

October – 23

TAMIL NADU

‘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.




NATIONAL

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.
- ❖ 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.

Top 10 Most Valuable Brands

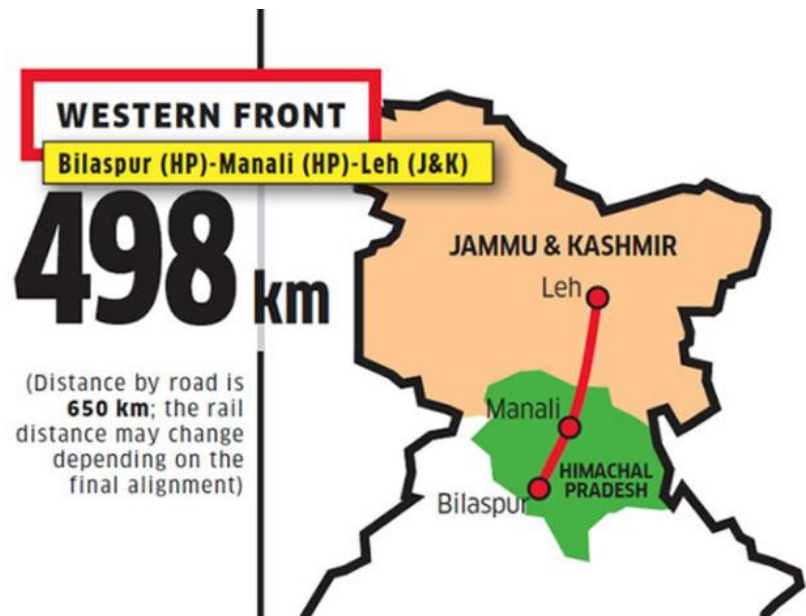
 USA	1 Rank 2018: 1 2017: 1 → BV 2018: \$25,899bn BV 2017: \$21,055bn +23% Brand Rating: AAA	 France	6 Rank 2018: 6 2017: 6 → BV 2018: \$3,224bn BV 2017: \$2,969bn +9% Brand Rating: AA+
 China	2 Rank 2018: 2 2017: 2 → BV 2018: \$12,779bn BV 2017: \$10,209bn +25% Brand Rating: AA	 Canada	7 Rank 2018: 7 2017: 7 → BV 2018: \$2,224bn BV 2017: \$2,056bn +8% Brand Rating: AAA-
 Germany	3 Rank 2018: 3 2017: 3 → BV 2018: \$5,147bn BV 2017: \$4,021bn +28% Brand Rating: AAA	 Italy	8 Rank 2018: 8 2017: 9 ↑ BV 2018: \$2,214bn BV 2017: \$2,034bn +9% Brand Rating: AA-
 United Kingdom	4 Rank 2018: 4 2017: 5 ↑ BV 2018: \$3,750bn BV 2017: \$3,129bn +20% Brand Rating: AAA	 India	9 Rank 2018: 9 2017: 8 ↓ BV 2018: \$2,159bn BV 2017: \$2,046bn +5% Brand Rating: AA
 Japan	5 Rank 2018: 5 2017: 4 ↓ BV 2018: \$3,598bn BV 2017: \$3,439bn +5% Brand Rating: AAA-	 South Korea	10 Rank 2018: 10 2017: 10 → BV 2018: \$2,001bn BV 2017: \$1,845bn +8% Brand Rating: AA

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.



INTERNATIONAL

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.

STATES

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.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

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.

SPORTS

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.

MISCELLANEOUS

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.
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