

October - 16

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamilnadu Assembly speaker P. Dhanabal participated and addressed the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held at Uganda.
- ❖ The 6th edition of Writers and Artists International Film Festival organised by Tamil Nadu Progressive Writers and Artists Association will be held at Thiruvannamalai.
- ❖ As part of National Postal Week celebrations, Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal conferred Dak Sewa Awards – 2019 on eight employees of TN Postal Circle.
 - A booklet on the awards was also released by him to mark 50 years of World Post Day.
- ❖ The Vice Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Dr MGR Medical University, Dr Sudha Seshayyan, has been nominated as the Member - Medical Advisory Council (MAC) under the National Medical Commission by Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit.
 - Through MAC, states put forth their concerns related to the medical education and other issues before the Commission.
- ❖ The Rajasthan state government extended the unemployment allowance to transgenders who would now get Rs 3,500 per month as given to women under the scheme.
 - Transgenders, who are graduates, would be eligible for the benefit.
- ❖ For the first time, a new eel-loach species has been discovered in a subterranean environment in Kerala. It has been named Pangio Bhujia.
 - Eels are native of fast-flowing streams of south and south-east Asia, Indonesia and the North-Eastern parts of India
- ❖ Ecuador, one of the smallest members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has announced that it will leave the 14-nation bloc from January 1, 2020 due to fiscal problems.
- ❖ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) slashed its economic growth forecast for India to 6.1% for the current fiscal from its July projection of 7%. It cited weaker than expected outlook for 'domestic demand'.

NATIONAL

Air India – World’s First Use of Taxibots

- ❖ India’s national carrier Air India earned itself a place in history as it became the first airline in the world to use a Taxibot as an alternate taxiing equipment on an Airbus aircraft.
- ❖ The Taxibot is a pilot-controlled semi-robotic aircraft tractor that helps in the taxiing of an aircraft from the parking bay to the runway and vice versa.
- ❖ Taxibots are said to be of great help in reducing CO2 emissions and aviation fuel consumption.
- ❖ The towing machine will cut down around 800 Kg of the poisonous gas from the atmosphere for every 15 minutes of its usage.
- ❖ The robotic vehicle is developed by Israel Aerospace Industries along with French TLD Group.



Global Hunger Index – India Ranked 102

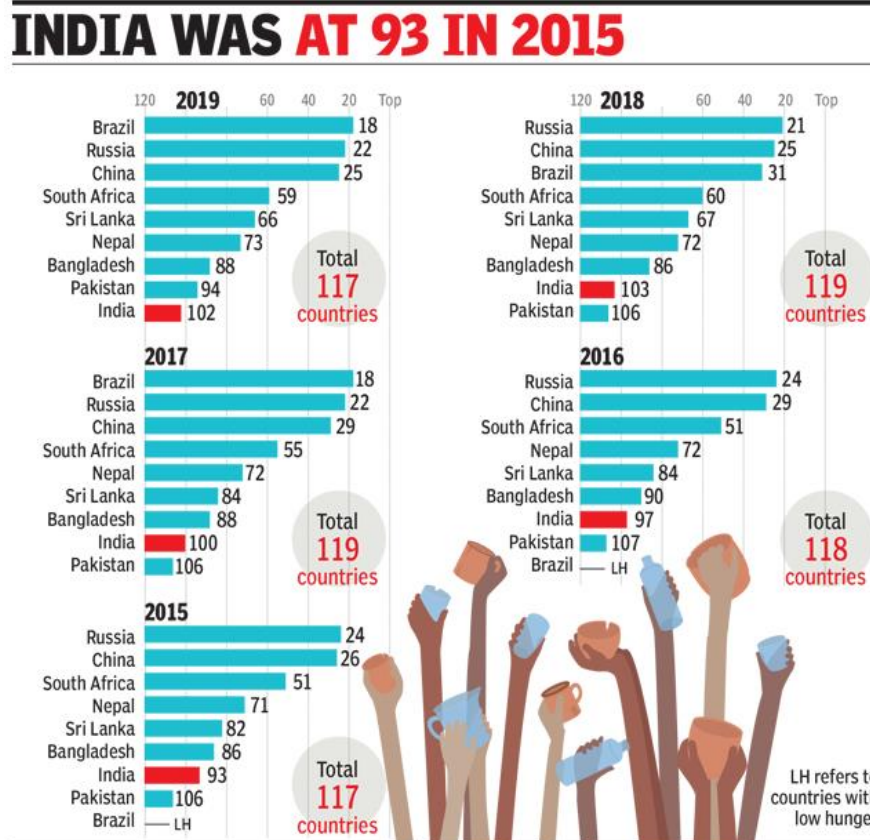
- ❖ India has slipped from 95th rank in 2010 to 102nd in 2019 on the Global Hunger Index (GHI).
- ❖ A total of 117 countries were ranked.
- ❖ 2018 onwards, the GHI is a joint project of Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide, along with International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).
- ❖ It was the lowest-ranked among South Asian countries and way behind the other BRICS nations.
- ❖ Even Pakistan, which used to be the only country in South Asia to rank below India, pulled ahead in the 2019 ranking to 94th place.

GHI Score

- ❖ The GHI score, which reflects data from 2014 to 2018, is based on
 - Proportion of a country's child population that is undernourished
 - share of children under five years of age who have insufficient weight for their height or whose height is not commensurate to their age
 - Mortality rate of under-5 children.
- ❖ India's child wasting rate is extremely high at 20.8% (the highest wasting rate of any country in this report).
 - Wasting Rate - Wasting or low weight for height, is a strong predictor of mortality among children under five.

Serious Hunger Category

- ❖ The GHI ranks countries on a 100-point scale, with 0 being the best score (no hunger) and 100 being the worst.
- ❖ India's score was 30.3, putting it in the serious hunger category.
- ❖ Climate change was found to be seriously affecting the quality and safety of food and worsening the nutritional value of cultivated food.





INTERNATIONAL

China's Official Digital Currency

- ❖ China is set to introduce its own digital currency.
- ❖ The anonymity of digital currencies like cryptocurrencies allows users to buy and sell without leaving a digital trail.
- ❖ But China's e-cash system will be tightly regulated and run by the People's Bank of China, the central bank of China.

STATES

Ban on Red Chillies against Elephants – Uttarakhand

- ❖ Acting on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL), Uttarakhand high court has directed the forest department to stop the use of chili powder and crackers to affect elephant movements.
- ❖ The pachyderms travel from Ramnagar to Corbett Tiger Reserve to river Kosi.
- ❖ To reach river Kosi, they cross a patch of the National Highway 121 along three elephant corridors
 - Kota elephant corridor
 - Chilkiya – Kota elephant corridor
 - South Patlidun – Chilkiya elephant corridor

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

The Booker Prize for Fiction

- ❖ Canadian writer Margaret Atwood and British author Bernardine Evaristo have been named the joint winners of the 2019 Booker Prize.
- ❖ The pair will split the literary award's £50,000 prize money equally.
- ❖ The Booker rules say the prize must not be divided, but the judges insisted they "couldn't separate" the two works.
- ❖ It is being awarded by the Man Group since 1969.

Bernardine Evaristo

- ❖ Book Name: "Girl, Woman, Other"
- ❖ At age 60 Evaristo becomes the only black woman to win a Booker.

- ❖ Her book explores the lives and struggles of different black women in the modern-day United Kingdom.

Margaret Atwood

- ❖ Book Name: "The Testament".
- ❖ 79-year-old Atwood won second Booker of her career.
- ❖ She was already awarded for her work 'The Handmaid's Tale' (1985).



UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation

- ❖ In a major recognition to Mumbai's heritage conservation movement, three city landmarks have won this year's UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.
- ❖ They are Flora Fountain, Gloria Church at Byculla and Keneseth Eliyahu Synagogue at Kala Godha.
- ❖ This award recognises the efforts of private individuals and organizations that have successfully restored and conserved heritage structures and buildings.
- ❖ The Vikram Sarabhai Library, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, received the "Award of Distinction" for its restoration architect Brinda Somaya.

SPORTS

Simone Biles – Gymnast

- ❖ Simone Biles made history by winning her 25th world championship medal to become the “most decorated” gymnast, male or female, ever.
- ❖ Her flawless performance on the ‘balance beam’ earned her a stellar 15.066 points at the 2019 World Gymnastics Championships in Stuttgart, Germany.
- ❖ She broke the long-held record for 23 medals by male gymnast Vitaly Scherbo of Belarus.
- ❖ Simone Biles is the reigning Olympic Champion and five-time all-around world champion gymnast.



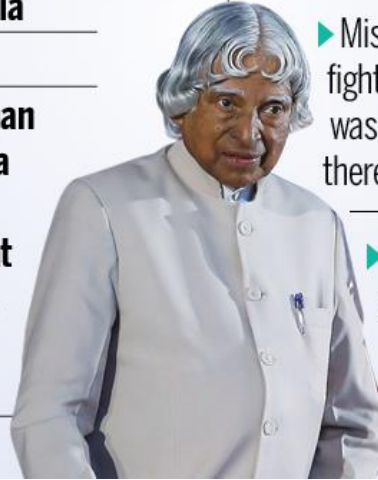
IMPORTANT DAYS

Abdul Kalam's Birthday / World Student's Day - October 15

- ❖ World Students' Day is celebrated every year on October 15 on former president Dr.APJ Abdul Kalam's birthday.
- ❖ The day is commemorated on his birth anniversary because Dr Kalam was a dedicated teacher and identified himself foremost in that role before anything else.
- ❖ In 2010, the United Nations declared October 15 to be World Students' Day.
- ❖ He was bestowed with the Padma Bhushan in 1981 and the Padma Vibhushan in 1990 for his work with ISRO and DRDO by the Government of India.
- ❖ In 1997, he was also honoured with 'Bharat Ratna' for his contribution to the scientific research and modernisation of defence technology in India.

... A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM

Born	1931
Full name	Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam
Birthplace	Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu
11th President of India	
Occupation	Scientist
Notable Awards	Padma Bhushan (1981), Padma Vibhushan (1990), Bharat Ratna (1997), Hoover Medal (2009)
Died	Jul. 27, 2015



▶ A student of physics and aerospace engineering, was known as the 'Missile Man of India' for his work on the development of ballistic missiles and launch vehicle technology.

▶ Also played a key role in the 1998 Pokhran-II nuclear tests.

▶ Missed an opportunity to become a fighter pilot for the Indian Air force; was on the ninth spot on the list, and there were only eight openings.

▶ World Student Day is celebrated on October 15 every year across the world to commemorate his birthday anniversary.

