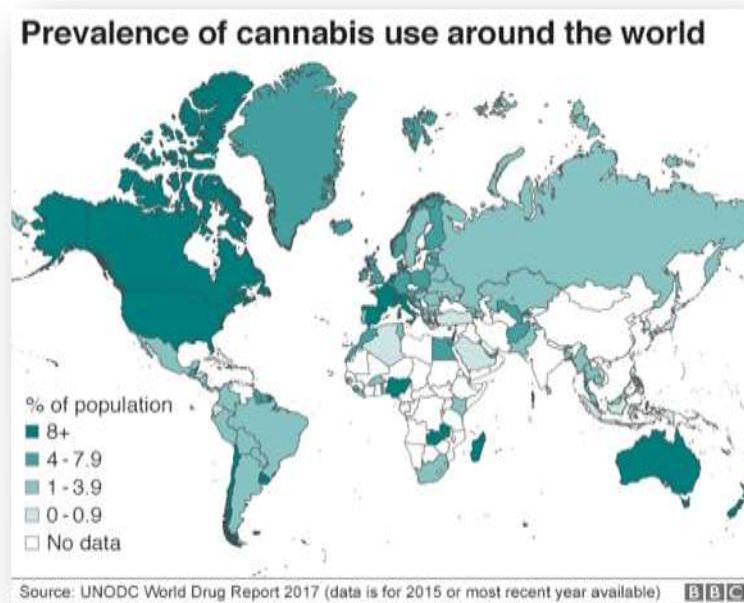
- ❖ This index has been compiled by advisory firm Henley & Partners.
- ❖ The index is based on exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- ❖ Japan passport holders now enjoy visa-free access to 190 destinations, compared with Singapore's 189.
- ❖ Germany has fallen to 3rd place, tied with South Korea and France with 188 visa-free destinations.
- ❖ Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Spain, Italy tied at the 4th place and United States and the United Kingdom tied at No. 5.
- ❖ Iraq and Afghanistan are at the bottom (No.106) with just 30 destinations.
- ❖ Russia is at 47th place, China at 71st, India at 81st (with 60 country accesses).

International Conference on Indian Ocean

- ❖ A two-day International Conference on Indian Ocean was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- ❖ The theme of the conference is "The Indian Ocean: Defining our Future".

Recreational Cannabis

- ❖ The first recreational cannabis to be legally bought in Canada was purchased on the eastern island of Newfoundland.
- ❖ Canada has become the second country after Uruguay to legalise possession and use of recreational cannabis.
- ❖ Medical marijuana has been legal in Canada since 2001.



- ❖ Cannabis possession first became a crime in Canada in 1923 but medical use has been legal since 2001.

World's first non-stop flight

- ❖ The World's longest non-stop flight has made history by taking off from Singapore to fly directly to New York.
- ❖ Singapore Airlines (SIA) is re-launching the service for the first time in five years as the flight was originally too expensive.
- ❖ The luxury Singapore Airlines A350-900ULR airbus landed at Newark International Airport near New York City after 17 hours and 52 minutes of flight.

Fulpati Festival

- ❖ The festival of Fulpati has recently celebrated with traditional gaiety and religious fervour in various parts of Nepal.
- ❖ Fulpati is observed on the 7th day of Dashain festival (Navaratri).

- ❖ In Nepali, “Phool” means flower and “Pati” means leaves and plants.
- ❖ The tradition started during the period of King Prithvi Narayan Shah.

‘Break into India Strategy Committee’ – Sri Lanka

- ❖ Sri Lanka has constituted an 8-10 member ‘Break into India Strategy Committee’ to formulate strategy to help Sri Lankan businesses invest more into the Indian market.
- ❖ This was constituted by the Ministry of Development strategies and International trade of Sri Lanka.
- ❖ It would be led by Export Development Board (EDB) Chairperson Indira Malwatte and Former Chairman of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce Suresh Shah.
- ❖ The committee is mandated with preparing an interim report and a market entry strategy by 2018.

Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge

- ❖ The world’s longest sea bridge - Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge will be open for traffic on October 24.



- ❖ The 55-kilometer-long bridge, situated in the Lingdingyang waters of the Pearl River Estuary, will be the world’s longest sea bridge.
- ❖ It spans the Lingdingyang channel, which connects Hong Kong with Macau and Zhuhai, three major cities on the Pearl River Delta.



- ❖ The Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macau Bridge (HKZMB or HZMB) is a bridge–tunnel system, which consists of a series of three cable-stayed bridges and one undersea tunnel, as well as 2 artificial islands.

Amphibious aircraft - China

- ❖ China's indigenously designed and built amphibious aircraft AG600 successfully carried out its first take-off and landing test.



- ❖ The aircraft is code-named as Kunlong.

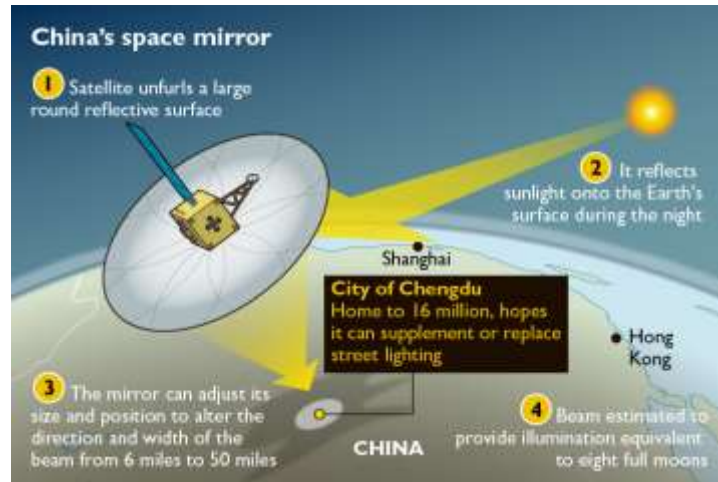
China to launch 'artificial moon'

- ❖ China is planning to launch its own 'artificial moon' by 2020 to replace streetlamps and lower electricity costs in urban areas.

- ❖ For this China has developed “illumination satellites” that will shine in tandem with the real moon, but are eight times brighter
- ❖ By reflecting light from the sun, the satellites could replace streetlamps in urban areas, which can illuminate an area of 50 sq. km.

Background

- ❖ China is not the first country to try beaming sunlight back to Earth.
- ❖ In the 1990s, Russian scientists reportedly used giant mirrors to reflect light from space in an experimental project called Znamya or Banner.



US embassy and Consulate General merged

- ❖ The United States has decided to merge its Consulate General with its new embassy in Israel into single diplomatic mission in Jerusalem.
- ❖ This decision was taken as part of US’s global efforts to improve efficiency and effectiveness of its operations.
- ❖ It also comes after the US under President Donald Trump administration recognized Jerusalem as Israel’s capital in December 2017.
- ❖ The US has moved its Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in May 2018.

12th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting & 5th ADMM-Plus Meeting

- ❖ The 12th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) and 5th ADMM-Plus was held on October 19 and 20, 2018 Singapore.
- ❖ This was the second time Singapore has chaired ADMM since its establishment in 2006 and first time to chair ADMM-Plus since its establishment in 2010.
- ❖ ADMM and ADMM-Plus serves as key Ministerial-level platforms in regional security architecture for promoting strategic dialogue and practical cooperation between ASEAN and its partners.

Bhutan general elections

- ❖ In 2018 general elections of Bhutan, Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa emerged as the single largest majority party by winning 30 seats of the National Assembly's 47 seats.
- ❖ The Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay of ruling People's Democratic Party was defeated in this election.
- ❖ Overall this was the third general election since democracy was adopted in Bhutan in 2008 and the first general elections held same year itself.
- ❖ Lotay Tshering, President of Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa, will be the next Prime Minister of Bhutan.

UNICEF's Global Partners' Forum

- ❖ India will host the fourth edition of Global Partners' Forum on 12th and 13th December 2018 in New Delhi.
- ❖ PMNCH (The Partnership for Maternal, New-born & Child Health) will bring together 1,200 partners from over 100 countries dedicated to 'Every Woman Every Child' (EWEC) movement.
- ❖ This is the second time India is hosting the forum after 2010.
- ❖ The forum will be co-hosted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and PMNCH.
- ❖ The previous editions of the Forum have been held at Johannesburg in South Africa in 2014 and Dar es Salaam in Tanzania in 2007.

Maeen Abdul Malek Saeed - New Prime Minister of Yemen

- ❖ Yemeni President Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi swore in Maeen Abdul Malek Saeed as the country's new prime minister.
- ❖ The move comes after Yemeni President Abd Rabu Mansour Hadi sacked the prime minister Ahmed bin Daghar from his post.

Druzhba III

- ❖ The Druzhba 2018 (Friendship 2018) joint bilateral military exercise between Pakistan and Russian special forces has begun in Pakistan.
- ❖ This exercise will be organized in north-western hill region in Nowshera district of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa of Pakistan.
- ❖ The two week long joint military exercise is aimed at bolstering and building military cooperation between the two countries.

- ❖ This will be the 3rd joint military drill between both countries under the bilateral training cooperation agreement.

Druzhba military exercise

- ❖ The Druzhba military exercise between Russia and Pakistan was started in 2016.
- ❖ “Druzhba” is a Russian word, which means “friendship”.
- ❖ Its first edition was held in October, 2016 at northern Pakistan.
- ❖ The second edition was held in Russia in September 2017.

Iron Magic 19

- ❖ The joint military exercise Iron Magic 19 between United Arab Emirates (UAE) and United States (US) kicked off near Dubai.
- ❖ The 2-week military exercise is a part of series of joint military exercises held throughout the year between UAE armed forces and armed forces of other countries.

US to pull out of Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty

- ❖ The United States President has announced that the US will unilaterally pull out of 3-decade-old Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty signed with Russia during the Cold War.
- ❖ It was crucial Cold War-era treaty banning development, testing and possession of short and medium range ground-launched nuclear missiles with range of 500-5,000 km.
- ❖ The treaty was signed in December 1987 between the then US President Ronald Reagan and his USSR counterpart Mikhail Gorbachev.

Four-nation summit on Syria crisis

- ❖ Turkey will host the four-nation summit on Syrian crisis in Istanbul to discuss the conflict in Syria and efforts for a lasting solution to the war in the Arab country.
- ❖ The summit will be held between the leaders of Turkey, France, Germany and Russia.

Background

- ❖ Russia is a main backer of Syrian President Bashar Assad’s government while Turkey has been helping insurgents trying to remove him from power.

Paul Biya re-elected as Cameroon's President

- ❖ Cameroon's President Paul Biya has been re-elected for a seventh term, extending his 36-year rule over the nation.
- ❖ Biya has won 71.3 % of the vote, far ahead of opposition candidate Maurice Kamto's 14.2 %.
- ❖ Biya is currently the longest-ruling non-royal leader in Africa.
- ❖ He is also the oldest ruler in Sub-Saharan Africa after Robert Mugabe stepped down during the 2017 Zimbabwean coup d'état.

First trilateral meeting on Chabahar port project

- ❖ The first trilateral meeting between India, Afghanistan and Iran of Coordination Council of Chabahar Agreement was held in Tehran, capital city of Iran.



- ❖ India, Iran and Afghanistan in May 2016, had signed the agreement.
- ❖ The pact involves establishment of transit and transport corridor among the three countries using Chabahar Port as one of regional hubs.
- ❖ The meeting assumes significance as strategically-located Chabahar port on energy-rich Iran's southern coast was coming under the ambit of US sanctions on Iran.

South Asia Regional WASH innovation

- ❖ India's legend cricketer and UNICEF Ambassador for South Asia, Sachin Tendulkar gave away prizes to the winners of South Asia Regional WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) innovation in Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan.



- ❖ The event was organised by UNICEF in association with BRAC, a Bangladesh based international organisation.
- ❖ Two teams from Bangladesh and one from Pakistan got top three places.

First female president – Ethiopia

- ❖ Ethiopia's parliament approved appointment of senior diplomat Sahle-Work Zewde as the country's first female president.



- ❖ She replaced Mulatu Teshome Wirtu.
- ❖ Presently, she is the U.N. under-secretary general and special representative of the secretary general to the African Union.
- ❖ The Ethiopian cabinet also appointed 10 female ministers, making Ethiopia the 3rd country in Africa, after Rwanda and Seychelles, to achieve gender parity in their cabinets.

Trident Juncture 2018

- ❖ NATO's (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) Trident Juncture 2018 military exercise began in Norway.
- ❖ This is NATO's biggest military exercise since the Cold War. Trident Juncture 2018, will be held till November 7, 2018.
- ❖ The drill will be conducted in central and eastern Norway, the North Atlantic and the Baltic Sea.

New Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

- ❖ Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena has sacked Ranil Wickremesinghe, and appointed former President Mahinda Rajapaksha as new Prime Minister.
- ❖ President Mittipala Sirisena's The United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) withdrew support from the coalition government with Ranil Vikramasinghe's Party United National Party (UNP).



- ❖ This coalition government was formed in 2015, when Sirisena became President by the support of Ranil Vikramasinghe.

Pakistan announces first Human Space Mission

- ❖ Pakistan has announced that it would send a human to space for the first time in 2022 with the help of China.
- ❖ This plan was approved at the federal Cabinet meeting chaired by Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan.
- ❖ An agreement has been signed between Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) and a Chinese company.

Michael D Higgins re-elected as Irish president

- ❖ Michael D Higgins has been re-elected as the president of Ireland, after winning 56% of the votes.



- ❖ Mr Higgins is the first president to be re-elected to serve a second term in office since Éamon de Valera in 1966.
- ❖ Mr Higgins, who has served as the country's head of state since 2011, will now serve for another seven years.
- ❖ Mr Higgins is Ireland's ninth president.

World's largest airport 'under one roof'

- ❖ The world's largest airport terminal under one roof with a capacity to serve 90 million passengers was opened in Istanbul, Turkey.
- ❖ The new airport is located near the Black Sea coast on the Europe side of Istanbul.
- ❖ It has been constructed as a part of the phase-1A of the project – Istanbul New Airport.



- ❖ It has been constructed by - IGA - which is a consortium of companies under a public private partnership (PPP) model.

ECONOMY

1st stock exchange to launch commodity derivative contracts

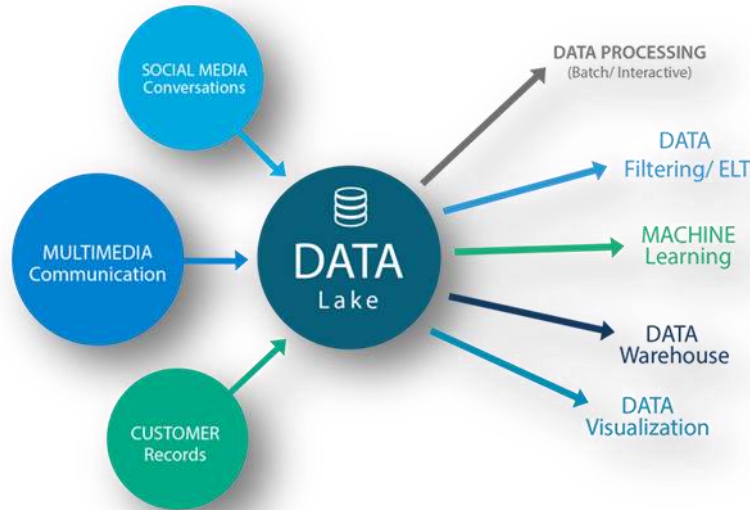
- ❖ The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) became the first stock exchange in the country to launch commodity derivatives contract in gold and silver.
- ❖ So far, commodity contracts were only available on commodity exchanges like
 - Multi-Commodity Exchange (MCX) and
 - National Commodity Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX)the 2 specialised commodity derivatives exchange in the country.
- ❖ The launch of commodity derivatives platform on the BSE will help in efficient price discovery, reduce timeline and make it cost-effective.



- ❖ BSE also waived off transaction charges for the first year in the commodity derivatives segment.

Centralised Information and Management System

- ❖ RBI has shortlisted 5 IT firms for the implementation of 'Centralised Information and Management System' (CIMS).
- ❖ CIMS will provide for seamless data collection from about 130 entities or banks and enable big data analytics.



- ❖ The 5 IT firms are
 - Infosys
 - Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)
 - Capgemini Technology Services India
 - IBM India
 - Larsen & Toubro Infotech

High Level Advisory Group

- ❖ The Union Commerce Ministry has approved the constitution of a High-Level Advisory Group (HLAG) to review India's Global Trade strategy.
- ❖ The HLAG will be chaired by Surjit S Bhalla, who is the Director of Oxus Research and Investments.
- ❖ The group may consider possible approaches and suggest a pragmatic framework for India's future engagement in international trade.

NCLT approves govt's takeover of IL&FS board

- ❖ The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved the takeover of IL&FS board by government nominees.
- ❖ IL&FS Financial Services had defaulted on a series of its debt payments over the last 1 month.
- ❖ A new six-member board led by veteran banker Uday Kotak will take charge of the company.

- ❖ The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has been authorised a maximum of 10 board members.

"Best 100 Global Brands 2018" report

- ❖ According to global brand consultancy Interbrand's "Best 100 Global Brands 2018" report, Apple displaced Google to become the top brand in the world in 2018.
- ❖ While Facebook, mired in data breach controversies, fell to 9th place in the top 100 brands globally.
- ❖ Amazon achieved a 56% growth to become the 3rd top brand globally.
- ❖ According to the ranking, Apple's brand value grew 16 % (year-on-year) to \$214.5 billion.
- ❖ It went on to become the first company in the US to hit the \$1 trillion market cap.

States with Maximum Average AUM

- ❖ According to Association of Mutual Funds of India's (AMFI) statistics, Maharashtra tops the chart for state with the maximum penetration and Assets Under Management (AUM).
- ❖ It is followed by Delhi and Karnataka.
- ❖ Also, as per August, average assets under management (AUM) of mutual funds rose to an all-time high of Rs 25.2 lakh crore across the country..

Norms set for e-trading platforms

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued guidelines for operating Electronic Trading Platforms (ETPs) to transact in eligible instruments.
- ❖ As per the norms, ETPs will mean any electronic system, other than a recognised stock exchange, on which transactions in eligible instruments take place.
- ❖ Trading on electronic platforms is being encouraged across the world as it enhances pricing transparency, processing efficiency and risk control.

Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution - India

- ❖ Ministry of Commerce has released the New Industrial Policy framed in consultation with all Ministries of Union Government, State Governments, and Industries.

- ❖ It was launched at the launch of the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, India, by the Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF) in New Delhi.
- ❖ It aims to align India with the emerging technologies of drones, artificial intelligence and block chain.
- ❖ In connection to this, the WEF is setting up a Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution in Maharashtra.
- ❖ Other centres are in San Francisco, USA, Japan and China.

Indus Food-II tradeshow

- ❖ Indus Food-II tradeshow will be held in Greater Noida on January 14-15, 2019.
- ❖ Indus Food-II is an export focused annual F&B (Food and Beverage) trade fair. It will exhibit India's best food, beverages and Agri products to global buyers.
- ❖ It is organized by Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) along with commerce and industry ministry.

CA Institute's nine-member group

- ❖ Naveen Gupta, President, CA Institute, has constituted a nine-member High Power Group to study the systemic issues at debt-laden IL&FS Group.
- ❖ This High-Power Group will have Shivaji B Zaware as its convenor
- ❖ The committee includes two past presidents of the CA Institute – Ved Jain and Nilesh S Vikamsey.
- ❖ The committee will suggest remedial measures and improvement in the system.

BankBazaar advisor

- ❖ BankBazaar has appointed former RBI Deputy Governor (DG) S.S.Mundra as an advisor to the company.
- ❖ Bankbazaar is an online financial services marketplace.

India's first Cryptocurrency ATM

- ❖ India's first Cryptocurrency ATM has been opened at the Kemp Fort Mall in Bengaluru, Karnataka.



- ❖ The ATM allows customers to deposit and withdraw a minimum amount of Rs 1000, and transact in cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, Ethereum and others.
- ❖ The virtual currency exchange, Unocoin, has installed the currency deposit and dispensing ATM.

Forbes' global 2000 best employers list

- ❖ Engineering and construction major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) have been featured at 22nd rank among the top 25 companies in the Forbes' global 2000 best employers list.
- ❖ It is the only Indian firm to be featured among the top 25 companies in the list.
- ❖ For the second year in a row the chart has been topped by Google parent Alphabet followed by Microsoft and Apple.
- ❖ German companies are the second most represented in the top 10.
- ❖ Other than L&T, the only other Indian firms to feature in the top 100 list are Mahindra & Mahindra at 55, Grasim Industries at 59 and HDFC at 91.

NASSCOM signs MoU with Dubai Internet City

- ❖ The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) has signed a MoU with Dubai Internet City (DIC) to facilitate expansion of Indian businesses in the Middle East.



- ❖ The agreement is the first of its kind in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.
- ❖ It is aimed at attracting Indian small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

ILC recommends UNCITRAL model

- ❖ The Insolvency Law Committee (ILC), chaired by Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas, submitted its report on the matter to Corporate Affairs Minister Arun Jaitley.
- ❖ The ILC has recommended the adoption of the UNCITRAL (United Nations Commission on International Trade Law) Model Law of Cross Border Insolvency, 1997.

Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency

Concerns and apprehensions

- Imports insolvency law of the foreign country
- Protection of local creditors and participation of local creditors in foreign proceedings not ensured
- Foreign insolvency practitioners will be allowed to administer local proceedings
- Recognition of foreign court decisions and orders on insolvency detracts from sovereignty and independence
- Cannot be adopted without reciprocity
- Practical issues make implementation difficult – mechanics of how to cooperate, judicial experience



- ❖ The Model Law focuses on authorising and encouraging cooperation and coordination between jurisdictions, rather than attempting the unification of substantive insolvency law.
- ❖ The UNCITRAL Model Law has been adopted in as many as 44 countries.

- ❖ Established in 1966, UNCITRAL is a subsidiary body of the General Assembly of the UN.

SBI launches its first “Wealth Hub”

- ❖ State Bank of India (SBI) has launched its wealth business services by opening “SBI Wealth Hub” at the Lalbagh branch in Mangalore.
- ❖ The wealth hub was inaugurated by the SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar.
- ❖ Thus, SBI has become the first PSU bank in the country to introduce comprehensive wealth business services for its clients.
- ❖ The bank has re-branded its wealth business as “SBI Wealth”.
- ❖ It offers best-in-class personalised banking and investment services to its elite High Net worth Individual (HNI) clients through a dedicated team of relationship managers.

6-member panel set up to resolve stressed assets

- ❖ The Overseeing Committee (OC) that is formed up under the inter-creditor agreement (ICA) for resolution of stressed assets will have 6 members.
- ❖ The OC is set up under the administration of Indian Banks’ Association (IBA). It will approve resolution plans for stressed assets submitted by lead lenders.
- ❖ The members of OC include:
 - Janki Ballabh (former Chairman, State Bank of India),
 - MBN Rao (former Chairman & Managing Director, Canara Bank),
 - M Damodaran (former Chairman, SEBI) and
 - HR Khan (former Deputy Governor, RBI).
- ❖ The OC will also include a senior Tata Group executive from power sector and a Bombay High Court Judge.

7th World Cooperative Monitor 2018

- ❖ According to the 7th edition ‘World Cooperative Monitor’ report 2018, fertilizer major IFFCO has been ranked as the biggest cooperative in the world.
- ❖ It has retained this position from 2016.
- ❖ It was published by ‘The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)’ and ‘European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises’ (Euricse).

- ❖ IFFCO has been ranked based on the ratio of turnover over gross domestic product (GDP) per capita.
- ❖ In the agriculture and food industries sector, IFFCO has bagged the top position among the top 20 co-operatives in the world.

Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FAIDF)

- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the creation of FAIDF to double farmers' income by 2022.
- ❖ The main aim is to boost fish production to achieve the target of producing
 - 15 million tonnes of fish production by 2020 and
 - 20 million tonnes by 2022-23
 from current production of 11.4 million tonnes.
- ❖ The aim to achieve this target was set under the Blue revolution.
- ❖ The nodal agencies for the fund will be National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), National Cooperatives Development Corporation (NCDC) and scheduled banks.
- ❖ The fund is being raised by Nodal Loaning Entities (NLE).

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Japan Landed Rovers on Asteroid

- ❖ The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) made history by landing two rovers on a 1 km asteroid.



- ❖ This is the first time that the world will observe the surface of an asteroid via moving robots.

- ❖ The small compact MINERVA-II-1 (Micro Nano Experimental Robot Vehicle for Asteroid, the 2nd generation) rovers separated from the Hayabusa2 spacecraft.
- ❖ The MINERVA-II 1 consists of two rovers, Rover-1A and Rover-1B.
- ❖ The 2 rovers Hayabusa2 managed to land on the asteroid are expected to take advantage of the low gravity and jump around the surface, reaching heights of up to 15 meters.
- ❖ The Hayabusa2 probe was launched in December 2014 to explore the surface of the **asteroid known as Ryugu**.

Rail heritage digitization project

- ❖ Union Railway Ministry has launched Rail Heritage Digitisation Project in collaboration with Google Arts and Culture Association.
- ❖ It can be accessed at “<https://artsandculture.google.com/project/indian-railways>”.
- ❖ It is first-of-its-kind project that aims to showcase India’s rail heritage to the national and international audience in an online story-telling platform.
- ❖ It is also the largest cultural heritage digitisation project in India and possibly in the entire Asia Pacific Region.

Mysuraksha app

- ❖ The Mysuru city police have come up with Mysuraksha app to ensure the safety and security of auto and cab passengers.
- ❖ The App has the SOS button which can be pressed in case of any trouble, which sends signals to the police through the GPS and QR code fixed in the vehicle.

Digi Yatra

- ❖ Union Ministry of Civil Aviation has released the policy on biometric based digital processing of passengers at airports called Digi Yatra.
- ❖ The initiative seeks to promote paperless and hassle-free air travel. It will be operational by end of February, 2019 at Bengaluru and Hyderabad airports.
- ❖ Under Digi Yatra, there will be one-time verification at departure airport while travelling for first time using ID.

1st Indian manned mission

- ❖ ISRO and Roscosmos State Corporation for Space Activities (ROSCOSMOS) have agreed to work together for 1st manned space mission Gaganyaan.
- ❖ In this regard, ISRO and Russia's federal space agency Roscosmos have signed an MoU.
- ❖ Under this MoU ROSCOSMOS has offered a ride to Indian astronaut's short visit to International Space Station (ISS) on board Soyuz spacecraft.
- ❖ ISS is habitable artificial satellite in low Earth orbit.

Centre of Excellence for the Internet of Things

- ❖ Indian IT industry's apex body NASSCOM has launched its Centre of Excellence for the Internet of Things (CoE – IoT) at Gurugram, Haryana.
- ❖ This centre was launched in collaboration with Haryana government.
- ❖ It is part of nationwide collaborative initiative involving the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- ❖ It aims to act as perfect collaboration for innovation and high-end technologies.

Project Cyber Shikshaa

- ❖ Microsoft India and Data Security Council of India (DSCI) have launched a new programme called Cyber Shikshaa.
- ❖ Project Cyber Shikshaa focus on skilling women engineering graduates in the niche field of Cyber Security.
- ❖ It has been launched in association with Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY).
- ❖ The primary objective is to connect with underserved women from Tier 2 / Tier 3 cities and to align a career path for them in Cyber Security.
- ❖ Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) will impart training to the selected women candidates from all over India.

Ghauri ballistic missile

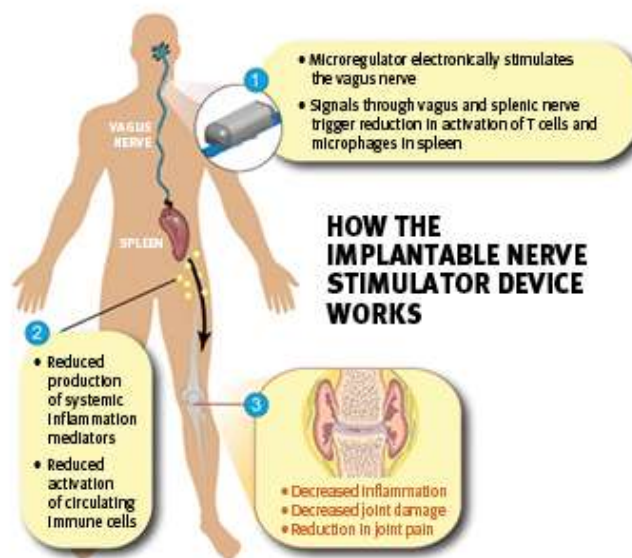
- ❖ Pakistan successfully test-fired Ghauri ballistic missile.
- ❖ It brings many Indian cities under its range.



- ❖ Ghauri is capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads up to a distance of 1,300 kilometres.
- ❖ In April, Pakistan successfully test fired an enhanced version of the indigenously-built Babur cruise missile with a range of 700 kilometres.

World's First Bioelectronic Medicine

- ❖ Scientists from US claimed that they have developed world's first bioelectronic medicine.



- ❖ The bioelectronic medicine is an implantable, biodegradable wireless device that speeds nerve regeneration and improves healing of damaged nerve.
- ❖ The device has not been tested in humans, but its successful testing on animals (rats) offer promise as future therapeutic option for nerve injury patients.

Online Assurances Monitoring System (OAMS)

- ❖ Minister of State (MoS) for Parliamentary Affairs Vijay Goel has recently inaugurated the Online Assurances Monitoring System (OAMS).
- ❖ This was developed by Union Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
- ❖ Its objective is to create transparency in assurance process in Parliamentary affairs.
- ❖ This system has made the information regarding assurances given on the floor of the Houses of Parliament paperless and available in digital format.
- ❖ Through this, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs through e-Office will give out the assurances to the concerned ministries.

India's first 2 EMV chip debit cum credit card

- ❖ IndusInd Bank has launched the IndusInd Bank Duo Card which is India's first 2 EMV chip debit cum credit card.
- ❖ This 2-in-1 Duo Card with 2 Magnetic Stripes & 2 EMV Chips brings the functionalities of both debit and credit cards to the Indian consumer, on one plastic.
- ❖ The card design uses the anagram technique to enhance and highlight the singularity of the Duo Card.

India's first portal for Agri-Business learning

- ❖ The SRiX Agri-Business Academy, an Indo-UK collaborative initiative, has been launched at SR Innovation Exchange (SRiX) Campus in Warangal of Telangana.
- ❖ It is India's first agri and food business online learning platform focussed on start-ups of agriculture, cleantech and IoT.
- ❖ SRiX is a technology business incubator under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India.

Microsoft AI-enabled 'Power Bat'

- ❖ Former India captain Anil Kumble's technology start-up Spektacom Technologies launched the "Power Bat",
- ❖ The bat comes with a lightweight sticker with a sensor stuck on its shoulder.
- ❖ The Power Bat has been powered by Microsoft's Azure Cloud platform and its Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) services.
- ❖ It is processed by Microsoft's Azure Sphere operating system.

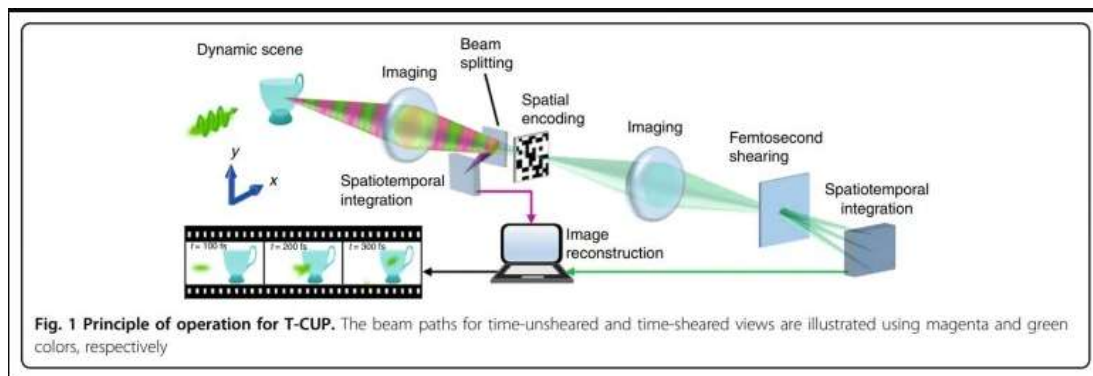
- ❖ It can provide real-time data on a player's performance based on factors including bat speed and quality of the shot.

Ask Disha

- ❖ The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has recently launched a chatbot “Ask Disha” to help its users answer various queries.
- ❖ The AI chatbot, Ask Disha, is powered by artificial intelligence (AI) and it has been jointly developed by IRCTC and CoRover Private Limited.
- ❖ The first-of-its-kind initiative is aimed at facilitating accessibility by answering users’ queries pertaining to various services offered to railway passengers.

World's fastest camera - T-CUP

- ❖ US scientists have developed the world's fastest camera, T-CUP (compressed ultrafast photography).
- ❖ It can capture 10 trillion frames per second - making it possible to 'freeze time' to see light in extremely slow motion.



- ❖ The camera has set a world record for real-time imaging speed.
- ❖ The researchers integrated ‘Compressed ultrafast photography’ (CUP) which was at 100 billion frames per second with femtosecond lasers to form T-CUP system.

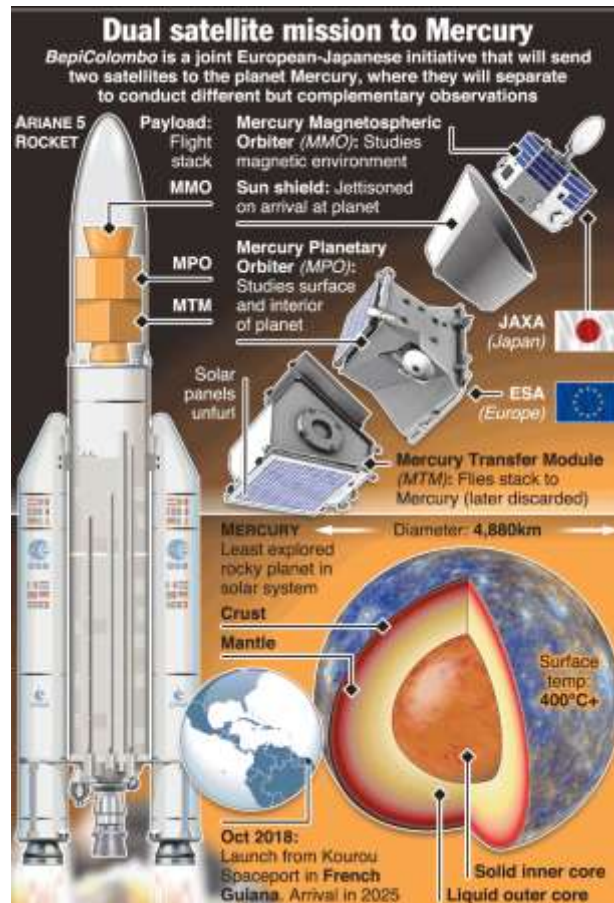
Punjab launches 3 Mobile Apps to check Stubble Burning

- ❖ Punjab Chief Minister has launched 3 Android mobile applications to prevent crop residue burning.
- ❖ The 3 apps are,
 - i-Khet Machine (in-situ management of crop residue)
 - e-PEHaL (monitor tree plantation)
 - e-Prevent (Information about incidents of crop residue burning)

- ❖ The 3 Android mobile applications have been developed by Punjab Remote Sensing Centre (PRSC).

Bepi Colombo mission

- ❖ A British-built spacecraft, Bepi Colombo was launched into space from the European space port in Kourou, French Guiana.
- ❖ The joint endeavour between the ESA and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), Bepi Colombo left Earth on an Ariane 5 rocket.



- ❖ It is a 7-year mission to Mercury to uncover mysteries and gather information surrounding the solar system's innermost planet.
- ❖ In 2025 it will place two probes
 - Europe's Mercury Planetary Orbiter (MPO) and
 - Japan's Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter (MMO)
in orbit around Mercury.
- ❖ Till now, only 2 spacecraft have been to Mercury, NASA's Mariner 10 and Messenger.

- ❖ BepiColombo was named after the late Giuseppe “Bepi” Colombo, an Italian scientist and engineer who played a leading role in the 1974 Mariner 10 mission.

Key features of BepiColombo

- ❖ It is the 1st interplanetary mission to employ advanced electric ion propulsion technology, which firing two at a time, will emit beams of electrically charged xenon gas.
- ❖ It will not be used to accelerate the craft but to act as a brake against the Sun's enormous gravity.

Fusion Energy Conference (FEC 2018)

- ❖ The 27th Fusion Energy Conference (FEC 2018) was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ❖ It is organised by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and hosted by Department of Atomic Energy and Gandhinagar-based Institute of Plasma Research.
- ❖ It aims to provide forum for discussion of key physics and technology issues as well as innovative concepts of direct relevance to the use of nuclear fusion as a source of energy.

World's Largest Unmanned Transport Drone

- ❖ China has successfully tested the world's largest unmanned transport drone.
- ❖ Feihong-98 (FH-98) is the large commercial unmanned aircraft which can carry payload of 1.5 tonnes.
- ❖ It was adapted from the prototype of the Shifei Y5B. Shifei Y5B is China's first fully domestically-built transport aircraft which made its first flight in 1957.

Poly-Oxime

- ❖ The Indian researchers have developed a new skin gel ‘poly-Oxime’ that inhibits the absorption of the most commonly used pesticides such as Organophosphorous compounds.
- ❖ The gel deactivates these chemicals, preventing them from going deep into the skin and organs like the brain and the lungs.
- ❖ This poly-Oxime gel made of chemically modified chitosan — found in the shells of crustaceans such as lobsters, crabs and shrimps.

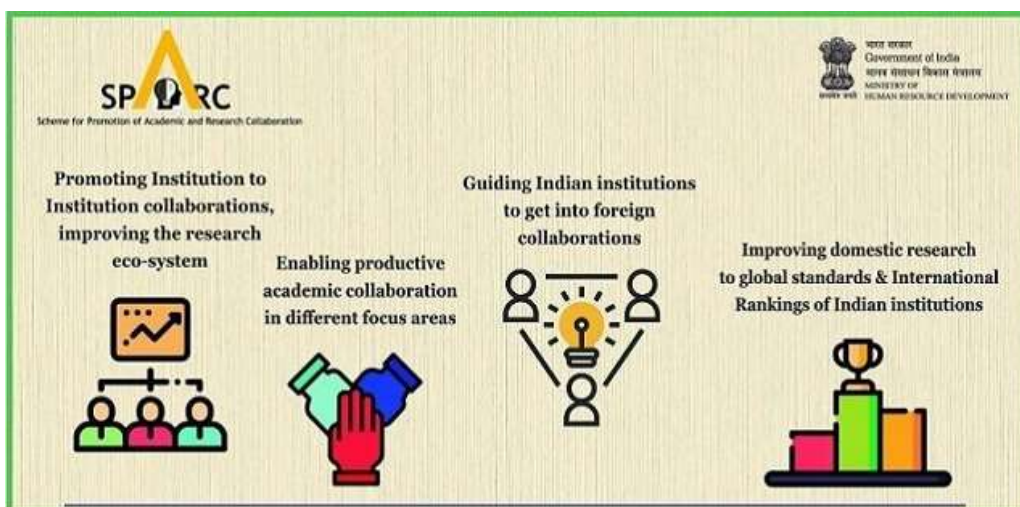
- ❖ The gel has been prepared by researchers at Bangalore-based Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (InStem) from a nucleophilic polymer.

Superflares from the Young Red Dwarf Stars

- ❖ By using Hubble Space Telescope, NASA scientists have found that violent flares from the Young Red Dwarf Stars may make planets orbiting it uninhabitable by affecting their atmospheres.
- ❖ Hubble is observing such stars through a large programme called HAZMAT (Habitable Zones and M dwarf Activity across Time).
- ❖ “M dwarf” is the astronomical term for a red dwarf star.
- ❖ The purpose of the HAZMAT program is to help understand the habitability of planets around low-mass stars.
- ❖ The word “HAZMAT” describes substances that pose a risk to the environment, or even to life itself.
- ❖ The HAZMAT programme is an ultraviolet survey of red dwarfs at three different ages: young, intermediate, and old.
- ❖ Red dwarf is the smallest, most abundant and longest-lived type of star in our galaxy.

Web portal of the SPARC launched

- ❖ Ministry of Human Resource & Development has launched the web portal of the “Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration” (SPARC) in New Delhi.



- ❖ The web portal is available at www.sparc.iitkgp.ac.in.

- ❖ SPARC scheme aims to improve the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by enabling academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world.

Cell-sized robots - Syncells

- ❖ MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) scientists, have developed a method to mass produce robots the size of a cell named "Syncells" (synthetic cells).
- ❖ These robots could be used to monitor the interior of an oil or gas pipeline, or to detect disease in the bloodstream.
- ❖ Syncells can be produced in large quantities by controlling the natural fracturing process of atomically-thin, brittle materials.
- ❖ The process, called "autoperforation", directs the fracture lines so that they produce miniscule pockets of a predictable size and shape.
- ❖ Inside these pockets electronic circuits and materials are embedded to collect data.
- ❖ The outer structure of syncells is formed by a two-dimensional form of carbon called graphene.

PM launches "Main Nahin Hum" Portal and App

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the "Main Nahin Hum" Portal and App.
- ❖ The "Main Nahin Hum" portal works on the theme "Self4Society".
- ❖ It will act as a single platform to help IT professionals and organizations to bring together their efforts towards social causes, and service to society.
- ❖ It would enhance collaboration towards the service of the weaker sections of society, through technology.

1st UAE-made satellite launched from Japan

- ❖ A Japanese rocket lifted off the United Arab Emirates' first locally made satellite, the KhalifaSat Earth observation satellite, into orbit.
- ❖ The launch was done by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries from the Tanegashima Space Centre.



- ❖ The rocket named as H-2A, also carried an Ibuki-2 greenhouse gas observation satellite for Japan.
- ❖ UAE aims to send its first two astronauts to the International Space Station in 2019.
- ❖ It also aims to send a probe on its way to Mars in 2020 and to build a science city there by 2117.

First Franco-Chinese satellite to study climate change

- ❖ The first Franco-Chinese satellite was launched into space orbit to study ocean surface winds and waves.
- ❖ It was launched aboard a Long March 2C carrier rocket, from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in Gobi Desert, China.
- ❖ This satellite will predict cyclones better and improve scientists' understanding of climate change and interactions between the oceans and the atmosphere.
- ❖ This is the first satellite jointly built by China and France.
- ❖ This satellite is fitted with 2 radars,
 - The French-made SWIM - measure the direction and the wavelength of waves.
 - China's SCAT - analyse the force and direction of winds.
- ❖ The data will be collected and analysed in both China and France.

ENVIRONMENT

Citizen Science platform

- ❖ **Citizen Science platform** initiative was launched to save Hornbills in the country and to create awareness among public to conserve this unique bird.
- ❖ The platform was launched by scientists, Aparajita Datta and Rohit Naniwadekar from “Nature Conservation Foundation” and Ramki Sreenivasan and Vikram Hiresavi from “Conservation India”.
- ❖ It is introduced basically to provide the information on hornbill distribution in the country.
- ❖ An interactive web interface named the **“Hornbill Watch initiative” (www.hornbills.in)** allows a person to report on hornbills anywhere in India.
- ❖ Hornbills are called the “Farmers of the forest”, which play a very important role in the dispersal of seeds that grow into trees.

World's Largest ever bird



- ❖ Zoological Society of London has named Vorombe Titan as World’s Largest ever bird.
- ❖ Vorombe Titan (meaning ‘big bird’ in Malagasy and Greek) is believed to have weighed up to 800 kg and was 3 metres tall.
- ❖ It is an extinct Madagascan species and belongs to ‘Elephant’ bird category.
- ❖ Elephant birds (belonging to the family Aepyornithidae) are an extinct group of colossal flightless birds that roamed Madagascar during the Late Quaternary.

World's First Lion Cubs born using Artificial Insemination

- ❖ The world's first lions conceived by artificial insemination have been born at Pretoria in South Africa.
- ❖ The cubs have been named as Isabel and Victor by their keepers.
- ❖ Scientists have accomplished this by 18-month trial of tests researching the reproductive system of female African lions.
- ❖ African lions are now designated as “vulnerable” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Geographical Indication tag - Alphonso mango

- ❖ Chennai based Geographical Indication Registry and Intellectual Property India has granted Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Alphonso mango from 5 districts of Maharashtra.

LOBBYING BEARS FRUIT		BENEFIT OF GI TAG
<p>Facts about Alphonso mangoes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > One of the most expensive varieties of mango, Alphonso is grown mainly in western India, including Sindhudurg, Ratnagiri and Raigad districts > The thin skin of a ripe Alphonso turns bright golden yellow with a tinge of red which spreads across the top of the fruit > Each Alphonso weighs between 150gm and 300gm 		<p>GI products can benefit the rural economy by supplementing the incomes of artisans, farmers, weavers and craftsmen. The GI creates a distinct identity of the product, assures buyers of quality & creates global market for product</p>
<p>What is a GI It is a name or a sign used on products which corresponds to a specific geographical location or origin such as a town, a region or a country</p>	<p>Maha fruits with GI tag Nagpur orange, Mahabaleshwar strawberry, Nashik grapes, Solapur pomegranate</p> 	
<p>Other products Puneeri pagdi, Warli painting, Navapur tur dal, Lasalgaon onion,</p> 	<p>Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri kokum, Mangalwedha jowar, Kolhapuri jaggery and Kolhapuri chappal</p> 	

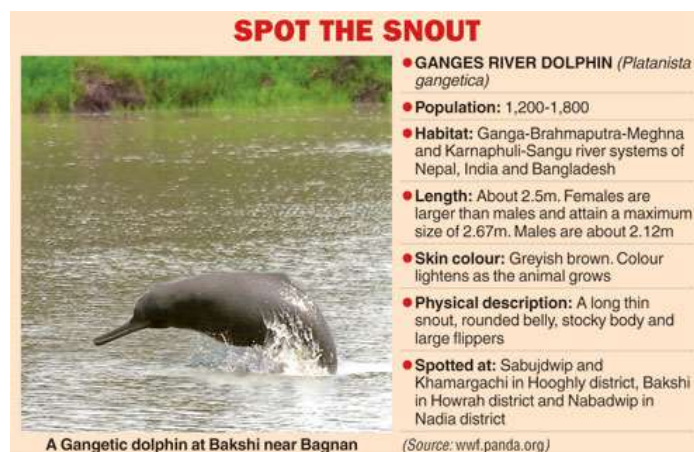
- ❖ These five districts Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Palghar, Thane and Raigad are from western Konkan coastal region of Maharashtra State.
- ❖ With this recognition, Alphonso has joined list of 325 products from India with GI tag.
- ❖ Alphonso, better known as 'Hapus' in Maharashtra is considered as king of mangoes.

Asia's first Dolphin Research Centre

- ❖ National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC) will be set up on the banks of the Ganga river in Patna University campus in Patna, capital of Bihar.
- ❖ It will be Asia's first Dolphin research centre.
- ❖ The announcement for the centre was made on the occasion of Dolphin day (October 5), observed in Bihar.

Gangetic river dolphin

- ❖ Gangetic river dolphin (scientific name: Platanista gangetica) is one of the 4 freshwater dolphin species in the world.



- ❖ The other 3 are found in Yangtze river, Indus river in Pakistan and Amazon river. Gangetic river dolphin species are found in India, Bangladesh and Nepal.
- ❖ Gangetic river dolphin is India's national aquatic animal.
- ❖ Gangetic river dolphins fall under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act and have been declared an endangered species by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature).
- ❖ Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary located in Bihar's Bhagalpur district of Bihar is India's only dolphin sanctuary.

India's 1st 'Methanol Cooking Fuel Program'

- ❖ The Namrup-based Assam Petrochemicals Limited (APL) rolled out Asia's first cannisters based and India's first "Methanol Cooking Fuel Program" in Assam.
- ❖ The project has been promoted by NITI Aayog.
- ❖ The safe handling cannister based cooking stoves are from Swedish Technology.
- ❖ Ritu Bordoloi of Namrup has become the India's first owner and user of a cooking stove fuelled by methanol.
- ❖ The APL is the India's first public sector producer of methanol and formalin from natural gas as feed stock..

Reconstitution of Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority

- ❖ Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has reconstituted Supreme Court-empowered Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA).
- ❖ This comes after tenure of the last EPCA expired on October 3, 2018.

- ❖ The reconstituted EPCA has 20 other members.
- ❖ Former IAS officers Bhure Lal will continue to be Chairman of reconstituted EPCA.
- ❖ EPCA is tasked with taking various measures to tackle air pollution in the National Capital Region.
- ❖ The EPCA is also mandated to enforce Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in the city as per the pollution levels.

MoU for environmental cooperation

- ❖ Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has signed MoU with UN Environment for coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development.
- ❖ The MoU aims to cover all major interest common areas of both CII and UN Environment.
- ❖ The major activity planned by CII and UN Environment under this MoU includes #Un-plastic Initiative.
- ❖ It will begin with 'Call to Action' which will include commitments by industry to take action to curb plastic pollution.

'Status of Ambient Noise Level in India 2017' report

- ❖ According to the 'Status of Ambient Noise Level in India 2017' report, Delhi is ranked as the noisiest metro followed by Kolkata, Bengaluru and Chennai.
- ❖ It is a report published by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
- ❖ As per the National Environment Policy (NEP)-2006, ambient noise is included as an environmental quality parameter and has to be monitored in specified urban areas regularly.
- ❖ Thus, CPCB has developed National Ambient Noise Monitoring Network Programme which includes installation of Noise Monitoring Stations all over India.
- ❖ The cities include Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow and Mumbai.

Vaccination against deadly Canine Distemper Virus

- ❖ Gujarat Forest Department has started vaccination of lions in Gir sanctuary to protect them from a deadly Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) and protozoa infections.
- ❖ The virus is blamed for the death of as many as 23 lions in Gujarat's Gir sanctuary in less than a month.

- ❖ According to the last census conducted in 2015, the number of lions in Gir sanctuary stood at 523.
- ❖ Gir sanctuary is the only wild population of Asiatic lions in the world.
- ❖ CDV is highly contagious disease that attacks gastrointestinal, respiratory, central nervous systems, immune system and other vital organs in animals.

Battling infection

What's killing the Gir lions?

- 23 lions have died since Sept. 12 at the sanctuary. Four lions died of Canine Distemper Virus infection while 17 died of Babesiosis Protozoa infection, which is spread by ticks. Reason for the deaths of two lions is yet to be ascertained.
- Currently, 33 lions are being treated at the Jamvala rescue centre while 3 are undergoing treatment at the Jasadhar rescue centre. All 36 lions under treatment have been isolated.



- As per a 2015 count, there were 523 lions in the Gir forest areas and also in revenue areas in as many as eight districts in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat. As per the census figures, there were 109 males, 201 females and 213 cubs.

- ❖ CDV is considered dangerous virus and is blamed for wiping out 30% population of African lions in East African forests.

World's First Human Case of Rat Hepatitis E

- ❖ World's first ever human case of the rat version of the hepatitis E virus (HEV) has been detected in a 56-year-old Hong Kong man.
- ❖ This is the first study in the world that proves that, rat HEV can infect human beings and cause clinical infection.
- ❖ Rat hepatitis E virus is very different from human hepatitis E virus variants.

Dravyavati River Rejuvenation Project

- ❖ Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje inaugurated the ambitious Dravyavati River Rejuvenation Project.
- ❖ The project, which has been executed by Tata Projects Limited, is spread across a 47.5-km-long rain fed riverfront of Dravyavati river, which flows through Jaipur city.

1st ever National Environment Survey (NES)

- ❖ India's first ever National Environment Survey (NES) will be kicked off from 55 districts across 24 states and three Union Territories in January, 2019.
- ❖ It is aimed at ranking all the districts on their environmental performance and document their best green practices.
- ❖ The first set of documents of the survey will be available in 2020.
- ❖ This survey will be carried out by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC)- through the Environmental Information System
- ❖ The skilled manpower required for the survey will be provided from persons skilled and trained under **MoEFCC's Green Skill Development Programme.**

Harit Diwali-Swasth Diwali campaign

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has launched Harit Diwali-Swasth Diwali campaign.
- ❖ It is aimed at reducing adverse environmental conditions especially pollution in the country after post Diwali celebrations.
- ❖ This campaign was initiated in 2017-18 to enlighten children about harmful fire crackers and motivate them to celebrate Diwali in environment-friendly manner.
- ❖ It also merged this year's campaign with "Green Good Deed" movement.

BIOFACH INDIA

- ❖ Union Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the 10th Edition of 3-day BIOFACH INDIA, the largest show on the "Organic Sector" in India, at New Delhi.
- ❖ It was organized by
 - Nuernberg Messe India and
 - APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority), Ministry of Commerce and Industryand supported by the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce.
- ❖ The theme of the BIOFACH INDIA conference being "Enhancing export of organic products trade from India – strategies and synergies".
- ❖ India ranks first in terms of total number of organic producers and 9th in terms of world's organic agricultural land.

World's first bio-brick grown from human urine

- ❖ Researchers from the University of Cape Town (UCT) in South Africa have developed the world's first bio-brick grown from human urine.
- ❖ The bio-brick was made using the “microbial carbonate precipitation” method.



- ❖ This finding is the result of waste recycling and upcycling.
- ❖ The bio-brick process produces nitrogen and potassium as by-products, which are important components of commercial fertilisers.

Citizen- Science repository of Indian mammals

- ❖ Scientists and researchers from the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) in Bangalore have come up with a new citizen-science repository on Indian mammals, called Mammals of India (MaOI).



- ❖ MaOI is a part of the Biodiversity Atlas (India project). The Biodiversity Atlas is a species-based bioinformatics platform.
- ❖ It is an online, freely –accessible portal mammalsofindia.org
- ❖ It aims to develop individual species pages for all Indian mammals with information on identification, variation, distribution, breeding and non-breeding ecology and species conservation.

STATE

India's 1st Corn Festival

- ❖ In Madhya Pradesh, the first corn festival of the country is being held in Chhindwara.
- ❖ The festival is one of a kind international event.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh is one of the largest corn producing states in India, with Chhindwara being the highest corn producing district.

52nd district of Madya Pradesh – Niwari

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh Government has announced the creation of new district Niwari.
- ❖ It will be the 52nd district of the state and came into effect from October 1, 2018.
- ❖ Niwari district has been carved out of the Tikamgarh district.
- ❖ It will include three tehsils of present Tikamgarh district viz. Niwari, Orchha and Prithvipur.
- ❖ IAS officer Akshay Kumar Singh (2010-batch) will hold interim charge as first District Collector of new district.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh secured 1st place in the implementation of “Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana” by providing houses to 11 lakh poor families.
- ❖ Under the scheme launched in 2015 by the Prime Minister, a target was set to provide 20 million affordable homes by March 31, 2022.

Universal old age pension scheme

- ❖ The Assam cabinet has decided to introduce a universal old age pension scheme to cover all BPL and APL ration card holders above the age of 60.
- ❖ The scheme would be launched on October 2 during the launch of 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi.

8th Asian Yoga Sports Championship

- ❖ Thiruvananthapuram is hosting the 8th Asian Yoga Sports Championship.
- ❖ Kerala hosts the Pan-Asian event for the 2nd time in the country, after 'Hyderabad' which hosted the 2nd edition.
- ❖ 'Yogaratra Awards' will be given away to foreign delegates who were instrumental in popularising yoga in their respective countries.

Prime Minister's Gujarat visit

- ❖ Prime Minister has inaugurated a newly-built Mahatma Gandhi Museum at Alfred High School in Rajkot, where Mahatma Gandhi did his matriculation in 1887.
- ❖ He also inaugurated the Mundra LNG terminal, the Anjar-Mundra Pipeline Project and the Palanpur-Pali-Barmer pipeline project, at Anjar.
- ❖ He also inaugurated a modern chocolate factory set up by Amul in Anand district.

Odisha launches food security scheme

- ❖ Odisha Government has launched State Food Security Scheme (SFSS) to benefit the 25 lakh poor people who were left out of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.
- ❖ It was launched by Odisha Chief Minister on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.
- ❖ The distribution of rice will be carried out through e-Point of sale (e-PoS) device at designated fair price shops.

'Nirman Kusuma' programme

- ❖ Odisha has launched 'Nirman Kusuma' programme for providing financial assistance to the children of construction workers for their technical education in the state.
- ❖ Besides this programme, the state government has also increased financial assistance for girl students by 20%.

- ❖ State government also has doubled death benefits and accidental benefits for the construction workers.

Website, Application to analyze drought situation

- ❖ Maharashtra has launched a website and a mobile application to analyse the drought situation in the state by collecting data on rainfall, crop situation and underground water.
- ❖ The website 'Maha Madat' has been created by the Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry with the help of the Maharashtra Remote Sensing Application Centre (MRSAC).
- ❖ The Region is declared as Drought based on the two criteria laid down by the Centre in 2016.
- ❖ Drought can be declared if a region does not receive rain for a span of 21 days.

Wage Compensation Scheme

- ❖ Assam has become the first Indian state to offer a Wage Compensation Scheme for pregnant women working in the tea gardens of the state.
- ❖ The scheme is aimed at providing better health and nutrition supplements to the pregnant women.
- ❖ Under the scheme, an amount of Rs 12,000 will be given in 4 instalments and they would also be given a maternity leave.

Unnati Scheme – Karnataka

- ❖ The Karnataka Department of Social Welfare has launched Unnati, a scheme to foster entrepreneurs working on rural and social impact technologies.
- ❖ The first stream of Unnati is technology innovation.
- ❖ This scheme will identify entrepreneurs from SC/ST background, who are denied a chance and promote these entrepreneurs.
- ❖ The second stream of Unnati is social impact.
- ❖ Unnati will identify companies that are working on products and solutions for problems that are plaguing both the Government and society at large.

Urban Local Body Polls – Jammu and Kashmir

- ❖ The second phase of municipal polls was held in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Nearly 80 percent voters exercised their franchise in Jammu.

- ❖ Only 3.4 percent electorate have cast their votes in Kashmir.
- ❖ Two key parties in the state - the National Conference and Mehbooba Mufti's PDP (Peoples Democratic Party) - have abstained from the elections over the Centre's stand on Article 35-A.

Article 35-A

- ❖ Article 35A was incorporated into the Constitution in 1954 by an order of the then President Rajendra Prasad on the advice of the Jawaharlal Nehru Cabinet.
- ❖ Article 35A of the Indian Constitution is an article that empowers the Jammu and Kashmir state's legislature to define “permanent residents” of the state and provide special rights and privileges to those permanent residents.

Puri's Jagannath temple – Police Entry

- ❖ The Supreme Court took note of the October 3 violence at Puri's Jagannath temple (Odisha) during a protest against the introduction of a queue system for devotees.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has said that no policeman should enter the temple with weapons and shoes.

Country's first biofuel plant – Odisha

- ❖ Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) will complete the commissioning of its second generation (2G) ethanol bio-refinery at Baulsingha village in Bargarh district by 2020.
- ❖ This is the first bio fuel plant in the country where ethanol will be produced from rice straw.
- ❖ Ethanol will be blended with petrol and used as fuel.
- ❖ As per the National Biofuel Policy-2018, India has set the target of 20% ethanol blending to petrol by 2030.
- ❖ Currently only 3% or 4% Ethanol blending in petrol is available due to unavailability of the biofuel.

International Film Festival – Goa

- ❖ The Goa International Film Festival 2018 is scheduled from November 20 to November 28.
- ❖ This year Jharkhand will be a partner state.
- ❖ This will allow Jharkhand to showcase its culture and favourable film making incentives announced by the state government.

Chief Minister's Urban Leaders Fellowship Program

- ❖ Delhi government has launched Chief Minister's Urban Leaders Fellowship Programme.
- ❖ It seeks to attract young leaders across the country to work with the government on addressing some of the most pressing urban challenges.

Haryana's first autism research centre

- ❖ First of its kind in Haryana, National Autism Intervention Research Centre was launched at Fortis Memorial Research Institute in Gurugram.
- ❖ The centre, dedicated to people suffering from Autism, has been started in association with Behaviour Momentum India.

Graded Response Action Plan

- ❖ The Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) started implementation of a Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) to control air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region.
- ❖ The air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region has begun to show a trend towards poor category.
- ❖ The SC-empowered EPCA is mandated to take steps to tackle air pollution in Delhi-NCR.

Early Warning System – Air Pollution

- ❖ The government has launched an early warning system that can predict the quality of air in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) three days in advance.
- ❖ It will help to tune anti-pollution control policies to prevent a spike during winters.
- ❖ The air quality early warning system is developed by the Union ministry of earth sciences (MoES).
- ❖ The system can forecast PM_{2.5} (fine, respirable particles), PM₁₀ (coarse pollution particles), oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), ozone (O₃), sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and carbon monoxide (CO).
- ❖ It can also provide data on fires based on satellite imagery, dust levels and other factors.

- ❖ The system uses models from the US' National Centre for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) and Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI) to calculate the level of air pollution in Delhi and NCR.

'Khadya Sathi' scheme

- ❖ West Bengal Chief Minister, on the occasion of World Food Day (16th October), launched 'Khadya Sathi' scheme.
- ❖ This would ensure food security to more than 8.5 crore people of the state.
- ❖ Special assistance will be given to the people of Jangalmahal as well as the Toto tribe.

Bharosa - women's centre for victims of violence

- ❖ Hyderabad Police Commissioner V C Sajjanar inaugurated a women's centre for victims of violence named 'Bharosa'.
- ❖ It is a 24-hour state-of-the-art centre to support women and children who are victims of violence and in distress.
- ❖ The centre would help these women along with dealing in POCSO cases.

GI Tag for Muzaffarpur's Shahi Litchi

- ❖ Muzaffarpur's Shahi Litchi has got official recognition as it receives the Geographical indication (GI) tag.



- ❖ The famous Shahi litchi, which is famous for its sweet, juicy, unique flavour and aroma, is mostly grown in Muzaffarpur and adjoining areas of Bihar
- ❖ The GI registration was done in the name of 'Litchi Growers Association of Bihar', who had applied for the tag.

Bihar's products already with GI Tag

- ❖ Katrani rice, Jardalu mango and Magahi paan (betel vine)

Goa Maritime Symposium 2018

- ❖ The 2nd edition of the Goa Maritime Symposium-2018 was inaugurated by, Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Sunil Lanba at INS Mandovi at Goa.
- ❖ The Theme of the conference is "Building Stronger Maritime Partnerships in IOR".
- ❖ The symposium aims to promote maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

"Blue Revolution" – Meghalaya

- ❖ The flagship scheme "Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries" will be launched in Meghalaya on October 26.
- ❖ With the launch of this scheme the State would be self-sufficient in fish production.

UP declares man-animal conflict death state disaster

- ❖ UP has become the first state in the country to declare death through a man-animal conflict a state disaster.
- ❖ It has brought such incidents under the ambit of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to ensure better coordination and relief.
- ❖ If a person dies in an animal attack the deceased's family will be given a compensation of Rs 5 lakh by the State Disaster Management Authority.

Kerala -the first smoke-free State

- ❖ Kerala is set to become the first smoke-free State in the country with public sector oil companies have almost achieved 100% LPG penetration.
- ❖ With 3 bottling plants at Kochi, Kozhikode, and Kollam, LPG is being brought to 49.79 lakh customers through 308 distributors.

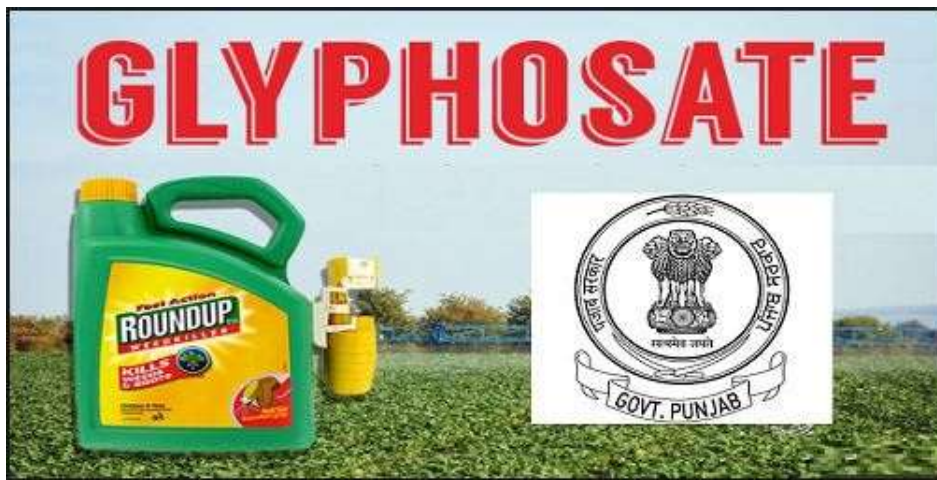
Kati Bihu festival

- ❖ Assam celebrated its 3rd Bihu festival known as the 'Kati Bihu' or Kongali Bihu festival across the state.
- ❖ The name of the other 2 Bihu festivals is: Rongali and Bohagi Bihu.

- ❖ The festival derives its name from the Assamese month of Kati.
- ❖ On the occasion of Kati Bihu, women try to ward off evil and pray for a rich harvest by lighting earthen lamps.
- ❖ The festival is held at this time of the year since the granaries of the farmers usually remain empty and therefore it is known as Kongali (poor) Bihu.

Glyphosate banned in Punjab

- ❖ The Punjab government banned the sale of “cancer causing” weedicide glyphosate.
- ❖ The systemic herbicide is a group 2A cancer causing material and has the potential to damage the human DNA.



- ❖ Punjab was the fourth State after Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra to regulate the sale of herbicide.

TECH 2018

- ❖ UNESCO MGIEP (Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education) in association with Government of Andhra Pradesh announces an international conference, TECH 2018.
- ❖ It aims to showcase the role of games and digital learning in enabling a shift from "transmissive pedagogies" to "transformative pedagogies" to create peaceful and sustainable societies.
- ❖ The 3-day event will be held from 15-17 November 2018 at Novotel, Vizag City, Andhra Pradesh, India.
- ❖ UNESCO MGIEP is the first and only category 1 Research Institute in Asia Pacific region focused on mainstreaming socio-emotional learning in education systems.

Krishi Kumbh 2018

- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurated three-day long Krishi Kumbh 2018 in Lucknow through video conferencing.
- ❖ Its objective is to enable technology driven solution to farmers and double their income.
- ❖ Krishi Kumbh is having,
 - Haryana and Jharkhand as partner states and
 - Japan and Israel as partner countries.
- ❖ Under this, the Government is providing 50 to 80 % discount on machineries to stop farmers from stubble burning.

Portal to promote Odia language and literature

- ❖ Odisha CM has launched a new web portal of 'Odia Virtual Academy' to promote the Odia language and literature.
- ❖ The portal, www.oa.gov.in, is a result of 3 MOUs signed by the State Government with the
 - University of Chicago library,
 - C-DAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing) and
 - Centre for Internet and Society, Bengalurufor digitization and development of Odia software.

Odisha Disaster Preparedness Day – 29 October

- ❖ Odisha Disaster Preparedness Day is observed every year on October 29, the day on which Super Cyclone hit Odisha in 1999 and killed more than 10,000 people.
- ❖ On the occasion, the Odisha Chief Minister has launched the Early Warning Dissemination System (EWDS) and the mass message system to inform people in advance of upcoming calamities.
- ❖ The EWDS system is the first of its kind automatic public address system in India to alert the people about the possible cyclone, tsunami, etc.

Ghogha-Dahej Ro-Pax Ferry service

- ❖ The Gujarat Chief Minister launched the "Ro-Pax" (roll on/off-passenger) ferry service connecting Ghogha in Saurashtra and Dahej in south Gujarat.

- ❖ The inaugural vessel- Voyage Symphony was flagged off from the RORO (Roll On – Roll Off) terminal at Ghogha, Bhavnagar and will pass through the Gulf of Cambay.



- ❖ The service would be operated by Surat-based Indigo Seaways Pvt Ltd (ISPL) and Gujarat Maritime Board under the public-private partnership model.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

UN refugee prize

- ❖ South Sudanese surgeon Dr. Evan Atar Adaha has been named the 2018 winner of UNHCR's (UN High Commissioner for Refugees) Nansen Refugee Award.



- ❖ He had been honoured for his outstanding 20-year commitment in providing medical services to people forced to flee conflict and persecution in Sudan and South Sudan.

- ❖ The Nansen prize, awarded annually, is named after Norwegian polar explorer Fridtjof Nansen, who served as the first high commissioner for refugees during the League of Nations.
- ❖ The Award honours extraordinary service to the forcibly displaced.
- ❖ Last year's winner was Nigerian Zannah Mustapha.

Right Livelihood Award

- ❖ The 2018 Honorary Award goes to anti-corruption champions Thelma Aldana (Guatemala) & Iván Velásquez (Colombia)
- ❖ It has been awarded for their innovative work in exposing abuse of power and prosecuting corruption, thus rebuilding people's trust in public institutions.
- ❖ The three cash awards go to the following Laureates:
 - 3 imprisoned civil and human rights defenders from Saudi Arabia, Abdullah al-Hamid, Mohammad Fahad al-Qahtani and Waleed Abu al-Khair.
 - A farmer from Burkina Faso named Yacouba Sawadogo and
 - Australian agronomist Tony Rinaudo.
- ❖ It is the first time that a Right Livelihood Award goes to Laureates from Saudi Arabia.

Right Livelihood Award

- ❖ The Award was established in 1980 to "honour and support courageous people and organisations offering visionary and exemplary solutions to the root causes of global problems".
- ❖ It has become widely known as the 'Alternative Nobel Prize' and is presented annually in Stockholm.

2018 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine

- ❖ The 2018 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was jointly awarded to two immunologists James Allison of the U.S. and Tasuku Honjo of Japan.



- ❖ It was announced by Nobel Assembly at Sweden's Karolinska Institute.
- ❖ They have won it for their discovery of Immune checkpoint therapy.
- ❖ They figured out how to help the patient's own immune system tackle the cancer more quickly.
- ❖ It contradicts with traditional forms of cancer treatment that directly target cancer cells.

Chief Economist of IMF

- ❖ India-born economist Gita Gopinath was appointed Chief Economist of International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- ❖ She will take over as IMF chief economist after Maurice Obstfeld retires in December 2018.
- ❖ It makes her second Indian after former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan to hold the position.



- ❖ She has been an honorary economic adviser to Chief Minister of Kerala and also had served on advisory panel for G-20 issues for India's Ministry of Finance.
- ❖ In 2014, she had made into IMF's list of 25 economists under 45. She was also chosen as Young Global Leader by World Economic Forum (WEF) in 2011.

Global Goalkeepers Awards

- ❖ Global Goalkeepers Awards were given to 3 youngsters for making the world better than what it was when they were born.
- ❖ 18-year old Indian-origin Girl Amika George has won the "Campaign Award" for her "Period Poverty" campaign.

- ❖ 24-year-old Iraqi Girl Nadia Murad has won the “Changemaker” Award. It has to be noted that Nadia was also a nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize.



- ❖ She is the UN Goodwill Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking.
- ❖ 28-year old Kenyan Boy Dymus Kisilu has won the “Progress” Award.
- ❖ Goalkeepers was started by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2017 to propel global action and track progress on the UN’s Sustainable Developmental Goals.
- ❖ Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards is popularly known as the Oscars for social progress.

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize

- ❖ Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has recently announced the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology for 2018.
- ❖ Every year, several scientists below the age of 45 are selected from various institutions across the country and awarded for their outstanding scientific work in the last 5 years.

Biological Sciences

- ❖ Dr Thomas Pucadyil, IISER Pune.
- ❖ Ganesh Nagaraju from IISC, Bengaluru.

Chemical Sciences

- ❖ Rahul Banerjee, IISER, Kolkata.
- ❖ Swadhin Kumar Mandal IISER, Kolkata.

Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Sciences

- ❖ Dr. Madineni Venkat Ratnam, National Atmospheric Research Laboratory, Tirupati.

- ❖ Parthasarathi Chakraborty, CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography, Goa.

Engineering Sciences

- ❖ Amit Agarwal, IIT Bombay.
- ❖ Ashwin Anil Gumaste, IIT Bombay.

Mathematical Sciences

- ❖ Amit Kumar, IIT Delhi.
- ❖ Nitin Saxena, IIT Kanpur.

Medical Sciences

- ❖ Dr Ganesan Venkatasubramanian, NIMHANS, Bengaluru.

Physical Sciences

- ❖ Dr. Aditi Sen De, Harish Chandra Research Institute, Allahabad.
- ❖ Dr. Ambarish Ghosh, IISc, Bengaluru.

National Tourism Awards 2016-2017

- ❖ The National Tourism Awards 2016-17 were presented by Union Minister for Tourism (IC), K J Alphons.
- ❖ The Tourism Minister also launched the **'Incredible India Mobile App'** and the **'Incredible India Tourist Facilitators Certification'** programme.
- ❖ The App has been developed by 'Tech Mahindra' and the online certification learning platform was developed by 'Wipro Limited'.

Best State / Union Territory - Comprehensive Development of Tourism (Rest of India)

- ❖ 1st Prize: Andhra Pradesh
- ❖ 2nd Prize: Kerala
- ❖ 3rd Prize: Rajasthan & Goa (Joint Winner)

Best State / Union Territory - Comprehensive Development of Tourism (J & K and North East including Sikkim)

- ❖ Sikkim

Best Heritage City

- ❖ Ahmedabad & Mandu (Joint Winner)

Most Responsible Tourism Project / Initiative

- ❖ Wayanad, Kerala

100th birth anniversary of Govindappa Venkataswamy

- ❖ Google Doodle on October 1 paid tribute to Dr Govindappa Venkataswamy, a visionary Indian ophthalmologist, on his 100th birth anniversary.

- ❖ Dr Venkataswamy is the founder and former chairman of Aravind Eye Hospitals, the largest provider of eye care in the world.
- ❖ Born on October 1, 1918, in Vadamalapuram, Tamil Nadu, Venkataswamy dedicated his life to eliminating needless blindness.



- ❖ In 1973, Venkataswamy was conferred the Padmashree award for his outstanding service to the nation.

Executive Chairman of NALSA

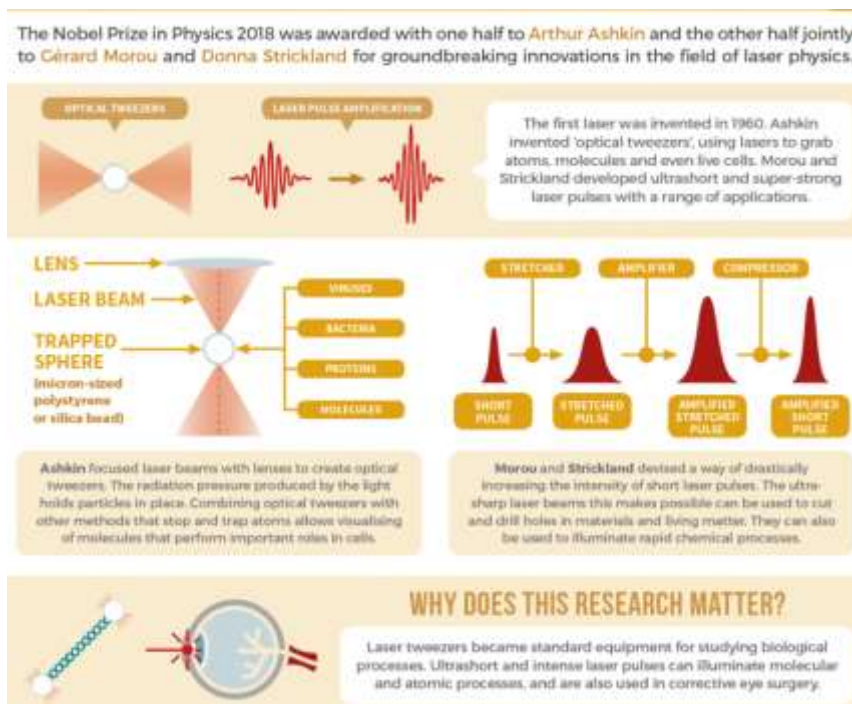
- ❖ President has appointed senior judge of Supreme Court Madan Bhimarao Lokur (64) as Executive Chairman of National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA).
- ❖ NALSA has been constituted under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
- ❖ It provides services of free legal aid in civil and criminal matters for poor and marginalised people who cannot afford services of lawyer in any court or tribunal.

New Deputy National Security Advisor

- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has redesignated R N Ravi, Chairman of Joint Intelligence Committee as Deputy National Security Advisor (Internal Affairs).
- ❖ He will be the 3rd deputy NSA to National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval after former Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief Rajinder Khanna and serving diplomat Pankaj Saran.
- ❖ At present, India has three-tier internal security structure which includes
 - National Security Council (NSC), headed by Prime Minister,
 - Strategic Policy Group (SPG) headed by cabinet secretary and
 - National Security Advisory Board (NSAB).

2018 Nobel Physics Prize

- ❖ The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has selected three scientists
 - Arthur Ashkin (USA),
 - Gerard Mourou (France) and
 - Donna Strickland (Canada)
 for the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physics.
- ❖ They were selected for ground breaking inventions in the field of laser physics.



- ❖ Arthur Ashkin is 96 years old which makes him the oldest scientist ever to be awarded a Nobel Prize.
- ❖ He received prize for optical tweezers and their application to biological systems.
- ❖ Gerard Mourou and Donna Strickland were jointly awarded for their innovative technique is known as ‘chirped pulse amplification’ (CPA).
- ❖ Strickland became the 3rd woman to have received Nobel Prize in Physics, after Marie Curie in 1903 and Maria Goeppert Mayer in 1963.


2018 Nobel Chemistry Prize

- ❖ The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has selected
 - US scientists Frances Arnold and George Smith and


- British researcher Gregory Winter for the 2018 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.
- ❖ They were selected for harnessing power of evolution to develop enzymes and antibodies that have led to new pharmaceuticals and biofuels.

Chemical (r) evolution


The Nobel Prize in Chemistry has been awarded for using the concept of evolution to develop proteins and solve chemical problems



Frances H. Arnold
California Institute of Technology, U.S.




George P. Smith
University of Missouri, U.S.




Sir Gregory P. Winter
MRC Lab of Molecular Biology, U.K.

Mimicking evolution: Evolution has solved complex chemical problems – for example, fish can swim in polar oceans as they have developed anti-freeze proteins. Arnold used this concept to build **better enzymes**. Enzymes are catalysts which **speed up chemical processes** such as digestion, clotting of blood. More effective the enzymes, quicker the process. Flow chart shows how she achieved it

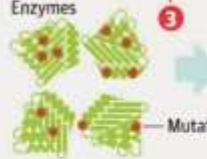
1 She introduced random mutations in the DNA of the enzyme



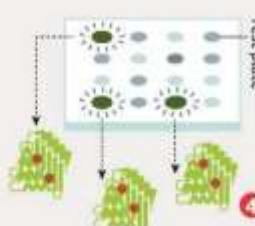
2 Then, the genes were inserted into bacteria which produced randomly mutated enzymes



3 Third, the mutated enzymes were tested. Those that were most efficient at catalysing the desired chemical reaction were selected



4 Rest were discarded. This process was repeated again and again until the enzyme which gave the best results were arrived at. This method was called **directed evolution**



Target and deliver: Smith and Winter applied this technique to create **better antibodies**. Antibodies are proteins that function like targeted missiles; they can precisely identify and **bind to the viruses or bacteria that infect us**. When an antibody attaches to them, it sends a signal to aggressive immune cells to destroy the invaders. This is how our body fights off infections. The stronger the antibodies that get attached to the target, the more effective the cure will be. Winter used Arnold's directed evolution technique **to develop better drugs** to treat autoimmune diseases and even to cure metastatic cancer

Uses: Tailored enzymes are now being internationally developed to promote a greener chemicals industry, produce new materials, manufacture sustainable biofuels, mitigate disease and save lives

- ❖ Chemistry was third of this year's Nobel Prizes.
- ❖ Frances Arnold is the fifth woman to win a chemistry Nobel in the prize's 117-year history.
- ❖ Smith had developed new way to evolve proteins and Winter had used method for evolving antibodies.

UN Conference on Disarmament - Pankaj Sharma

- ❖ Pankaj Sharma has been appointed as ambassador and India's permanent representative to United Nations Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.
- ❖ He will replace Amandeep Gill.



UN Conference on Disarmament (CD)

- ❖ UN Conference on Disarmament (CD) is not formally an United Nations (UN) organization.
- ❖ It is linked to UN through personal representative of UN Secretary-General.
- ❖ It is a multilateral forum established in 1979 by international community to negotiate multilateral arms control and disarmament agreements.
- ❖ It is headquartered in Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

2018 Nobel Peace Prize

- ❖ Norwegian Nobel Committee has selected Dr. Denis Mukwege (63) and Nadia Murad (25) jointly for the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize award.

WHO ARE THE WINNERS?

<p style="text-align: center;">FROM SLAVE OF JIHADIS TO NOBEL WINNER</p>  <p>NADIA MURAD survived the worst cruelties ever inflicted on her people, the Yazidis of Iraq, before becoming a global champion of their cause and winning the Nobel Peace Prize.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The 25-year-old Murad once lived a quiet life in her village near the mountainous northern Iraq, close to the border with Syria. ■ But, in 2014, pick-up trucks bearing the black flag of the IS jihadists swept into her village, Kocho. IS fighters set about killing the men, taking children captive to train them as fighters and condemning thousands of women to a life of labour and sexual slavery. ■ After being captured by IS fighters, she was held captive and repeatedly gangraped, tortured and beaten. ■ Murad escaped and reached Iraqi Kurdistan. There, she learnt that six of her brothers and her mother had been killed. ■ She has since dedicated herself to what she calls 'our peoples' fight'. 	<p style="text-align: center;">BRAVE HEALER OF HORRIFIC WOUNDS</p>  <p>DENIS MUKWEGE is a crusading gynaecologist who has spent over two decades treating injuries inflicted on women in DRC, whose work was the subject of a 2015 film: <i>The Man Who Mends Women</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In Democratic Republic of Congo, they call him 'Doctor Miracle' for his surgical skill and dedication in helping women overcome the injuries and trauma of sexual abuse and rape. ■ A father to five children, the tireless 63-year-old is an outspoken critic of the abuse of women in war, and has repeatedly accused the world of failing to act. ■ He had been repeatedly nominated for his work with gangrape victims. ■ Mukwege has called on the world to take a tougher line on rape as a weapon of war. ■ He has set up the Panzi hospital in Bukavu, which serves as a clinic for gynaecological and obstetric care. There, he lives under the permanent protection of UN peacekeepers.
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- ❖ They were given award for their efforts to end use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict.
- ❖ Dr. Denis Mukwege is Congolese gynaecological surgeon.
- ❖ He was awarded prize for defending victims of war-time sexual violence in African nation of Democratic Republic of Congo.
- ❖ Nadia Murad was one of the thousand Yazidi women who escaped from IS captivity and spoke out in public about abuse she and other women underwent.
- ❖ In 2016, Murad was named UN's first Goodwill Ambassador for Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking.

Ekalabya Puraskar – 2018

- ❖ Hockey player Lilima Minz, who hails from odisha will receive the prestigious 26th Ekalabya Puraskar for the year 2018.



- ❖ The annual award is instituted by IMPaCT, the charitable wing of Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys (IMFA).
- ❖ Minz was also part of the Indian team that won the gold medal in Women's Hockey Asia Cup after a gap of 13 years in Japan on November 5, 2017.

Chief Statistician of India

- ❖ The government has appointed Pravin Srivastava as Chief Statistician of India (CSI).
- ❖ Srivatsava is India's third Chief Statistician.
- ❖ He was a secretary to the Indian Statistical Commission, popularly known as the Rangarajan Commission.
- ❖ Rangarajan Commission laid the foundation of the modern statistical system.

Anna Politkovskaya Award

- ❖ Binalakshmi Nepram has won Reach All Women in WAR (RAW in WAR) of Anna Politkovskaya Award.
- ❖ Binalakshmi is a rights activist supporting women survivors of violence in northeast India.
- ❖ Binlakashmi shares the award with Svetlana Alexievich - an investigative journalist and writer from Belarus.



- ❖ The award recognised the women's bravery in speaking out and defying "injustice, violence and extremism.
- ❖ The award marks the 12th anniversary of the killing of Politkovskaya, a Russian investigative reporter who uncovered state corruption and rights abuses, especially in Chechnya.

Nobel Economics Prize 2018

- ❖ The Royal Swedish Academy has decided to award the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2018 to William D. Nordhaus and Paul M. Romer.



- ❖ They have been chosen for this award for integrating innovation and climate with economic growth.
- ❖ Dr. Nordhaus was the first person to create an integrated assessment model, i.e. a quantitative model that describes the global interplay between the economy and the climate.
- ❖ Dr. Romer has laid the foundation of endogenous growth theory.

- ❖ The theory is both conceptual and practical, as it explains how ideas are different to other goods and require specific conditions to thrive in a market.
- ❖ Both Dr. Nordhaus and Dr. Romer are American citizens.

ISSA Good Practice Award

- ❖ The Employees' State Insurance Corporation has won the 'ISSA Good Practice Award' for Administrative Solution for Coverage Extension.
- ❖ The award was presented at "Regional Social Security Forum for Asia and the Pacific" held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- ❖ The award recognises the measures taken by ESIC for,
 - Extension of coverage-SPREE (Scheme for Promoting Registration of Employers and Employees)
 - Reduced rate of contribution rates for 24 months in newly implemented areas.
 - Raising the wage limit for coverage under the ESI Act.

Special Lifetime Achievement Award- Vikku Vinayakram

- ❖ Veteran percussionist Vikku Vinayakram was presented with the Special Lifetime Achievement award by The Music Academy.
- ❖ Mr. Vinayakram is the third musician to receive special lifetime achievement award from the Music Academy.



RBI Directors

- ❖ The government has appointed Sachin Chaturvedi in place of Nachiket Mor on the central board of the Reserve Bank of India.

- ❖ Revathy Iyer was also nominated to the RBI board.



- ❖ Both are appointed for a period of four years with effect from September 19, 2018.
- ❖ With these appointments, RBI will now have 18 members on its central board, including four deputy governors and the governor.

Solicitor General - Tushar Mehta

- ❖ The Centre has appointed Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta as Solicitor General of India.
- ❖ He will hold office till June 30, 2020.



- ❖ The Solicitor General is the second most important post of law officer after the attorney general.
- ❖ The post fell vacant on October 20, 2017, when senior advocate Ranjit Kumar resigned from the post.

India's first 'Miss Trans Queen'

- ❖ Veena Sendre from Chhattisgarh has been chosen as India's first 'Miss Trans Queen'.
- ❖ Veena defeated Namita Ammu of Tamil Nadu to claim the title at the national-level beauty contest organised in Mumbai.
- ❖ Sendre belongs to Mandir Hasaud village in Raipur.

FAO's Future Policy Award 2018

- ❖ North-eastern state Sikkim has won the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Future Policy Award 2018 for being the world's first 100 percent organic state.
- ❖ Sikkim defeated 51 nominated policies from 25 countries and won the Gold Prize of the Future Policy Award 2018, also known as “Oscar for Best Policies”.
- ❖ In 2015, Sikkim was announced as the first organic state in the world.
- ❖ This year’s award was co-organised by
 - The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO),
 - The World Future Council (WFC) and
 - IFOAM – Organics International.

New Academy Prize in Literature

- ❖ Guadeloupean author Maryse Conde (81) was awarded New Academy Prize in Literature.
- ❖ Conde is author of some 20 novels, including Desirada, Segu and Crossing the Mangrove.
- ❖ Her writings mostly describe the ravages of colonialism and post-colonial chaos.
- ❖ New Academy Prize in Literature was formed by New Academy and it is an alternative award formed in protest to Nobel Literature Prize.

Hridaynath Award for Lifetime Achievement 2018

- ❖ National award-winning music director Mohammed Zahur Khayyam Hashmi, famously known as Khayyam has been named for this year's Hridaynath Award for Lifetime Achievement.
- ❖ This year, the award ceremony coincides with 81st birthday of Hridaynath Mangeshkar after whom award is named.

- ❖ The award was established in 2011 by Mumbai-based socio-cultural organisation Hridayesh Art in honour of music composer and singer Hridaynath Mangeskar.

Man Booker Prize – 2018

- ❖ Anna Burns won the prestigious Man Booker Prize for fiction for her novel “Milkman”.



- ❖ Ms. Burns is the first writer from Northern Ireland to win the prize, which is open to English-language authors from around the world.
- ❖ The other finalists were
 - The Mars Room by Rachel Kushner’s
 - The Long Take by Robin Robertson’s
 - Greek tragedy by Daisy Johnson’s
 - The Overstory by Richard Power
 - Washington Black by Esi Edugyan

The Man Booker Prize

- ❖ ‘The Man Booker Prize’, which was launched in 1969, aims to promote the finest in fiction by rewarding the best novel of the year written in English and published in the United Kingdom.
- ❖ Similarly, ‘The Man Booker International Prize’ was established in 2005, biennially rewarding an author for a body of work originally written in any language as long as it was widely available in English. Both novels and collections of short stories are eligible for this prize.
- ❖ From its inception, only Commonwealth, Irish, and South African (and later Zimbabwean) citizens were eligible to receive the prize.

- ❖ In 2016, the award was significantly reconfigured, and is now given annually to a single book in English translation, with a ₹50,000 prize for the winning title, shared equally between author and translator.

Vishwa Konkani Book Award

- ❖ 'Beeg Ani Beegath', a collection of short stories in Konkani, has bagged the prestigious 'Vimala V Pai Vishwa' Konkani best book award for the year 2018.
- ❖ The book is written by well-known writer, journalist and critic H.M.Pernal.
- ❖ H.M.Pernal is the pen name of Henry M Mendonca.
- ❖ Konkani poet Sharathchandra Shenoy from Kochi won the Vishwa Konkani best poetry award for his book 'Idam Na Mama'.
- ❖ Vishwanath M Shet from Uttara Kannada bagged the Vishwa Konkani lifetime achievement award.

Carnot Prize - Piyush Goyal

- ❖ The University of Pennsylvania School of Design has bestowed its top prize in energy policy to Piyush Goyal, India's minister for Coal and Railways.
- ❖ The University's Kleinman Center for Energy Policy will award the 4th annual Carnot Prize to Goyal.
- ❖ He has been recognized for his fast-track effort to electrify 18000 villages of remote India and bridging the country's energy divide.
- ❖ The Carnot Prize is named in memory of French scientist Sadi Carnot.
- ❖ The Carnot Prize is intended to honour those leading revolutions in energy policy to further progress and prosperity.

2018 Fukuoka Arts and Culture Prize

- ❖ Dr. Teejan Bai, the folk artist from Chhattisgarh, has won the 2018 Fukuoka Arts and Culture Prize, one of the top honours of Japan.
- ❖ It was the first time she had been formally recognised abroad for her art, Pandavani.
- ❖ Pandavani, a narrative singing of the ancient Indian epic "Mahabharata".
- ❖ Teejan was awarded a Padma Bhushan for her art in 2003.

WSA - Sajjan Jindal

- ❖ Sajjan Jindal has been elected as treasurer of World Steel Association (world steel)
- ❖ Sajjan Jindal is founder of JSW Steel Ltd.



- ❖ The association has also appointed T.V.Narendran (Managing Director of Tata Steel), and L.N.Mittal (Chief of Arcelor Mittal) as its members.

Wildlife Photographer of the Year – Arshdeep Singh

- ❖ Arshdeep Singh, 10, is among the winners of the 2018 Wildlife Photographer of the Year award in the 10-years-and-under category for his photograph ‘Pipe Owls’,



- ❖ The Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition is organised by the Britain’s Natural History Museum.
- ❖ Arshdeep recently won the Junior Asian Wildlife Photographer of the Year award.



- ❖ Arshdeep's father Randeep Singh is also a well-known photographer.

Ustad Chand Khan Lifetime Achievement Award

- ❖ Grammy-winning Hindustani classical music instrumentalist Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt was conferred with the annual Ustad Chand Khan Lifetime Achievement Award.
- ❖ It was announced during the Indian classical music festival, organized by Sursagar Society of Dilli Gharana.
- ❖ Mr. Bhatt won the Grammy award for the album "A Meeting by the River" with Ry Cooder in 1993.
- ❖ He was the recipient of Padma Bhushan (2017), Padma Shri (2002) and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (1998).
- ❖ Sursagar Society was founded in 1940 by Ustad Chand Khan Sahab.
- ❖ It aims to conserve and promote an awareness of both the rich and heterogenous cultural tapestry through focus on the classical arts.

Miss Deaf Asia 2018

- ❖ Haryana girl Nishtha Dudeja has won the Miss Deaf Asia 2018 title at an international pageant held in Prague.
- ❖ The 18th edition of Miss and Mister Deaf World -Europe -Asia Beauty Pageant 2018 was held recently at Prague, Czech Republic.



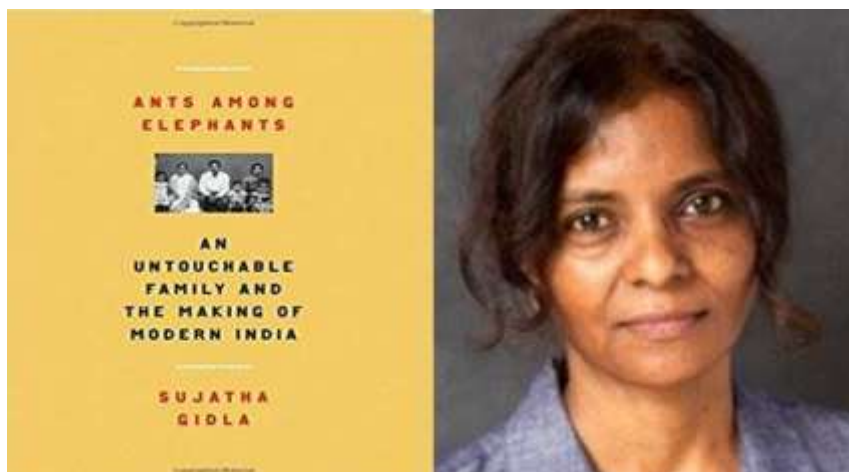
- ❖ Nishtha is the first Indian to have won any title at the Miss Deaf World Pageant.
- ❖ She is the brand ambassador for Sivantos India Pvt Ltd.

Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize 2018

- ❖ US-based Dalit writer Sujatha Gidla (55) has won 2018 Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize for her debut book “Ants Among Elephants: An Untouchable Family and the Making of Modern India”.
- ❖ The book is an account of growing up in an ‘untouchable’ family in modern India and it was published by Harper Collins India.
- ❖ Sri Lankan author Anuk Arudpragasam had won the prize in 2017 for his debut novel “The Story of a Brief Marriage” set in the backdrop of the civil war.

Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize

- ❖ The Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize is funded by the Shakti Bhatt Foundation.
- ❖ It was set up in 2008 in memory of young writer and editor Shakti Bhatti.



- ❖ It honours first-time writers from Indian sub-continent for their outstanding work of fiction or non-fiction.
- ❖ It carries cash prize of Rs. 2 lakhs.

Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award

- ❖ The eminent jurist Fali S. Nariman (89) was awarded 19th Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration.
- ❖ He was presented the award by Vice President at a function held in New Delhi.

Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award

- ❖ The award was instituted in 1999 by Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Management in memory of India's Second Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri.
- ❖ It is awarded annually to Indian who is exceptionally outstanding and distinguished business leader, management practitioner, public administrator, educator or institution builder for his/her sustained individual contributions and achievements.
- ❖ In 2017, it was awarded to Bindeshwar Pathak, founder of Sulabh International.

Vyas Samman

- ❖ The renowned Hindi author Mamta Kalia was presented the 27th Vyas Samman for her novel "Dukkham Sukkham".
- ❖ Dukkham Sukkham published in 2009 is saga of a lower middle-class familys three generations.

Vyas Samman

- ❖ The Vyas Samman award was instituted by KK Birla Foundation in 1991.
- ❖ It was first presented to poet Ram Vilas Sharma in 1991.
- ❖ It is awarded annually to the outstanding literary work in Hindi authored and published in past 10 years by an Indian citizen.
- ❖ The award carries monetary award of Rs.3.5 lakh, a citation and a plaque.

UN Award for excellence

- ❖ Invest India, the country's investment promotion body, has won the United Nations (UN) Award for excellence in promoting investments in sustainable development.

- ❖ It has been awarded for excellence in servicing and supporting major global wind turbines company in establishment of blade manufacturing plant in India.
- ❖ The award was presented by Armenian President Armen Sarkissian to CEO of Invest India Deepak Bagla at the World Investment Forum, Geneva.
- ❖ Other winners of the award were:
 - Bahrain Economic Development Board
 - Lesotho National Development Corporation and
 - South Africa (Invest South Africa)

UN Investment Promotion Award

- ❖ The awards are given annually by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- ❖ It has been awarded since 2002 as part of its investment promotion and facilitation programme.



- ❖ It honours Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) and their governments for their achievements.
- ❖ The 2017 winners were Ethiopian Investment Commission, COFIDES of Spain, and Board of Investment of Mauritius.

2018 Seoul Peace Prize

- ❖ The Seoul Peace Prize Committee has decided to confer 2018 Seoul Peace Prize on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ❖ He is the fourteenth recipient of this award and it will be presented to him by the Seoul Peace Prize Foundation.
- ❖ It was awarded to him in recognition of his dedication for improving international cooperation, contributions to the growth of Indian and global economies.

- ❖ It also credited 'Modinomics' for reducing social and economic disparity between rich and poor.

Seoul Peace Prize

- ❖ It was established in 1990 to commemorate the success of the 24th Olympic Games held in Seoul, South Korea.
- ❖ It was established to crystallize Korean people's yearning for peace on Korean Peninsula and in the rest of the world.
- ❖ It is awarded biennially to those individuals who have made their mark through contributions to harmony of mankind, reconciliation between nations and world peace.
- ❖ Past laureates include distinguished global personalities like German Chancellor Angela Merkel, former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

ICFA's first-ever World Agriculture Prize

- ❖ The Agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan received the first World Agriculture Prize instituted by the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Vice-President presented the award at a special session, named 'Swaminathan Global Dialogue on Climate Change and Food Security' organised by the ICFA.
- ❖ He has been recognised worldwide for his basic and applied research in genetics, cytogenetics, radiation and chemical mutagenesis, food and biodiversity conservation.



- ❖ He has been hailed by the UN Environment Programme as 'The Father of Economic Ecology'.

World Agriculture Prize

- ❖ The prize has been instituted by the ICFA with an aim to recognise individuals who have served humanity through agriculture.
- ❖ It will carry a cash component of \$1,00,000 and it will be an annual prize.

INSA Teachers Award 2018

- ❖ The Indian National Science Academy (INSA) has selected Tezpur University professor Ashis Mukherjee for the prestigious “Indian National Science Academy (INSA) Teachers Award (2018)”.
- ❖ He was selected for his consistent and high-level of teaching, and inspiration and mentoring students to take up careers in Science and Technology.
- ❖ He will be conferred the award at the Anniversary General Meeting of the Academy in December 2018.
- ❖ This award founded by Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi is one of the highest recognitions for science and technology teachers in the country.

JCB prize for Literature

- ❖ Novelist and short story writer Benyamin’s novel Jasmine Days has won the inaugural JCB prize for Literature in New Delhi.



- ❖ The award consists of a trophy and 25 lakhs as prize money. The 2018 award book has been translated from Malayalam to English by Shahnaz Habib who has also received an additional prize of 5 lakhs.
- ❖ Benyamin, earlier, had Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award in the past for Aadujeevitham.

JCB prize for Literature

- ❖ The JCB Prize for Literature is awarded by the JCB Literature Foundation, a not-for-profit company. It has been instituted in 2018.
- ❖ The prize has been funded by UK construction giant JCB.

Sanjay Kumar Mishra appointed ED Chief

- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed Sanjay Kumar Mishra as chief of Enforcement Directorate (ED).
- ❖ He has been appointed as principal special director in the Enforcement Directorate and has been given additional charge of the post of Director for a period of 3 months or till the appointment of a regular incumbent.
- ❖ He replaces Karnal Singh whose term as ED director ended on 26th October 2018.

UN human rights prize 2018

- ❖ The United Nations has announced the winners of the United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights 2018.
- ❖ It was announced by Maria Espinosa, UN General Assembly President.
- ❖ The awardees would be conferred in this year's award ceremony which will be held in UN Headquarters in New York, USA on Human Rights Day on December 10, 2018.
- ❖ The winners of 2018 award are:
 - Asma Jahangir – Pakistan's late human rights activist
 - Rebeca Gyumi – A Tanzanian human rights activist
 - Joenia Wapichana – Brazil's first indigenous lawyer
 - Front Line Defenders – A human rights organisation of Ireland

2018 Winners Background

- ❖ Asma Jahangir was the first woman to serve as the president of the Supreme Court Bar association of Pakistan.
- ❖ She is the 4th Pakistani woman to receive this prestigious award.
- ❖ Gyumi won the UNICEF Global Goals award in 2016 and was named the Woman of the Year by New African Women Magazine.
- ❖ Wapichana became the 1st indigenous woman to be elected to the Congress in Brazil.
- ❖ Front Line Defenders is an Ireland-based charity that was founded in Ireland's Dublin in 2001.

UN Human Rights Prize

- ❖ These awards were instituted by the General Assembly of United Nations in 1966
- ❖ The first awards were given in 1968 and are given every five years since then.

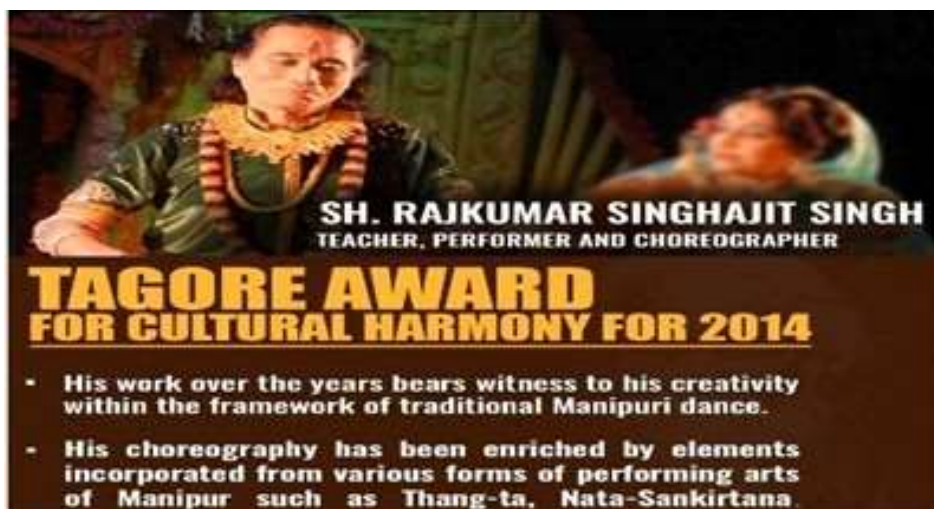
Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony

- ❖ Union Government (Ministry of Culture) has announced winners of Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016.
- ❖ The awardees were selected by the award jury headed by Prime Minister which included
 - Chief Justice of India Justice (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi,
 - Former Chief Election Commissioner N Gopalaswami and
 - National Vice President of BJP Vinay Sahasrabudde.
- ❖ The Awardees are,

2014	Rajkumar Singhajit Singh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ He is doyen of Manipuri dance. ❖ He is also teacher, performer and choreographer
2015	Chhayanaut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ It is a cultural organization of Bangladesh established in 1961. ❖ It has played leading role in promoting Tagore's works in Bengali culture, music and literature all across the world.
2016	Ram Vanji Sutar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ He is a renowned sculptor. ❖ His first notable work was the 45 feet Chambal monument at the Gandhi Sagar Dam in Madhya Pradesh. ❖ He is also the recipient of Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri awards.

Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony

- ❖ It is an annual award instituted by Government of India in 2011 as part of commemoration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore.



- ❖ It was conferred for the first time on Indian Sitar Maestro Pt. Ravi Shankar in 2012 and second time on Shri Zubin Mehta in 2013.

Top Challengers Award 2018 & Best Mining Equipment Seller Award

- ❖ Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) won 'Top Challengers Award 2018' for excellent performance during financial year 2017-18.
- ❖ It has also won the Best Seller in Crawler Equipment- Dozers and Rigid Dump Truck segment for mining sectors.
- ❖ Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) is a Mini Ratna Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Defence.
- ❖ The award is instituted by ASAAP Information Global Group.
- ❖ It is awarded based on the performance evaluation that grew top line and bottom line, stayed profitable and managed to keep financial health within defined limits.

SPORTS

Asia Cup 2018

- ❖ India has defeated Bangladesh to win the Unimoni Asia Cup Title 2018.
- ❖ This was the second successive Asia Cup final where India took on Bangladesh.
- ❖ Overall, this was India's seventh Asia Cup triumph.
- ❖ Liton Das was the Player of The Match and Shikhar Dhawan was declared as the Player of The Series.

Sreeshankar breaks long jump national record

- ❖ Long jumper M Sreeshankar broke the national record at the 58th National Open athletics championships in Bhubaneswar with a jump of 8.20m.
- ❖ The 19-year-old representing Kerala broke the record of 8.19m held by Ankit Sharma, which was set in July 2016.
- ❖ His 8.20m jump is the world leading jump of the season among Under-20 athletes, bettering Cuban Maikel Yorges Vidal's 8.12m effort in June.

5th Track Asia Cup (cycling) 2018

- ❖ Indian cyclists produced an impressive performance finishing on top with 6 gold, 5 silver and 2 bronze medals at the Track Asia Cup that concluded at New Delhi.
- ❖ India were followed by Indonesian team with 4 gold, 3 silver and 1 bronze while Hong Kong came third by winning 4 gold and 2 bronze.



- ❖ Indian Gold medal Winners
 - Mayuri Lute – **Women’s junior 500 m**
 - Esow, Abhishek, Jemsh Singh – **Men’s junior team sprint**
 - E Chaoba Devi – **Women’s elite 3 km individual pursuit**
 - Swasti Singh – **Women’s junior 2 km individual pursuit**
 - Esow Alben – **Men’s junior 200 m sprint**
 - Mayuri Lute – **Women’s junior 200 m sprint**

2nd most “Capped” Cricketer in India

- ❖ M S Dhoni becomes the 2nd most “Capped” Cricketer in India, after playing his 505th match against Pakistan on 23rd Sep, 2018.
- ❖ Before Dhoni, Rahul Dravid was the 2nd most capped player for India with 504 caps in international cricket.



- ❖ Sachin Tendulkar is the top most capped player for India with a record 664 matches for India.

International Silesian Women's Boxing Championship

- ❖ MC Mary Kom (48kg) beat Kazakhstan's Aigerim Kassanayeva and clinched gold in the 13th International Silesian Women's Boxing Championships in Gliwice, Poland.
- ❖ Manisha (54kg) lost in her final bout and settled for a silver.
- ❖ In the Youth category, Jyoti Gulia, former World champion, won Gold in 51 kg category.
- ❖ She is India's only boxer to have qualified for Youth Olympic Games in Argentina to be held in October 2018.

Archery World Cup

- ❖ India's Abhishek Verma clinched 2 medals, Bronze in individual category and Silver in the compound mixed team event along with his teammate Jyothi Surekha Vennam.
- ❖ India's Deepika Kumari defeated Lisa Unruh of Germany to win the bronze medal at the World Cup finals in Samsun, Turkey.
- ❖ The bronze is her fifth medal at the World Cup finals, after her silver medals in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2017.

Asian junior individual squash championship

- ❖ India's Yuvraj Wadhvani defeated Anas Ali Shah of Pakistan to win the boys under-13 title in the 25th Asian junior individual squash championship held at Chennai.

- ❖ He became the 2nd Indian to win the U-13 title after Veer Chotrani had won in 2014 in Iran.
- ❖ India finished the championship with a gold, a silver and four bronze medals.
- ❖ The girls title was won by Malaysia's Chan Yiwen.

2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games - Doodle

- ❖ Google, on October 06, celebrated the start of 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games (3rd edition) with an animated doodle.
- ❖ It will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina till October 18.
- ❖ The GIF doodle was created by Cynthia Yuan Cheng and Vrinda Zaveri which shows various sports from the Games.
- ❖ The mascot for this year is Pandi - a teen jaguar, native to Argentina.
- ❖ The Games occur every four years in a different city and country with summer and winter editions.
- ❖ The first Games were held in Singapore in 2010.

Youngest Indian to score a century on Test debut

- ❖ Prithvi Shaw at 18 years and 329 days became the youngest Indian to score a century on Test debut.
- ❖ The record was earlier held by Abbas Ali Baig (20 years and 126 days) and Gundappa Viswanath (20 years and 276 days).
- ❖ Shaw is also the youngest to score a hundred on Duleep Trophy debut in 2017.

IBSF World U-16 Snooker Championships

- ❖ Keerthana Pandian (India-Karnataka) has won the Girls title in the IBSF (International Billiards and Snooker Federation) World Under-16 Snooker Championships held at St Petersburg, Russia.
- ❖ This is her maiden international title, defeating her Belarussian rival Albina Leschuk in the final.

Japanese Formula One Grand Prix

- ❖ Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton from Great Britain has won the Japanese Formula One Grand Prix.

- ❖ This was the 71st win of his career, only 20 behind the record of 7-time World champion, Michael Schumacher.
- ❖ Finland's Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes) secured 2nd place while the Dutch driver, Max Verstappen (Red Bull) finished 3rd.

Japanese Grand Prix

- ❖ It was started in 1963 and was the Only Asian nation to host a Formula One race until Malaysia joined the calendar in 1999.
- ❖ The 2018 Japanese Grand Prix, the 17th round of the 2018 Formula One season, taking place at Suzuka.

Deaf ICC T20 World Cup

- ❖ India will host the Deaf ICC T20 World Cup slated to begin from November 23-30 in Gurugram.
- ❖ The tournament will be hosted by the Deaf Cricket Society (DCS), the apex governing body.
- ❖ DCS is affiliated to the Deaf International Cricket Council.

Aspin Cup 2018

- ❖ India's Vikram Malhotra defeated the world junior champion Mostafa Asal of Egypt to win the Aspin Cup 2018.
- ❖ It is a Professional Squash Association (PSA) challenger tour event held at Charlottetown, Canada.
- ❖ This is Vikram's seventh PSA title overall and second this year.

Youth Olympics- Jeremy Lalrinnunga

- ❖ Jeremy Lalrinnunga won the first gold medal for India at the Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



- ❖ He lifted a combined weight of 274 kgs in the Men's 62 kg Group A event of weightlifting.
- ❖ This is India's fourth medal in Buenos Aires with Shahu Tushar Mane, Mehuli Ghosh (Shooting), and Tababi Devi Thangjam (Judo) winning silver medals.

Sport Australia Hall of Fame

- ❖ Richie Benaud will be posthumously honoured as 'Legend' by Sport Australia Hall of Fame.



- ❖ Richie Benaud will be the 40th Legend of Australian Sport and the third cricketer to be bestowed the prestigious annual honour.
- ❖ Don Bradman (1993) and Keith Miller (2004) are the other cricketers who had been inducted as 'Legends'.

Harvinder Singh – Asian Para Games

- ❖ Harvinder Singh notched up India's maiden archery gold in the Asian Para Games.



- ❖ Harvinder defeated China's Zhao Lixue in the W2/ST category final.

- ❖ W2 category - Athletes with paraplegia, diplegia or double leg amputation below the knee, requiring wheelchair.
- ❖ ST category - Archers with limited impairment and who may take aim without having to need a wheelchair.

Shooting – Youth Olympics

- ❖ Saurabh Chaudhary gunned down the men's 10m air pistol gold at the Youth Olympics .
- ❖ This was India's fourth podium from shooting in four days, as the four individual shooters at the Games - Shahu Mane, Mehuli Ghosh, Many Bhaker and Chaudhary - won two gold and two silver medals between them.

Asian Para Games 2018

- ❖ India recorded its best-ever showing in the Asian Para Games held at Jakarta, Indonesia by bagging 72 medals.
- ❖ With 15 gold, 24 silver and 33 bronze medals, India was placed ninth in the overall tally.
- ❖ In the last edition in 2014, India won 33 medals.
- ❖ China finished on top with a whopping total of 319 medals.
- ❖ South Korea and Iran were second and third respectively.
- ❖ The official mascot of the 2018 Asian Para Games is a Bondol eagle named Momo, which was chosen to represent motivation and mobility.

Youth Olympic Games 2018

- ❖ Thangjam Tababi Devi (16) became India's first judo medallist at the Olympic level.
- ❖ She achieved this feat after winning silver medal at ongoing Youth Olympics Games in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina.
- ❖ She won the medal after losing to Venezuela's Maria Giminez.
- ❖ The age limitation of the athletes participating in the Youth Olympic Games is 14 to 18.
- ❖ The last Youth Olympics (2014) was held in Nanjing, China.

1st Indian wrestler to get seeded at the World Championship

- ❖ CWG and Asian Games gold medallist Bajrang Punia has become the 1st Indian wrestler to get seeded at the World Championship that will be held in Budapest, Hungary.



- ❖ In the 65kg category of men's freestyle event, Bajrang Punia has been seeded third, with 45 points in the ranking list released by United World Wrestling.
- ❖ Turkey's Selahattin Kilicsallayan is seeded first with 50 points in the 65 kg category, followed by Russia's Ilias Bekbulatov in 2nd spot.
- ❖ United World Wrestling, the parent body of wrestling, has launched the seeding system for the first time in the World Championship.
- ❖ It is based on the pre-championship performance ranking points.

2019 IAAF World Relays

- ❖ The 4th edition of International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Relays 2019 will be hosted by Japan Association of Athletics Federations near Tokyo from May 11-12, 2019.
- ❖ The 2019 edition of IAAF World Relays will serve as a qualifier for
 - The 2019 IAAF World Athletics Championships in Doha and
 - The 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

2018 Sultan Johor Cup Junior Hockey

- ❖ Great Britain lifted the 8th edition of Sultan Johor Cup Junior Hockey tournament in Johor Bahru, Malaysia.
- ❖ India suffered a loss to Great Britain in the final and settled for the silver medal.
- ❖ The other teams in the tournament were Japan, Australia, Malaysia and New Zealand.

2018 Shanghai Masters Tennis tournament

- ❖ Novak Djokovic (Serbia) has recently won the 2018 Shanghai Masters Tennis tournament in Shanghai, China.
- ❖ He beat Croatia's Borna Coric and claimed his 4th Shanghai title and 2nd Masters title of the year.
- ❖ Djokovic now has 18 consecutive wins.

Dutch Badminton Open 2018

- ❖ Sourabh Verma beats Malaysia's Jun Wei Cheam and won the Dutch Open title in Almere.
- ❖ The women's singles title was won by Mia Blichfeldt of Denmark, who defeated China's Qi Xuefei to bag the Dutch open title.

Suraj Panwar – Race Walk

- ❖ 18-year-old Suraj Panwar won silver medal in the men's 5,000 m race walk.
- ❖ Suraj is the first Indian sportsman to win a medal in athletics at the 2018 Youth Olympics Games in Buenos Aires.



- ❖ Suraj finished behind Oscar Patin of Ecuador.

Youth Olympic Games 2018

- ❖ Akash Malik (Haryana) became India's first silver-medallist in archery at the Youth Olympic Games being held in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- ❖ India concluded the youth Olympics with three gold, nine silver, and one bronze.

Gold Medallists

- ❖ Jeremy Lalrinnunga became the first-ever Indian gold medallist at the YOG after he aced the men's 62 kg weightlifting category.
- ❖ Manu Bhaker – Gold (women's 10 metre air pistol).
- ❖ Saurabh Chaudhary – Gold (Men's 10m air pistol).

2018 Formula Three (F3) European title

- ❖ 19 years old Mick Schumacher, son of Formula One legend Michael Schumacher, won the 2018 Formula Three (F3) European title in Hockenheim, Germany.
- ❖ Mick Schumacher finished at 2nd position in the second race of the day and won his first junior championship with 347 points.
- ❖ With his first F3 title he has qualified for a FIA (Federation Internationale de l'Automobile) 'super licence'.
- ❖ FIA 'super licence' is a prerequisite to participate in Formula One races.

World's highest-paid athlete

- ❖ Canelo Álvarez has signed the largest contract in the history of sport.



- ❖ The value of Canelo Alvarez's contract with sports streaming service DAZN for 11 fights over five years is \$365 million.

Vijay Hazare Trophy 2018-19 (Cricket)

- ❖ Mumbai defeated Delhi by 4 wickets to win their 3rd Vijay Hazare Trophy title at the M Chinnaswamy stadium in Bengaluru.
- ❖ Mumbai had last won the trophy in 2006-07 when they defeated Rajasthan.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is the most successful team having won the trophy 5 times.

Denmark Open BWF Tour Super 750 tournament

- ❖ Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal lost to the World number one Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei in the women's singles final of Denmark Open held at Odense, Denmark.
- ❖ Tai created history by becoming the first shuttler from Taipei to clinch the Denmark Open title.
- ❖ The Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal last defeated Tai Tzu in 2013.

2018 MotoGP World Champion

- ❖ Repsol Honda's Marc Marquez has been crowned as the 2018 MotoGP World Champion after winning the Japanese Grand Prix at Motegi, Japan.
- ❖ The Honda rider won the fourth last race of the season fighting against Ducati's Andrea Dovizioso in the Japanese Grand Prix.
- ❖ It was his 7th world championship title and 5th world title in the premier class series.



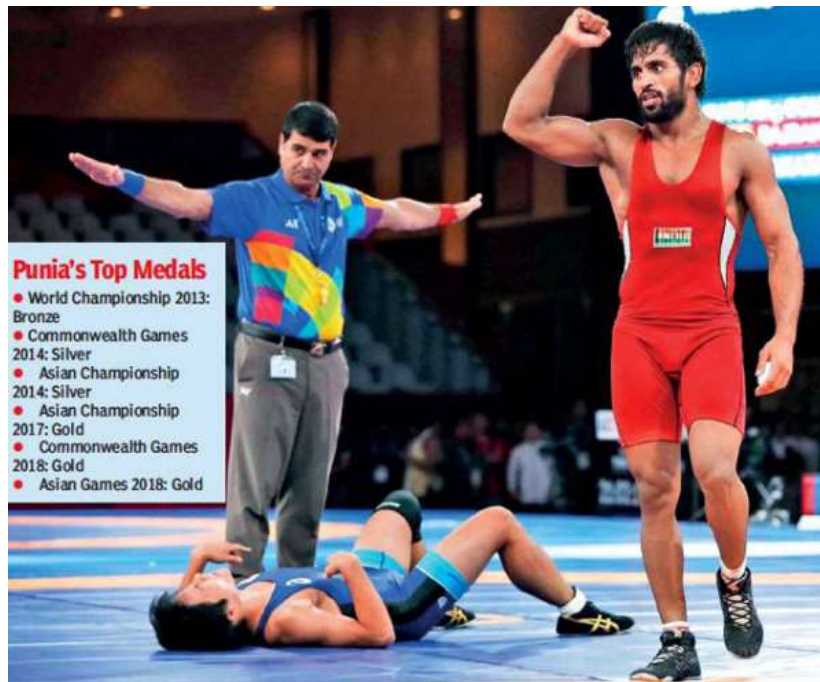
Fastest to reach 10,000 Runs in ODI Cricket History

- ❖ The Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli has become the fastest batsman to score 10,000 runs in the history of ODI (One Day International) cricket.
- ❖ He achieved this feat in his 205th innings against West Indies.
- ❖ The 29-year-old overtook Sachin Tendulkar, who had reached 10,000 ODI runs in his 259th innings, against Australia in 2001.
- ❖ Kohli has become the 5th Indian to reach the mark in ODIs.
- ❖ Apart from Kohli, Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid, and MS Dhoni have scored over 10,000 runs in ODIs.

Wrestling World Championships

- ❖ Wrestler Bajrang Punia won the silver medal after he lost to Japan's Takuto Otoguro in the 65kg final of the Wrestling World Championships in Budapest, Hungary.
- ❖ It is his second medal at the Worlds. Bajrang had won a bronze in 2013 edition.

- ❖ He is only the 4th Indian ever to make it to the World Championships final match.
- ❖ Otoguru became Japan's youngest World Champion at the age of 19.



- ❖ Sushil Kumar, country's greatest ever wrestler, is the lone Indian to win a gold medal at the Worlds, achieving the feat in 2010 in Moscow in the 66kg category.

World Wrestling Championships 2018

- ❖ The 2018 World Wrestling Championships were 15th edition of World Wrestling Championships of combined events held from October 20 to 28 in Budapest, Hungary.
- ❖ It is an amateur wrestling world championship event organised by the United World Wrestling.
- ❖ In the 2018 event, Japan won the most medals with 10 medals. Russia comes second with 8 medals.
- ❖ India is at the 17th place with 2 medals – 1 silver and 1 bronze.
- ❖ Bajrang Punia bagged the silver medal.
- ❖ Pooja Dhanda won Bronze medal and became 4th Indian woman to win a medal at the World Wrestling Championship.

WBL World Billiards Championship 2018

- ❖ India's Sourav Kothari won the 2018 WBL (World Billiards Limited) World Billiards Championship title in Leeds, England.

- ❖ Sourav Kothari defeated Peter Gilchrist of Singapore in the final and won the 2018 WBL World Billiards Championship title.
- ❖ Sourav Kothari is a former national and Asian Billiards champion.

Denmark Open

- ❖ Sanjeev Kumar, an International para shuttler from Punjab has won 2 gold medals and a bronze medal at the Denmark Open held in Odense, Denmark.
- ❖ He defeated Luca Olgiati and won a gold medal in the men's singles event.
- ❖ He along with Marcelo Alves of Brazil defeated Israeli pair Amir Levi and Moshah and won the gold medal in the men's doubles event.

Valencia Half Marathon

- ❖ Kenyan distance runner Abraham Kiptum won the men's race at the Valencia Half Marathon in Spain with a new world best time of 58 mins 18 sec for the half-marathon.
- ❖ The previous record was by Ethiopia's Zersenay Tadesse who finished the Lisbon half-marathon in 58 minutes and 23 seconds in March 2010.



Swiss Indoors Tennis

- ❖ Roger Federer won his 99th career ATP Tour title in the Swiss Indoors final in Basel, Switzerland.
- ❖ Roger Federer defeated Marius Copil in the final and won his 9th Swiss Indoors title.



- ❖ He is now only 10 titles short of the all-time record.
- ❖ The all-time singles titles list is topped by Jimmy Connors with 109 titles.

Australian MotoGP

- ❖ Spanish rider Maverick Viñales won the Australian MotoGP in Australia.
- ❖ This is Maverick Viñales's (Yamaha) first title of the season.
- ❖ Italy's Andrea Iannone (Suzuki) came 2nd and 3rd position was occupied by Italy's Andrea Dovizioso (Ducati).

Chris Evert Women's Tennis Association (WTA) World No.1 Trophy

- ❖ World number one Simona Halep has become the first recipient of the Chris Evert Women's Tennis Association (WTA) World No.1 Trophy.
- ❖ She is ranked as the World No 1 for the second consecutive year.
- ❖ The World No 1 Trophy is named after Chris Evert, who became the first ever WTA World No.1 on November 3, 1975 and stayed on the top spot for 260 weeks.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Heart Day – 29 September

- ❖ World Heart Day is celebrated on September 29 every year to create awareness about cardiovascular diseases.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2018 is 'Your heart, my heart'.
- ❖ It was launched in 2000 by the World Heart Federation as an annual event.
- ❖ Initially, the World Heart Day was celebrated on the last Sunday of September, but since 2011, September 29 is the fixed date.

International Translation Day – 30 September

- ❖ The second International Translation Day was observed by United Nations on 30 September 2018.
- ❖ The day recognizes the contribution of unsung heroes behind international diplomacy who work as language professionals to facilitate dialogue and contribute to development and strengthens world peace and security.
- ❖ The International Translation Day was instituted by UN General Assembly (UNGA) in May 2017 by adopting a resolution.
- ❖ The date 30 September was chosen to celebrate the feast of Bible translator St Jerome, who is considered as patron saint of translators.

World Habitat Day – 01 October

- ❖ The World Habitat Day was observed every year on first Monday in October all over the world.
- ❖ This year it was observed on 1 October 2018 with the theme ‘Municipal Solid Waste Management’.
- ❖ The purpose of day is to reflect on state of cities and towns and basic human right to adequate shelter.
- ❖ The day was established by UN General Assembly through Resolution in 1985 and was first celebrated in 1986.

International Day of Older Persons - 01 October

- ❖ The International Day of Older Persons (IDOP) is observed every year on October 1 to raise awareness about issues affecting elderly such as senescence and elder abuse.
- ❖ The day also aims to appreciate the contributions that older people make to society.
- ❖ The theme for this year is “Celebrating Older Human Rights Champions”.
- ❖ The International Day of Older Persons was instituted by UN General Assembly (UNGA) by adopting resolution in December 1990.

International Coffee Day – 01 October

- ❖ The International Coffee Day is observed every year on October 1 to promote and celebrate coffee as beverage.
- ❖ This year International Coffee Organization had chosen special theme: **‘Women in Coffee’**.

- ❖ The exact origin of International Coffee Day is unknown. An event was first promoted in Japan in 1983 by The All Japan Coffee Association.
- ❖ The official date was agreed by International Coffee Organization and was launched in Milan, Italy in 2015.

International Day of Non-Violence - 02 October

- ❖ The International Day of Non-violence is celebrated every year on 2 October throughout world on birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ❖ Observance of this day seeks to promote principles of non-violence through education and public awareness and is observed by all countries of the UN.



- ❖ In India, this day is celebrated as Gandhi Jayanti. This year it was 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ❖ The day was instituted by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) by adopting resolution in June 2007.

World Animal Day – 04 October

- ❖ The World Animal Day (WAD) is observed every year on October 4 to raise the status of animals in order to improve welfare standards around the globe.
- ❖ The day was originated by Heinrich Zimmermann, who organized the first World Animal Day on 24 March 1925 at the Sport Palace in Berlin, Germany.
- ❖ The event was moved to 4 October for the first time in 1929.
- ❖ October 4 marks the feast day of Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals.

- ❖ The day is sponsored by UK-based animal welfare charity 'Naturewatch Foundation' since 2003.

World Teachers' Day – 05 October

- ❖ The World Teachers' Day (WTD), also known as International Teachers Day, is held every year on October 5.
- ❖ For 2018, the UNESCO adopted the theme: "The right to education means the right to a qualified teacher".
- ❖ The Day was observed in partnership with UNICEF, UNDP, the International Labour Organization, and Education International.
- ❖ The day is observed since 1994.
- ❖ The day also commemorate the anniversary of the signing of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers.

World Space Week – October 04 to 10

- ❖ WSW (World Space Week) is observed annually from October 4 to 10 in different parts of the world.
- ❖ The Theme of the year 2018 is "Space Unites the World"
- ❖ World Space Week is officially described as "an international celebration of science and technology, and their contribution to the betterment of the human condition".
- ❖ On December 6, 1999, the United Nations General Assembly declared World Space Week as an annual event.
- ❖ The selection of these dates was based on the recognition of two significant dates in space history.
 - 04 October 1957 - The launch of the 1st ever Earth satellite (human-made) called Sputnik 1
 - 10 October 1967 - The day of the Outer Space Treaty signing.

Wildlife Week in India – October 02 to 08

- ❖ Wildlife Week is celebrated all over the country from October 2 to 8 every year with the view to preserve animal life.
- ❖ It was conceptualized in 1952 with the overall goal of raising awareness to safeguard the lives of wildlife through critical action.

Air Force Day - 08 October

- ❖ 86th Indian Air Force (IAF) day was celebrated on 8 October 2018 to commemorate its official foundation day of the force.
- ❖ The celebration of day seeks to increase the awareness about the importance of IAF as an important part of the national security.
- ❖ IAF is the world's fourth largest air force (after US, Russia and China).
- ❖ Air Force Day was officially celebrated for the first time on October 8, 1932 as an auxiliary air force of Indian Empire.

World Post Day – 09 October

- ❖ World Post Day is celebrated each year on October 9 to commemorate the establishment of the Universal Postal Union (UPU).
- ❖ Its aim is to create an awareness about the postal sector in the everyday activities of people and its contribution to the social and economic development.
- ❖ But in India, the day is celebrated on October 10 as an extension of World Post Day.
- ❖ The day commemorates the anniversary of the establishment of the “Universal Postal Union” (UPU) in 1874 in Bern, Switzerland.
- ❖ In 1948, the UPU become an agency of the United Nations.
- ❖ It was celebrated since 1969, when it was declared by the “Universal Postal Union Congress” held in Tokyo, Japan.

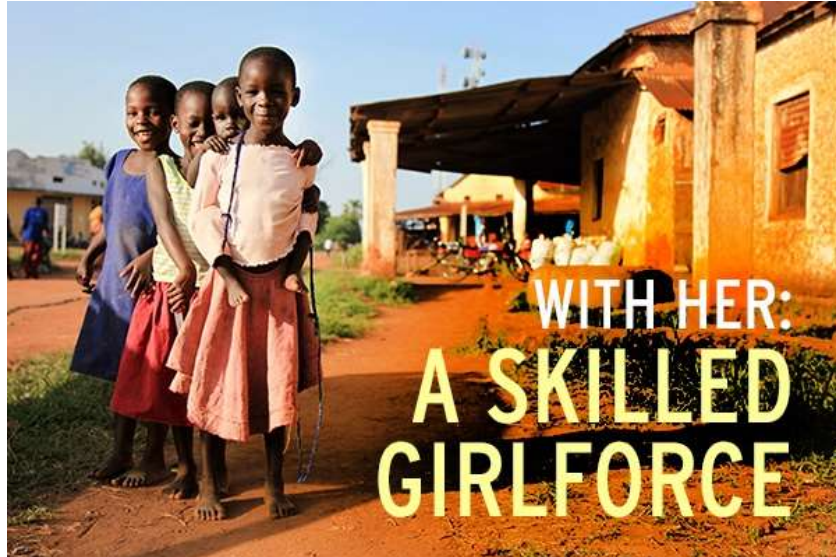
World Mental Health Day – October 10

- ❖ World Mental Health Day 2018 is observed on October 10 across the world.
- ❖ The goal of World Mental Health Day is to increase awareness about mental health and the importance of mental health in overall health of a person.
- ❖ This year, the theme of World Mental Health Day is "Young people and mental health in a changing world".
- ❖ World Mental Health Day 2018 theme focuses on the adolescents and the mental health problems that they deal with. .



International Day of the Girl Child - October 11

- ❖ On December 19, 2011, United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to declare October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child.
- ❖ Since 2012, 11 October has been marked as the International Day of the Girl Child.



- ❖ 2018 theme - With Her: A Skilled GirlForce.
- ❖ Under the theme, With Her: A Skilled GirlForce, the International Day of the Girl Child will mark the beginning of a year-long effort to bring together partners and stakeholders to advocate for the most pressing needs and opportunities for girls to attain skills for employability.

World Obesity Day - 11 October

- ❖ The World Obesity Day is observed globally every year on 11 October to promote practical solutions to end the global obesity crisis.
- ❖ The theme for this year is “It’s time to End Weight Stigma!”.
- ❖ It is organised by World Obesity Federation, a non-profit body which is in official relations with the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- ❖ It is also collaborating body on Lancet Commission on Obesity.
- ❖ The first World Obesity Day took place in 2015.

World Egg Day – 12 October

- ❖ World Egg Day is celebrated every year on the second Friday in October.
- ❖ It was founded by the International Egg Commission (IEC) at a conference held in Vienna in 1996.



- ❖ It helps to raise awareness of the benefits of eggs and their importance in human nutrition.

National Human Rights Commission - Silver Jubilee - October 12

- ❖ National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) celebrated Silver Jubilee (25 years) on October 12, 2018. NHRC was set up on October 12, 1993.
- ❖ The silver Jubilee celebrations were held in New Delhi.
- ❖ NHRC also released special silver jubilee logo and commissioned documentary titled 'NHRC: 25 years, Billion Hopes' capturing the 25 years of its journey.
- ❖ It also organized 'Human Rights Mela' and 'Human Rights Street Theatre Festival' in New Delhi.



World Migratory Bird Day - 13 October

- ❖ World Migratory Bird Day was observed all over the world on 13th October 2018.
- ❖ In 2017, International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) and World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) were merged.
- ❖ From 2018, World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated twice a year, on the second Saturday in May and in October.
- ❖ In 2018, it was celebrated on 12th May and now on 13th October.
- ❖ The theme for WMBD 2018 was 'Unifying our Voices for Bird Conservation' and "Year of the Bird".

Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas – 15 October

- ❖ Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas is celebrated every year on 15th October to increase active participation of women in agriculture & allied sectors.
- ❖ In 2016, the Ministry had decided to observe 15th of October as Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas.

International Day of Rural Women – 15 October

- ❖ The International Day of Rural Women is observed every year on October 15 to recognize the crucial role and contribution of rural women.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2018 is “Sustainable infrastructure, services and social protection for gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls”.
- ❖ The International Day of Rural Women was instituted by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) by passing resolution in December 2007.
- ❖ It was first observed on 15 October 2008.

World Students Day – 15 October

- ❖ World Students’ Day is observed every year on October 15 to mark the birth anniversary of A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, the former President of India.
- ❖ In 2015, the United Nations declared 15th October as "World Students' Day".

World Food Day – October 16

- ❖ World Food Day is celebrated every year on 16 October in honour of the founding date of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 1945.



- ❖ This year's theme is "Our actions are our future. A #ZeroHunger world by 2030 is possible".

World Anesthesia Day – October 16

- ❖ World Anesthesia Day commemorates the first successful demonstration of ether anaesthesia on 16 October 1846.
- ❖ Anesthesia was introduced by an American dentist, Sir William Morton.
- ❖ The World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists celebrates World Anaesthesia Day annually with over 134 Societies representing anaesthesiologists from over 150 countries taking part.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty - October 17

- ❖ Every year, October 17 is observed as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.
- ❖ This year marks the 25th anniversary of the declaration of October 17 as International Day for the Eradication of Poverty by the UN General Assembly.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2018 is— Coming together with those furthest behind to build an inclusive world of universal respect for human rights and dignity.



- ❖ It is notable that this year also marks the 70th anniversary of the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

National Ayurveda Day – 17 October

- ❖ National Ayurveda Day is observed across the nation on the occasion of Dhanwantari Jayanti (17th October).
- ❖ Lord Dhanvantari is considered as divine propagator of Ayurveda.
- ❖ National Dhanwantari Ayurveda Award is conferred on this day every year by the Ministry of AYUSH.



- ❖ Moreover, Ministry of AYUSH is going to organise First National Summit on Invest in AYUSH in New Delhi on 4th November, 2018.
- ❖ NITI Aayog and Department of Industrial and Policy and Promotion are the partner organisations of this first National summit in AYUSH.

National Solidarity Day – 20 October

- ❖ The National Solidarity Day is observed every year on October 20 in India.
- ❖ The day is observed in our country to honour the Armed forces, who guard our extensive borders.
- ❖ On October 20, 1962, China started attacking India and the Sino-Indian War started.

World Osteoporosis Day - 20 October

- ❖ World Osteoporosis Day (WOD) is observed on the October 20 annually to promote worldwide awareness of osteoporosis and fragility fractures.
- ❖ The day aims to create awareness about the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis
- ❖ The day was launched on October 20th, 1996. Since 1997, it has been organised by the “International Osteoporosis Foundation”.
- ❖ In 1998 and 1999, the World Health Organization acted as co-sponsor of World Osteoporosis Day.
- ❖ Osteoporosis is a disease in which bones become weak and brittle and increases the risk of the breakage.

Police Commemoration Day – 21 October

- ❖ The Police Commemoration Day is observed every year on October 21st to pay homage to police martyrs.

- ❖ The day commemorates supreme sacrifices of ten policemen while defending borders with China in 1959.
- ❖ The Police Commemoration Day was instituted at Annual Conference of Inspectors General of Police of States and Union Territories held in January 1960.
- ❖ Since 2012, Police Commemoration Day Parade is being held at national level at the Police Memorial, Chanakyapuri in Delhi.

United Nations Day – 24 October

- ❖ The United Nations Day was observed across the World on October 24 marking the 73rd anniversary of the UN Charter's entry into force.
- ❖ The Day was observed since 1948 with an aim to celebrate everything that the UN represents and has achieved since its establishment in 1945.
- ❖ The 2018 UN Day Concert was held in the General Assembly Hall at United Nations Headquarters in New York.
- ❖ The Concert was sponsored by the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations.
- ❖ The theme of 2018 UN concert was "Traditions of Peace and Non-violence".
- ❖ United Nations Day is part of United Nations Week, which runs from 20 to 26 October.

World Development Information Day - 24 October

- ❖ The World Development Information Day (WDID) is observed every year on October 24.
- ❖ Its aims to draw attention of world to development problems and necessity of strengthening international cooperation to solve them.
- ❖ The day has been observed since 1972, coinciding with the United Nations day.
- ❖ The UN General Assembly in 1972 established the World Development Information Day by adopting measures proposed by UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development).

World Polio Day – October 24

- ❖ The World Polio Day is observed annually across world on 24 October to create awareness about hazards of the crippling Polio disease.
- ❖ The theme for World Polio Day 2018 is 'End Polio Now'.



- ❖ The occasion commemorates the birth of American medical researcher and virologist Jonas Salk, who discovered the first successful vaccine (IPV) for poliomyelitis or polio in 1955.
- ❖ As per WHO, 'Global Polio Eradication Initiative' (Established in 1988) has eradicated Polio by 99%.
- ❖ As of today, only 3 countries in the world, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria have still reported the disease.
- ❖ There are 2 forms of vaccine available to eradicate polio.
 - Oral polio vaccine (OPV) and
 - Inactivated polio vaccine (IPV)
- ❖ OPV was developed by Albert Sabin.

World Day for Audiovisual Heritage – 27 October

- ❖ World Day for Audiovisual Heritage was celebrated on 27 October all over the world.
- ❖ This day creates awareness on the importance of audiovisual documents and the need to take urgent measures to transfer them to digital format to prevent their loss.
- ❖ The Theme for World Day for Audiovisual Heritage 2018 is “Your Story is Moving”.
- ❖ In 2005, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) General Conference declared October 27 as World Day for Audiovisual Heritage.

72nd Infantry Day - 27 October

- ❖ 72nd Infantry Day was celebrated in India on 27th October 2018.
- ❖ Infantry Day is celebrated on 27th October every year in India to commemorate the first Infantry action after independence.
- ❖ On 27 October 1947, elements of the Indian Army from 1st Battalion of the Sikh Regiment air landed at Srinagar and fought the raiders aided by Pakistan Army.

International Animation Day – 28 October

- ❖ International Animation Day was celebrated on 28th October all over the world.
- ❖ This day highlights and celebrates the art of animation.

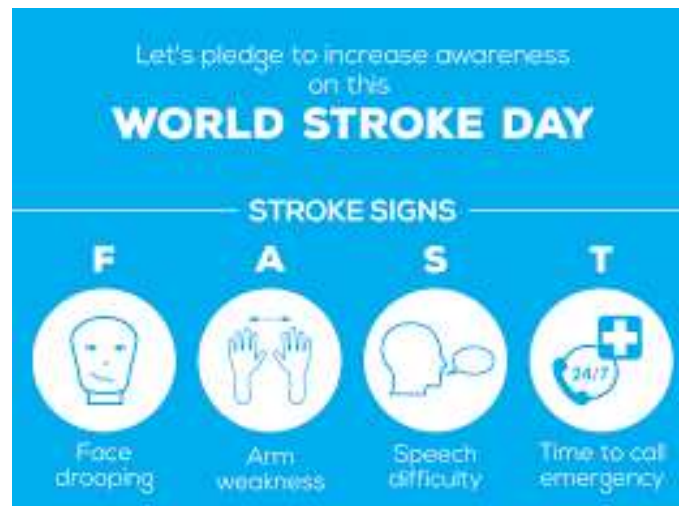
- ❖ Every year, ASIFA invites an important animator to create the poster for International Animation Day.



- ❖ The 2018 International Animation Day poster was created by René Castillo of ASIFA Mexico and his studio of animators.
- ❖ In 2002, ASIFA (Association Internationale du Film d'Animation or International Animated Film Association) declared 28 October as International Animation Day.

World Stroke Day - 29 October

- ❖ World Stroke Day is celebrated on October 29 every year to raise awareness of stroke prevention, treatment and support.



- ❖ The theme for World Stroke Day 2018 is #UpAgainAfterStroke: Support for life after stroke.
- ❖ The observance of the day was announced on October 29, 2006 in the 5th World Stroke Congress in Cape Town, South Africa.
- ❖ The main signs and symptoms of a stroke can be remembered with the word "FAST".

World Cities Day - 31 October

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly has designated the 31st of October as World Cities Day.
- ❖ Its aim is to create awareness of the role of urbanization in global sustainable development and social inclusion.
- ❖ The Theme of the day for the year 2018 is 'Building Sustainable and Resilient Cities'.
- ❖ The general theme of World Cities Day is Better City, Better Life.

World Savings Day/World Thrift day – 31 October

- ❖ World Savings Day or World Thrift day was celebrated all over the world on 31st October 2018.
- ❖ This day creates awareness among people about the importance of saving their money in a bank.
- ❖ World Savings Day or World Thrift day was established on October 31, 1924, during the 1st International Savings Bank Congress (World Society of Savings Banks) in Milano, Italy.
- ❖ In India due to the death of late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on October 31, 1984, this day is celebrated on 30th October.

MISCELLANEOUS

1st Indian woman to be elected to the board of the IRU

- ❖ Dr Nandini Azad has become the 1st Indian woman to be elected to the board of the International Raiffeisen Union (IRU) in Germany.
- ❖ She is the president of the Indian Co-operative Network for Women (ICNW).
- ❖ IRU is the world's oldest cooperative union and is a worldwide voluntary association of national cooperative organisations.
- ❖ The ICNW, headed by Dr. Azad, is a multi-State cooperative, including Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

1st chief of National Financial Reporting Authority

- ❖ Former IAS officer Rangachari Sridharan was appointed as first chief of National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA).

- ❖ He will hold the post of chairperson of NFRA for 3 years or till he attains the age of 65 years.
- ❖ Prasenjit Mukherjee has also been appointed as the full-time member of the authority.
- ❖ The NFRA is mandated to act as an independent regulator for the auditing profession.

Aero India 2019

- ❖ Aero India 2019 (12th edition) will be held in Bengaluru.
- ❖ Aero India is a biennial event, which is Asia's largest military aviation exhibition.
- ❖ Since its inception in 1996, Bengaluru has been hosting the air show.
- ❖ The Website for Aero India 2019 is: (<https://aeroindia.gov.in>).

Official mascot - Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup

- ❖ Turtle 'Olly' has been declared as the official mascot for the Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup, which will be held at the Kalinga Stadium in Odisha.
- ❖ 'Olly' represents the endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles.
- ❖ 'Olly' was also the mascot for Asian Athletics Championships held at the Kalinga Stadium in Odisha in 2017.

India's highest tricolor

- ❖ Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi unfurled India's highest tricolour on the terrace of the majestic Haj House in Mumbai.
- ❖ The national flag measured 20x30 feet and stood 350 feet above the ground level.
- ❖ The flag atop a 20-meter high mast on top of the iconic building near the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) in south Mumbai.
- ❖ It is billed as the highest tricolour installed on the terrace of any building of such height in the country.

World's biggest book sale

- ❖ The first-ever 'Big Bad Wolf Book Sale Dubai', the world's biggest book sale, has been started in the Emirate of Dubai on 18th October, 2018.
- ❖ Big Bad Wolf Books was founded in 2009 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

- ❖ It has been to multiple Asian cities in the last decade, including Jakarta, Manila, Cebu, Colombo, Bangkok and Taipei.

H-1B visa holders in 2018

- ❖ According to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) report, nearly three out of every four H-1B visa holders as of October 5 are Indian citizens.
- ❖ The report reveals a massive gender disparity — only one out of every four H-1B visa holders is female.
- ❖ Gender disparity is wider among Indians.
- ❖ Indians, who account for 73.9% of the total H-1B visa holders in the U.S., are followed by Chinese.
- ❖ After India and China, Canada and South Korea follows the list.

Four Himalayan Peaks named after Atal Bihari Vajpayee

- ❖ Four Himalayan peaks near Gangotri glacier have been named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- ❖ These peaks have been named Atal-1, 2, 3 and 4 and they are located at 6,557, 6,566, 6,160 and 6,100 metres on the right flank of Gangotri glacier.
- ❖ The climbers team led by Colonel Bisht recently scaled the newly named peaks and hoisted Indian tricolor on each of them.
- ❖ Colonel Amit Bisht is the principal of Nehru Institute of Mountaineering.
- ❖ The expedition was jointly conducted by Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM) and the tourism department.

Vishwa Shanti Ahimsa Sammelan

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the three-day “Vishwa Shanti Ahimsa Sammelan” at Mangi Tungi in Satana taluka, about 125 kilometres from Nashik.
- ❖ It was organised by the Bhagwan Rishabhdev Murti Nirmaan Samiti.
- ❖ He presented the first international “Bhagwan Rishabhdev Award” to Teerthanker Mahaveer University, based in Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh.

UTS (Unreserved Ticketing System) mobile app

- ❖ Indian Railways’ UTS (Unreserved Ticketing System) mobile app for buying unreserved tickets online will be available throughout India, from 1 November 2018.

- ❖ This scheme was introduced 4 years ago. It received wide response only in Mumbai. Then, it was launched in Delhi-Palwal and Chennai city.
- ❖ A passenger needs to be around 25-30 metres away from the station to use the UTS app. A user can book only 4 tickets at a time through the app.

METRO INOX - India's First Rooftop Solar Powered Cinema

- ❖ Mumbai's METRO INOX is now South Mumbai's largest cinema and India's First Rooftop Solar Powered Cinema.
- ❖ It has launched two INSIGNIA screens which are 100% solar powered. It has become the first multiplex in India to join the solar revolution.
- ❖ The INSIGNIA screens also contribute to protecting the environment by reducing 282 tons of CO2 during its operational life.
