

October – 18

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ 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.

TAMIL NADU

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 particular 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 interdisciplinary centre for research in AI.

NATIONAL

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)

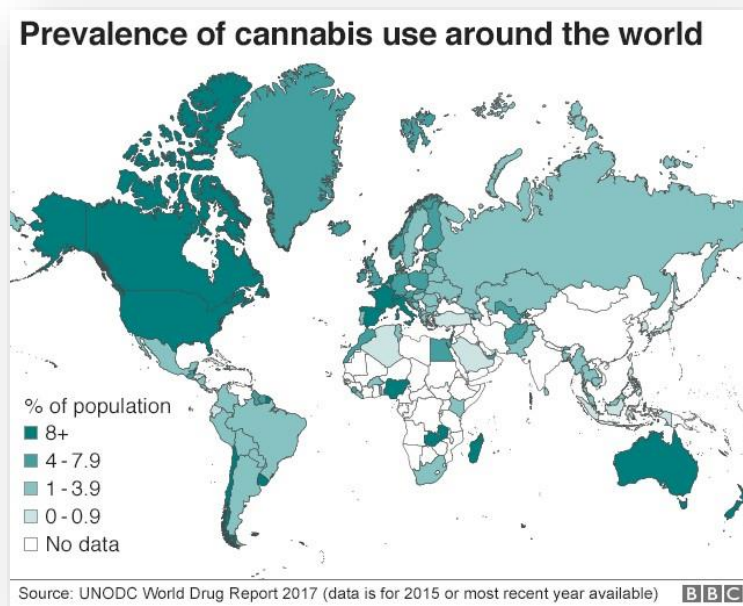
- ❖ Indian Navy has inducted its first deep submergence rescue vehicle (DSRV) at its base in Mumbai.
- ❖ The DSRV gives the navy the ability to rapidly attempt rescue of personnel in submarines in distress.
- ❖ The vessel has been built by the UK's James Fisher & Sons,

- ❖ The second DSRV will be inducted at Visakhapatnam by 2019.

INTERNATIONAL

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.

ECONOMY

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.

STATES

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 PM2.5 (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.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

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.

SPORTS

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.
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