

October – 28

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ 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.




NATIONAL

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.

INTERNATIONAL

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.

ECONOMY

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.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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.

STATES

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.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

JCB prize for Literature

- ❖ Novelist and short story writer Benjamin'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 Adujeevitham.

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.

IMPORTANT DAYS

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.

MISCELLANEOUS

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.
