## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – (October 1 to October 31)

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<td>01 October</td>
<td>International Day of Older Persons</td>
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<td>World Vegetarian Day</td>
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<td>International Coffee Day</td>
<td>Women in Coffee</td>
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<td>02 October</td>
<td>Gandhi Jayanti, International Day of Non-Violence</td>
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<td>World Farm Animals Day</td>
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<td>4th to 10th October</td>
<td>World Space Week</td>
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<td>05 October</td>
<td>World Teachers Day</td>
<td>The right to education means the right to a qualified teacher</td>
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<td>08 October</td>
<td>Indian Air Force Day</td>
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<td>World Post Day</td>
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<td>9th to 14th October</td>
<td>Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Week</td>
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<td>10 October</td>
<td>World Mental Health Day</td>
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<td>10th to 14th October</td>
<td>India water Week-2017</td>
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<td>11 October</td>
<td>International Day of the Girl Child</td>
<td>With Her: A Skilled Girl Force</td>
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<td>World Obesity Day</td>
<td>It's time to End Weight Stigma!</td>
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<td>12 October</td>
<td>World Arthritis Day</td>
<td>'It's in your hands, take action'.</td>
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<td>13 October</td>
<td>International Day for Disaster Reduction</td>
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<td>14 October</td>
<td>International Standards Day</td>
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<td>15 October</td>
<td>International Day of Rural Women</td>
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<td>Global Hand Washing Day</td>
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<td>World Students’ Day</td>
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<td>World Maths Day</td>
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<td>16 October</td>
<td>World Food Day</td>
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<td>17 October</td>
<td>International Day for the Eradication of Poverty</td>
<td>Coming together with those furthest behind to build an inclusive world of universal respect for human rights and dignity</td>
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<td>20 October</td>
<td>World Osteoporosis Day</td>
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<td>World Statistics Day</td>
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<td>24 October</td>
<td>United Nations Day</td>
<td>Traditions of Peace and Non-violence</td>
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<td>World Polio Day</td>
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<td>World Development Information Day 20</td>
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<td>27 October</td>
<td>World Day for Audiovisual Heritage</td>
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<td>28 October</td>
<td>National Ayurveda Day</td>
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<td>29 October</td>
<td>World Stroke Day</td>
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<td>29 October</td>
<td>International Internet Day</td>
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<td>31 October</td>
<td>World Cities Day</td>
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<td>31 October</td>
<td>World Savings Day</td>
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<td>31 October</td>
<td>Rashtriya Ekta Diwas(National Unity Day)</td>
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<td>25 Oct – 1 Nov 2017</td>
<td>Global Media and Information Literacy Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<td>30 Oct – 4 Nov 2017</td>
<td>Vigilance Awareness week</td>
<td>Architecture for a Better World</td>
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<td>First Monday of October</td>
<td>World Architecture Day</td>
<td>World for Architecture</td>
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<td>World Habitat Day</td>
<td>Municipal Solid Waste Management</td>
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<td>First Friday of October</td>
<td>World Smile Day</td>
<td>Eye Care Everywhere</td>
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<td>Second Thursday of October</td>
<td>World Sight Day</td>
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<td>October 2 to 8</td>
<td>Wildlife Week</td>
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<td>second Friday in October</td>
<td>World Egg Day</td>
<td>Protein for Life</td>
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<td>Second Saturday of May and in</td>
<td>World Migratory Bird Day 2018</td>
<td>Unifying our Voices for Bird Conservation</td>
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<td>October.</td>
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**Important Banking News**

**RBI**

**Fourth Bi monthly monetary policy Report of the FY 2018-19**

- RBI Projects retail inflation to rise to 3.8-4.5 pc in October-March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy/Rate</th>
<th>Rate (%)</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tr>
<td>Policy Repo Rate</td>
<td>6.50</td>
<td>Unchanged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverse Repo Rate</td>
<td>6.25</td>
<td>Unchanged</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marginal Standing Facility Rate</td>
<td>6.75</td>
<td>Unchanged</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank Rate</td>
<td>6.75</td>
<td>Unchanged</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Unchanged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)</td>
<td>19.50</td>
<td>Unchanged</td>
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**India’s external debt declines 2.8 per cent $514.4 billion at end-June: RBI**

- India’s external debt declined 2.8 per cent to USD 514.4 billion at June-end over the previous quarter on account of a decrease in commercial borrowings, short-term debt and non-resident Indian (NRI) deposits. At end-June 2018, the external debt was placed at USD 514.4 billion, recording a decrease of USD 14.9 billion over its level at end-March 2018.

**RBI to inject Rs. 36,000 cr into system through purchase of govt bonds**

- The Reserve Bank of India announced that it will inject Rs 36,000 crore liquidity into the system through purchase of government bonds in October to meet the festival season demand for funds. The auctions to purchase government bonds as part of the Open Market Operations (OMO) to manage liquidity in the system will be conducted in the second, third and fourth week of October.

**RBI leaves repo rate unchanged in MPC Report**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its fourth bi-monthly meet today left the repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent while the reverse repo rate remains at 6.25 per cent. The Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy stance has changed to 'calibrated tightening' from neutral. The RBI stated that headline inflation is estimated to accelerate to 4.5% by March 2019 quarter with upside risks.

**RBI holds repo rate, but changes stance to ‘calibrated tightening’**

- Reserve Bank has maintained status quo on all key policy rates in the fourth bi-monthly monetary policy review. The six member monetary policy committee, MPC headed by Governor Urjit Patel decided to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5 percent and the reverse repo rate at 6.25 percent. The RBI has changed its stance to calibrated tightening of monetary policy in consonance with the objective of achieving the medium-term target for headline inflation of 4 percent while supporting growth.

**RBI proposes Voluntary Retention Route to attract long-term investment**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposed new norms for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to attract long-term and stable FPI investments into debt markets while allowing them operational flexibility. The central bank, in consultation with the government and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has proposed a special route called Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) to encourage FPIs willing to make long-term investments in debt.

- According to the proposal, foreign portfolio investors will be exempt from regulatory provisions, but will have to voluntarily commit to retain in India a minimum required percentage of their investments for a period of their choice. The minimum retention period shall be three years, or as decided by RBI for each auction. A foreign portfolio
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investor will be required to invest a minimum of 67% of the committed portfolio size (CPS) within the one-month period.

**RBI approved formation of ‘Kerala Bank’ having Rs 650 bn in deposits**
- RBI approved the proposal of Kerala government for the formation of Kerala Bank. RBI approved formation of ‘Kerala Bank’ having Rs 650 bn in deposits. The decision was taken by special task force headed by Chairman M S Sriram.

**Government appoints former Canara Bank MD Rakesh Sharma as IDBI MD**
- The government appointed former Canara Bank managing director Rakesh Sharma as head of IDBI Bank for a period of six months. This comes after the tenure of B Sriram who was appointed as the chief executive of IDBI Bank for three months ended in September 2018.

**Electronic Trading Platforms Directions, 2018 Released By RBI**
- The Reserve Bank of India issued guidelines for operating Electronic Trading Platforms (ETPs) to transact in eligible instruments. Trading on electronic platforms is being encouraged across the world as it enhances pricing transparency, processing efficiency and risk control. As per the norms issued by the central bank ETPs will mean any electronic system, other than a recognised stock exchange, on which transactions in eligible instruments. ETP Operator’ shall mean an entity authorised by the Reserve Bank to operate an ETP under these Directions.

**RBI to inject Rs 12000 crore into system on Oct 11 to manage liquidity**
- The Reserve Bank announced it will inject Rs 12,000 crore liquidity into the system through purchase of government bonds on October 11 to meet the festival season demand for funds. The government will purchase bonds with maturity ranging between 2020 to 2030. The auction to purchase government bonds is a part of the Open Market Operations (OMO) to manage liquidity in the system which seems to be facing liquidity tightness.

**Minting of Rs 10 coins cut by half due to non-availability of raw material**
- A delay in procurement of raw material for coins has forced Reserve Bank of India to cut its demand for Rs 10 coins by half, raising the specter of shortage in circulation. RBI, which manages the supply, adjusted the entire coin indent plan for FY19 by raising the demand for smaller denomination of coins in lieu of Rs 10 coins, following India Government Mints’ failure to procure Rs 10 coin blocks on time, according to official documents.

**RBI issues guidelines for facilitating money transfer among e-wallets**
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines for interoperability among prepaid instruments (PPI) such as e-wallets. Inter-operability is technical compatibility that enables payment system to be used in conjunction with other payment systems.

**RBI approved NBFC license for Kreditech**
- RBI approved the license for Kreditech, the Germany-based company to operate as a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) licence for digital lending business and app-based financing. The approval is with the first-of-its-kind. Kreditech’s product suite for India will offer individualised direct-to-consumer loans as well as its Lending-as-a-Service Solution for vendors, which allows partners to offer customised credit products to their customers.

**RBI eases liquidity norms for banks**
- The Reserve Bank of India increased lenders’ single borrower exposure limit for Non-Banking Finance Companies which do not finance infrastructure, from 10% to 15% of capital funds, until December 31, 2018. The RBI also eased liquidity norms for banks, allowing them to calculate government securities held by them up to an amount equal to their incremental outstanding credit to Non-Banking Finance Companies, or NBFCs, and Housing Finance Companies.

**RBI enhanced the FALLCR from the existing 11 % to 13 %**
- Reserve Bank of India enhanced the "Facility to Avail Liquidity for Liquidity Coverage Ratio (FALLCR)" from the existing 11 per cent to 13 per cent of their deposits. Its objective is to overcome any possible liquidity constraints by the banks. This will be effective from October 1. This will enable the banks to forge out up to 15 per cent of holdings under the statutory liquidity reserves (SLR) during liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) requirements as compared to 13 per cent now. As of September 26, banks had availed of Rs.1.88 trillion through term repos from the Reserve Bank.

**RBI to inject Rs 40000 cr liquidity into system in November:**
• The Reserve Bank of India will inject Rs 40,000 crore in the banking system next month, a move that will help ease cash shortage in the system and stabilise debt market rates. RBI has decided to conduct purchase of government securities under open market operations for an aggregate amount of $400 billion in the month of November 2018.

**SBI**

*State Bank of India vows to become plastic free organisation in one year:*
• State Bank of India (SBI) on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi’s birth anniversary pledged to become a plastic-free organisation in the next 12 months as part of its sustainability commitment.
• The initiative is in sync with the Prime Minister’s Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and the national commitment to abolish single use plastic by 2022. “In the next 12 months, SBI will be undertaking phase-wise steps to become plastic free.

*SBI signs MoU with Nepal's National Banking Institute for human resource development*
• SBI signed the three-year memorandum of understanding (MoU) with NBI to establish a mutually beneficial strategic alliance for development of NBI’s human resources by imparting education, training and research, SBI said in a statement. Under the MoU, the strategic training unit of SBI will impart education, training and development to facilitate transformation of NBI’s HR department. An apex banking academy of Nepal, National Banking Institute is already in tie ups with leading institutions in India including IIMs, MDI, ISB

*SBI to block internet banking on accounts if mobile number not registered*
• SBI account holders have to register their mobile numbers with the bank by 1 December 2018, failing which the bank will block access to their net banking accounts. “Attention INB (internet banking) users, please register your mobile number with us immediately, if not already done, through Branch, failing which the Internet Banking facility may be blocked with effect from 01.12.2018,”

*SBI launches its first “Wealth Hub” in Mangaluru*
• The nation’s largest bank, State Bank of India launched its wealth business services by opening “SBI Wealth Hub” at the Lalbagh branch in Mangaluru. The wealth hub was inaugurated by SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar.
• SBI is 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” offering best-in-class personalised banking and investment services to its elite High Net worth Individual (HNI) clients through a dedicated team of relationship managers.
• SBI Wealth has presence in 20 major centres with a network of 90 Wealth Hubs in the country. It is targeting to take its wealth business service to 50 centres by 2020.
• The bank has also launched Wealth Business services for NRIs and is in the process of setting of a state-of-the-art global e-Wealth centre at Kochi.

*SBI to issue and encash electoral bonds soon*
• The GoI has notified the sale of electoral bond by SBI through its 29 authorized branches from 1.11.2018 to 10.11.2018. These SBI branches are in cities like New Delhi, Gandhinagar, Chandigarh, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Mumbai, Jaipur, Lucknow, Chennai, Kolkata and Guwahati. The concept of electoral bond was initiated in Union Budget 2017. Later on Electoral bond scheme 2018 was introduced.

*SBI, Hitachi Payments from JV for digital payment platform*
• Country’s largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) and payments solution provider Hitachi Payment Services India entered into an agreement to form a joint venture for establishing a card acceptance and digital payment platform.

**ADB**

*Asian Development Bank (ADB) and India sign $150 Million Loan to Improve Regional Connectivity*
• The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said it has approved a USD 150 million loan to finance road infrastructure and international trade corridor in West Bengal and north-eastern states. This is the second tranche loan agreement for the USD 500 million South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Road Connectivity Investment Programme.

*India signs pact with ADB for safe drinking water in Bengal*
• India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a $240 million loan agreement to provide safe drinking water to about 1.65 million people in three districts of West Bengal.

**2018 Flagship Statistical Report for Asia and the Pacific is released by ADB**
Asian Development Bank released its 2018 Flagship Statistical Report for Asia and the Pacific. This report provides the latest available economic, financial, social, SDG indicators and environmental statistics for the 48 regional members of ADB. This year's report is focusing on: Technological Innovation for Agricultural Statistics.

**World Bank**

**World Bank: East Asia-Pacific to grow 6.3% in 2018**
- Developing countries of the East Asia and Pacific region will grow at 6.3 per cent in 2018, the World Bank has said. The outlook for the region remained positive despite a lower growth prospect than in 2017 owing to a moderation in China’s growth. The October 2018 edition of the World Bank East Asia and Pacific Economic Update also warned of uncertainty in the region owing to trade tensions.

**Environment Ministry and World Bank released report on Strengthening Forest Fire Management in the Country**
- Strengthening Forest Fire Management in India”, jointly prepared by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the World Bank. The report was released by Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon. Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change. The report states that forest fires are the leading cause of forest degradation in India. About 95 percent of all forest plots inventoried show some signs of degradation.

**PAYMENTS BANK**

**RBI Lifts The Ban On Fino Payments Bank To Open New Accounts**
- After almost five months of being barred from adding new customers, Fino Payments Bank, one of India’s first payments banks has been allowed to open new accounts by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) after it submitted the compliance report to the central bank.

**Paytm Payments Bank has appointed Satish Kumar Gupta as MD and CEO**
- Paytm Payments Bank has appointed Satish Kumar Gupta as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the digital bank. Gupta is the third CEO appointed by Paytm Payments Bank

**NSDL starts payments bank operations**
- National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL) Payments Bank has commenced operations as a payments bank. In November 2014, the RBI had granted 'in-principle' approval to 11 applicants, including National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL) to set up payments banks.

**Other Banking News**

**RBI bars Bandhan Bank from opening branches**
- The RBI has barred the bank from opening new branches and put a freeze on the remuneration of Bandhan Bank MD and CEO Chandra Shekhar Ghosh. The bank can open branches with the prior approval of the RBI.
- The RBI pulled up Bandhan Bank for its failure to bring down the promoter holding to 40 per cent, as mandated in the licensing norms for universal banks.

**RBI slaps Rs 5 crore penalty on Karur Vysya Bank**
- The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of Rs 5 crore on Karur Vysya Bank for non-compliance of its directives. According to a RBI statement, the penalty was imposed for non-compliance with its directions on "Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) norms, reporting of frauds, and on the need for discipline at the time of opening of current accounts".

**IDBI Bank approves issuance of preferential equity shares in favour of LIC**
- IDBI Bank board approved a proposal for issuance of preferential shares in favour of LIC with a view to increase the share of insurer in the bank up to 51 per cent. The government has already approved the proposal of LIC to increase the stake in IDBI Bank.
- The bank's board in a meeting approved the proposal for preferential allotment of equity shares to LIC aggregating up to 51 per cent of post issue paid up capital of the bank. Besides, the board approved increasing authorized capital of the bank from Rs. 80 billion to Rs. 150 billion.

**ICICI Bank's Chanda Kochhar quits, Sandeep Bakhshi appointed as new CEO:**
ICICI Bank has appointed Sandeep Bakhshi as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer with immediate effect and accepted Chanda Kochhar’s request for early retirement.

“The Board of Directors of ICICI Bank Limited accepted the request of Ms. Chanda Kochhar to seek early retirement from the Bank at the earliest. The bank appointed Sandeep Bakhshi as MD & CEO for a period of five years until October 3, 2023, subject to regulatory and other approvals. Bakhshi joined the bank as CEO in June after Kochhar went on leave and was acting as interim CEO.

SIDBI launched National Level Entrepreneurship Awareness Campaign ‘Udyam Abhilasha’

SIDBI has launched a national level entrepreneurship awareness campaign ‘Udyam Abhilasha’, in 115 aspirational districts identified by NITI Aayog in 28 States reaching to around 15,000 youth.

Bank of Maharashtra closes 51 branches to cut costs

The Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has announced the closure of 51 branches across the country as part of cost-cutting measures being implemented in the banking industry.

NHB decides to increase the Refinance Limit to Rs.30,000 crore for the Current Year

Keeping in view the current scenario, National Housing Bank (NHB) which is owned by RBI, has decided to increase the Refinance limit to Rs.30,000 crore. Now, eligible Housing Finance Companies & Other entities will have increased availability of funds. National Housing Bank had set an initial limit to sanction Rs. 24,000 crore this year (July 2018-June 2019) towards refinancing eligible institutions.

Bank of Baroda MD & CEO Jayakumar gets one-year extension

The government has granted an year’s extension to Bank of Baroda’s Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, PS Jayakumar, with effect from October 12. This extension comes in the backdrop of the amalgamation between Bank of Baroda (BoB), Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank to form India’s second largest public sector bank being set in motion.

Mahindra Rural Bharat and Consumption Yojana: a new rural fund launched by Mahindra Mutual Fund

Mahindra Mutual Fund, a wholly owned subsidiary of Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services Limited (MMFSL), launched new open ended equity scheme called ‘Mahindra Rural Bharat and Consumption Yojana’. This will provide investors an opportunity to participate in India growth story predominantly in Rural India.

India’s first Cryptocurrency ATM opens in Bengaluru

Despite the government and Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) crackdown on cryptocurrency in India, virtual currency exchange Unocoin has installed a currency deposit and dispensing ATM at Kemp Fort Mall in Bengaluru. The kiosk, installed by Unocoin, allows its customers to deposit and withdraw minimum amount of Rs 1000 from the platform.

Centre is reportedly planning the amalgamation of next set of bank

After deciding to merge Bank of Baroda (BoB), Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank, Centre is reportedly planning the amalgamation of Punjab National Bank (PNB), Andhra Bank and Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC). The government has been battling for years to clean up its banks, which have the highest bad-loan ratio after Italy among the world’s 10 largest economies. Then Allahabad Bank, Uco Bank and United Bank of India

Seven hundred and twenty eight crores capital infusion to Syndicate Bank from government

Public sector Syndicate Bank announced capital infusion of Rs 728 crore from the government in lieu of preferential allotment of shares. The government in its October 17th order issued that it would infuse Rs 728 crore to Syndicate Bank against preferential allotment of equity shares during 2018-19.

IDFC Bank to be renamed as IDFC First Bank

IDFC Bank on proposed to change its name to 'IDFC First Bank Ltd’ in the wake of its amalgamation with the non-banking financial company Capital First. The decision was taken during the meeting of the Board of Directors of IDFC Bank.

NPCI reduces the number of transfers via UPI that a person can make to another per day to 10 from 20 earlier

The National Payments Corp. of India (NPCI) has reduced the number of transfers that a person can make to another person/s in a 24-hour period to 10, from the limit of 20 earlier on the UPI network

Important Financial & Economy Affairs

Government Cuts Gross Borrowing Estimate For Current Fiscal by Rs 70,000 Crore
• The Union Government announced a reduction in gross borrowing estimate for the current fiscal by 70,000 crore rupees and maintained that the government will contain fiscal deficit target at 3.3%. Mr Garg gave the details about the borrowing programmes for the second half of the fiscal and announced that the government would be borrowing around 2 lakh 50,000 crore rupees as compared to 2 lakh 88,000 crores during April-September of 2018-19.

**Paytm tops UPI payments with over 33% market share**

• Alibaba and SoftBank-backed Paytm said it registered over 137 million UPI transactions in September, becoming the leading contributor to Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments with over 33 per cent of the overall market share. The company also announced the launch of its Spam-proof “SMS Inbox” as part of its “Paytm Inbox”. The “Spam-proof SMS Inbox” uses Machine Learning (ML) algorithms to classify SMS into personal, transactional and promotional categories.

**IMF, World Bank and WTO launch Reinvigorating Trade and Inclusive Growth Report**

• International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and World Trade Organization have collectively launched report “Reinvigorating Trade and Inclusive Growth”. In this report all three international organisations have sought liberalisation of global service sector, asserting that barriers to these services trade currently is roughly as high as those to trade in goods about a half century ago.

**BSE becomes first stock exchange to launch commodity derivative contracts**

• India’s leading bourse Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) became first stock exchange in the country to launch commodity derivative contracts. It has launched contracts in popular commodities like gold (1kg) and silver (30kg). This launch comes after unified exchange regime kicked off from 1 October 2018.

**Government releases Agriculture census data for 2015-16**

• The government released agriculture census for 2015-16 that showed a 1.53 per cent decline in total operated area at 157.14 million hectare as compared to 2010-11 data, but a rise in both operational holdings and female participation. The census is conducted every five years to collect data on structural aspects of operational holdings in the country.

**UNCTAD has expected India’s economy to grow 7.0% in 2018**

• The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has expected India’s economy to grow 7.0% in calendar year 2018 compared with 6.2% in 2017. As per the report “Trade and Development”, the effects of demonetization are still evident in private consumption trends within the economy.

**IFC extends Rs.1,000-crore loan to Aditya Birla Finance:**

• Aditya Birla Finance, the NBFC arm of Aditya Birla Group, has received a `1,000-crore term loan for seven years from the International Finance Corporation, a member of the World Bank Group.

• The IFC green loan is a rupee loan under Track-III of the Reserve Bank of India’s guidelines for external commercial borrowings. ABFL will use the proceeds to finance renewable energy projects and help the country move towards its target to achieve 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2022.

**Government hikes interest for gratuity funds to 8%**

• The Centre has notified a higher interest rate of 8% for the non-government provident, superannuation, and gratuity funds, effective from October 1. The interest rate on these funds has been raised from 7.6%. The move comes on the back of a hike in small savings rates — by up to 40 basis points for some schemes — that were also made effective from October 1.

**SEBI allows foreign entities to participate in commodity derivatives market**

• Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has allowed foreign entities to participate in commodity derivatives market of stock exchanges for hedging their exposures. Prior to this, foreign entities were not permitted to directly participate in Indian commodity derivatives market, even if they imported or exported various commodities from and to India.

**WPI Inflation Rises To 5.13% in September**

• Inflation-based wholesale prices rose to a two-month high of 5.13 percent in September, mainly due to the hardening of food prices and the rise in the cost of petrol and diesel. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation stood at 4.53 percent in August and 3.14 percent in September last year.

**IFC Launches $1 Billion Masala Bond Programme In The US And Europe**
International Finance Corporation, the World Bank’s lending arm launched its $1 billion masala bond programme in the US and Europe. These bonds are aimed at funding the rapidly expanding investment activities of IFC in India. Masala bonds are rupee-denominated borrowings issued overseas. IFC uses them to raise rupee funds overseas and brings the proceeds to India for investments.

**FPIs pull out INR 35,600 crore from Indian capitals market in October**
- Foreign investors pulled out Rs 35,600 crore from the Indian capital markets in October 2018. The outflow is higher than Rs 21,000 crore withdrawn in September. Prior to that, overseas investors had invested Rs 7,400 crore in the capital markets (both equity and debt) in July-August period.

**According to Standard Chartered’s The Emerging Affluent Study 2018, which is the most investment savvy economy**
- According to a new Standard Chartered study- ‘The Emerging Affluent Study 2018- Climbing the Prosperity Ladder’, India is Asia’s most investment savvy economy. The survey markets were: China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Singapore, South Korea, the UAE.

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<th>ORGANISATION</th>
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**Important Business News**

**Government launches Rail heritage digitisation project in collaboration with Google**
- Union Railway Ministry has launched Rail Heritage Digitization 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.

**Airtel Acquires Bengaluru-Based AI Start-Up AuthMe**
- Bharti Airtel has acquired technology of artificial intelligence (AI) service provider AuthMe ID Services. The latest move will augment Airtel’s initiatives to serve customers with new digital products.

**WhatsApp, Jio campaign for responsible app use**
- Facebook-owned WhatsApp and Reliance Jio started a campaign to train people about using the mobile messaging platform responsibly on their JioPhones. Starting October 9, WhatsApp and Jio would visit 10 cities in different states including Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan for street plays and engage users to guide them on meaningful and positive ways of WhatsApp use.

**Reliance Health Insurance gets R3 licence from IRDAI**
- Reliance Capital Ltd. said its wholly owned Reliance Health Insurance has got the R3 approval from Insurance Regulatory Authority of India (IRDAI). Reliance Capital said the health insurance company would start operations by the December quarter of 2018.

**Flipkart Forays Into Insurance With Bajaj Allianz**
- E-commerce major Flipkart has partnered Bajaj Allianz General Insurance to offer customised insurance solutions to power its mobile phone protection programme for all leading mobile phone brands that are sold on its platform.

**Google to Shut Down Google+ For Consumers over the Security Lapse**
- After a bug exposed the personal data of up to 5 lakh users, Google stated that it discovered and immediately patched" the bug in March 2018 but found "no evidence" that any data was actually misused.

**WhatsApp builds payments data system for local storage**
• Ahead of the October 15 deadline to comply with RBI’s data localisation norms, Facebook-owned WhatsApp said it had built a system in India to store payments related data locally.

**OYO partners with payments platform PhonePe**

• OYO users can easily book a room through the PhonePe app. Through PhonePe app users can book more than 125,000 exclusive rooms that are part of OYO’s chain of hotels in India.

**Nokia partners BSNL to implement industrial automation**

• Finnish telecom gear maker Nokia said that it is working with BSNL to implement the next level of industrial automation, leveraging 4G LTE technology to enable greater operational efficiency at Nokia’s Chennai plant.

**TCS Displaces Accenture As Largest IT Firm Servicing Banks**

• Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Ltd’s quarterly earnings from the financial sector have edged past that of Accenture Plc, which is nearly double its size, making company the world’s largest pure-play information technology (IT) and consulting firm servicing megabanks and insurers.

**45 Indian companies participating in Expo Cihac in Mexico City**

• Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) is leading a contingent of 45 exhibitors, representing various sectors of the construction industry like building materials, construction equipment, interior furnishing, manufacturing and marketing of ceramic vitrified tiles to Expo Cihacin Mexico City.

**Nokia partners BSNL to implement industrial automation solutions**

• BSNL and Nokia are demonstrating the ability to leverage automation across industries, showing how it can be replicated in other sectors such as automobile, oil and gas, mining, public safety, and disaster management.

**Tejas wins Rs111 crore Indian Navy order**

• Tejas Networks, a maker of networking product, has received an Rs.111 crore purchase order from Sterlite Technologies to implement Indian Navy’s country-wide next-generation digital communications network.

**L&T Ranks 22 In Forbes' Best Global Employer List, Alphabet Tops**

• Engineering and construction major Larsen & Toubro is the only domestic firm to be featured among the top 25 companies in the Forbes' global 2000 best employers list that is led by Google parent Alphabet.

**Green Climate Fund approves $1 billion to assist poor countries to tackle climate change**

• Green Climate Fund (GCF) has approved more than $1 billion new investments for 19 new projects to help developing countries tackle climate change. The decision was taken during four-day meeting of GCF in Manama, Bahrain.

**Infosys, Finnish firm in AI alliance**

• Finnish firm Pöyry and Infosys has announced the release of a new data-driven framework “Krti 4.0” for Artificial Intelligence that overcomes complex and expensive life cycle management challenges faced by industry, utilities and infrastructure organisations across operational technology systems.

**Mphasis, BAE in pact for fraud detection**

• Mphasis, a Bengaluru-based provider of cloud and cognitive services, announced a partnership with BAE Systems to set up a centre of excellence for fraud detection and prevention solution.

**TCS among top 10 firms to get foreign labour certification for H-1B visas**

• Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is the only Indian company among the top 10 firms to get foreign labour certification for the H-1B visas for the fiscal year 2018 by receiving over 20,000 such certifications, according to official data in which Ernst & Young was ranked No 1.

**Reliance Naval and Engineering (RNEL) launched a 3,000-tonne training ship for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**

• Reliance Naval and Engineering (RNEL) launched a 3,000-tonne training ship for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). The state-of-the-art training vessel will be delivered to the ICG in May next year. The 105-metre long training vessel, the largest ship ever built for the ICG.

**Microsoft completes $7.5 billion acquisition of GitHub**

• Microsoft has closed its $7.5 billion acquisition of GitHub, a leading software development platform which brings more than 31 million developers to create, collaborate, share and build on each other’s work. Microsoft announced in June that it has reached an agreement to acquire GitHub.

**Information Commissioner Office fines Rs.5,00,000 over data breach**

• The Information Commissioner Office (ICO) found that between 2007 and 2014, Facebook processed the personal information of users unfairly by giving app developers access to their information without informed
Microsoft overtakes Amazon as second most valuable U.S. company

- Microsoft overtook Amazon to become the second most valuable tech company in the United States. The change in rankings was the result of a drop in Amazon’s stock value after a weaker-than-expected quarterly report from the online retailer wiped out $65 billion worth of market capitalization.

IBM to acquire Red Hat for $34 bn

- Tech major IBM has announced to acquire Open Source Solutions leader Red Hat for a massive $34 billion. The acquisition, IBM’s biggest so far, will provide open approach to Cloud, featuring unprecedented security and portability across multiple clouds.

Important State Wise National News

Assam

Capital – Dispur; CM – Sarbananda Sonowal; Governor – Jagthesh Muki

Assam, 1st State To Launch Wage Compensation Scheme For Pregnant Women In Tea Gardens

- The scheme will be launched by Assam Chief Minister Sarbanand Sonowal in Guwahati. The announcement was made by the state’s Health and Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. Under the scheme, an amount of Rs 12,000 will be given to the pregnant women so that they can take care of themselves and the unborn baby.

IWAI to launch Ro-Ro service to Majuli Island in Assam

- The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is set to launch a Roll on-Roll off (Ro-Ro) service in Assam from Neamati to Manjuli island, the Ministry of Shipping. This service will reduce the road route distance of 423 km that trucks take from Neamati to Majuli island via Tezpur Road Bridge to only 12.7 km with the use of river route.

India’s longest river bridge will be built on Brahmaputra river in Assam

- India’s longest river bridge with total length of 19.3 kilometers will be built on Brahmaputra river in Assam. This bridge will connect Dhubri of Assam to Fulbarani of Meghalaya. This bridge will reduce the distance between these two places by 203 kms and also travel time. At present, India’s largest river bridge is Dhola-Sadia bridge, its length is 9.15 kilometers.

Kati Bihu festival celebrated across Assam

- Assam celebrated its 3rd Bihu festival known as the ‘Kati 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.

Andhra Pradesh

Capital – Hyderabad (Amravati); CM – Chandrababu Naidu; Governor - ESL Narasimhan

'Mukhyamantri Yuva Nestham aims at creating more employable youth in Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Nara Lokesh has said that the state government’s 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Nestham’ scheme is aimed at creating more employable youth.

India’s first agriculture and food business online learning platform has launched in Warangal

- The SRiX Agri-Business Academy, which is an Indo-UK collaborative initiative, has been launched at SR Innovation Exchange (SRiX) Campus in Warangal. It is India’s first agri and food business online learning platform and was launched by Andrew Fleming, the British Deputy High Commissioner at Hyderabad.

Andhra Pradesh tops in Rural Development Ministry survey.

- Kuligod in Karnataka’s Belagavi district is the country’s best developed village, but more than a third of the gram panchayats ranked in the top 10 are in Andhra Pradesh, according to the findings of an ongoing Rural Development Ministry survey. There are 97 panchayats in the top 10 ranks. Of these, 37 panchayats are in Andhra Pradesh while 24 are in Tamil Nadu.

Andhra Pradesh plans ‘Gaming Garage’ to encourage developers

- The Andhra Pradesh government has set its eyes on the gaming industry to generate employment and encourage entrepreneurs and game developers in view of its growing importance. It has chalked out plans to launch the ‘Gaming Garage’ in Vijayawada very soon.

UNESCO MGIEP, Government of AP to organize TECH 2018

Follow us: Telegram, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, G+
UNESCO MGIEP in association with Government of Andhra Pradesh announces TECH 2018, an international conference which aims to showcase the role of games and digital learning to create peaceful and sustainable societies.

**Arunachal Pradesh**
Capital – Itanagar; CM – Pema Khandu; Governor - BD Mishra

**Arunachal Pradesh launches two Agriculture schemes**
- Arunachal Pradesh Agriculture Minister Dr.Mohesh Chai launched Chief Minister’s Sashakt Kisan Yojana (CMSKY) and the Chief Minister’s Krishi Samuh Yojana (CMKSY) schemes.

**Bihar**
Capital – Patna; CM – Nithish Kumar; Governor - Lalji Tandon

**India’s first dolphin research centre to come up soon in Patna**
- With the population of the endangered Gangetic river dolphin decreasing and its habitat changing, the much-awaited National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC), India's and Asia's first, would be a reality in Patna on October 5.

**Muzaffarpur’s Shahi Litchi Gets GI Tag**
- After huge efforts for a year, now Shahi Litchi of Muzaffarpur, Bihar has got official recognition as it receives the geographical indication (GI) tag. The sweet, pulpy and juicy Litchi of Bihar is mostly grown in Muzaffarpur, and adjoining areas including East Champaran, Vaishali, Samastipur, and Begusarai districts.

**Gujarat**
Capital: Gandhinagar; CM: Vijay Rupani; Governor: Om Prakash Kohli

**PM inaugurates Mahatma Gandhi Museum at Rajkot**
- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Mahatma Gandhi Museum in Rajkot.

**Gujarat state government inaugurated vaccination of Gir lions against deadly Canine Distemper Virus CDV**
- Gujarat state government has launched vaccination of Gir lions against deadly Canine Distemper Virus CDV.

**Gujarat Government declares 51 talukas as water scarcity hit**
- The Gujarat government declared 51 talukas, comprising 3,291 villages, as scarcity hit owing to scanty rains. Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel said in Ahmedabad that 10 talukas of Kutch district.

**Gogha- Dahej Ro-Pax Ferry service will be inaugurated in Gujarat**
- Gogha- Dahej Ro-Pax Ferry service will be inaugurated in Gujarat on 27 October 2018. The ferry service is a part of Sagarmala programme of the Ministry of Shipping. The ferry service has a carrying capacity of 100 vehicles and 500 passengers. The ferry will travel through the sea route by crossing the Gulf in Cambay.

**Gujarat First Mega Food Park Inaugurated In Surat**
- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the first Mega Food Park in Gujarat. It is located at Village Shah and Vasravi, Taluka Mangrol, District Surat.

**PM Modi unveils world's tallest statue 'Statue of Unity'**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the bronze statue of India’s first deputy prime minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at Kevadia in Gujarat’s Narmada district. At 182 metres, the statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel will be the tallest statue in the world, surpassing the height of Spring Temple Buddha in China, which had previously held the record at 153 meters.

**Haryana**
Capital – Chandigarh; CM - Manohar Lal Khattar; Governor - Satyadev Narayan Arya

**Haryana’s Maharshi Dayanand University declared cleanest govt university by HRD Ministry**
- Haryana’s Maharshi Dayanand University has been declared the cleanest government varsity by the HRD Ministry, followed by Guru Nanak Dev University in Punjab’s Amritsar. Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar announced the “Swachh Campus rankings” under different categories.
NASSCOM unveils Centre of Excellence for IoT in Haryana
- Indian IT industry’s apex body National Association of Software and Services Companies (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 and is part of nationwide collaborative initiative involving the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

Haryana to set up anti-terror force
- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said an anti-terror force ‘Kavach’ — will be set up to further strengthen the security arrangements in the state. Kavach, which is being constituted to deal with terrorist activities, would have 150 police personnel who would be provided 14 weeks training by the National Security Guard (NSG) at Manesar.

PM Modi Unveils Chhotu Ram’s Statue at Hooda Family Turf in Haryana’s Rohtak
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a 64-foot-tall statue of peasant leader Sir Chhotu Ram at his native village Sampla in Haryana’s Rohtak district. Sir Chhotu Ram, who was born on November 24, 1881, was regarded as a messiah of peasants and was instrumental in empowering farmers in pre-Independence era and getting pro-farmers law enacted. He had fought for farmers’ rights during the British rule.

Haryana’s first autism research centre opens in Gurugram
- First of its kind in Haryana, National Autism Intervention Research Centre was launched in Gurugram at Fortis Memorial Research Institute by state’s Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, R.R. Jowel.

Haryana govt to introduce livestock veterinary scheme
- Haryana Government has decided to introduce “Pashu Sanjeevni Sewa” in the state under which free of cost quality veterinary services and health care facilities for the livestock would be made available at the doorstep of livestock farmers through mobile veterinary clinics.

Himachal Pradesh
- Capital – Shimla; CM – Jai Ram Thakur; Governor - Acharya Dev Vrat

India’s first railway station inside tunnel to come up in Himachal Pradesh
- For the first time in India, a railway station will be built inside a tunnel at a height of 3,000 metres, on the strategic Bilaspur-Manali-Leh line close to the Sino-India border. Once completed, the Keylong station in Himachal Pradesh will be the first on the railway network to be inside a tunnel.

Himachal Pradesh government is considering a proposal to rename state capital Shimla to Shyamala
- BJP-ruled Himachal Pradesh government is considering a proposal to rename state capital Shimla to Shyamala. The demand was made by right-wing Hindu groups as part of efforts to remove symbols of British rule.

Jammu & Kashmir
- Capital – Jammu (winter) Srinagar (summer); CM - Vacant; Governor - Satya Pal Malik

J-K Sports Council organises orientation course to promote girls football
- Jammu and Kashmir State Sports Council has introduced a first-ever orientation course under United States-based trainers to promote football among the girls in the Valley.

ISRO signs MoU with Central University of Jammu for setting up of Space Science Centre
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Central University of Jammu (CUJ) in Jammu today for setting up of Satish Dhawan Center for Space Science in University. It will be first of its kind institute coming up in Jammu and Kashmir.

Vaishno Devi shrine board enhanced the free insurance cover to pilgrims to Rs five lakh.
- The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), in its 63rd meeting, approved to enhance free accident insurance cover provided to pilgrims visiting Vaishno Devi shrine.

Indian railways announced the world’s highest railway line that will run along the India-China border
- Indian railways announced the world’s highest railway line that will run along the India-China border. The rail line will have a highest road point of 5,360 metres above mean sea level.
Jharkhand
Capital – Ranchi; CM - Raghubar Das; Governor - Draupadi Murmu

India’s Largest war memorial of India will be built in Jharkhand

- Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das has said their government is constructing India’s biggest war memorial. Stories of the slain soldiers’ bravery will be written in the war memorial which will have a replica of the Kargil War so that the youth can understand their duties towards the nation.

Maharashtra
Capital – Mumbai; CM – Devendra Fadnavis; Governor – Vidyasagar Rao

Maharashtra Tops List Of States With Maximum Average AUM: AMFI

- 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). 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.

Alphonso mango from 5 districts of Maharashtra gets Geographical Indication tag

- Chennai based Geographical Indication Registry and Intellectual Property India has granted Alphonso mango from 5 districts of Maharashtra gets Geographical Indication (GI) tag. These five districts Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Palghar, Thane and Raigad are from western Konkan coastal region of State. With this recognition, Alphonso has joined list of 325 products from India with GI tag.

Maharashtra launches website and app Maha madat to analyze drought situation

- Maharashtra launches website and app Maha madat to analyze drought situation. The main aim of the Website app to help in the accurate analysis of the drought-like situation in villages of the state. The website has been created by the Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry with the help of the Maharashtra Remote Sensing Application Centre (MRSAC).

DRDO's remotely operated vehicle inducted in Pune police

- A Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), was inducted into the Pune police on an experimental basis to help in detection and disposal of bombs. The vehicle, ‘Daksh’, will be with the city police for the next six months and it will be used by the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS).

Maharashtra approves Rs 1,610 cr for Tarli irrigation project

- The Maharashtra government gave administrative approval of Rs 1,610 crore for the Tarli Irrigation Project in the state's Satara district. This is the fourth time that the state government has given a revised administrative approval for the project, which comprises eight lift irrigation schemes on the Tarli River, a tributary of River Krishna. The project will bring 6,507 hectares in the Tarli Valley and 8,876 hectares in the Maan and Khavat talukas of Satara district under irrigation.

WEF launches Centre for Fourth Industrial Revolution in Maharashtra, India

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) has announced its new Centre for Fourth Industrial Revolution in India. The Centre will be based in Maharashtra. It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at function held in New Delhi. It will be fourth center in chain-ones as part of WEF’s global network along with San Francisco (US), Tokyo (Japan) and Beijing (China) are already functioning.

METRO INOX is India’s First Rooftop Solar Powered Cinema and South Mumbai’s Largest Multiplex

- Mumbai’s iconic heritage cinema METRO INOX is India’s First Rooftop Solar Powered Cinema and South Mumbai’s Largest Multiplex. It has launched two INSIGNIA screens which are 100% solar powered. It has become the first multiplex in India to join the solar revolution.

Mumbai’s METRO INOX is now South Mumbai’s largest cinema and 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.
Gandhian Thought and Swachhata Seminar Organized in Wardha
• The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has organised a seminar on Gandhian thoughts and Swachhata to make India a Swacch Bharat by 2019-150 the birthday celebration of Mahatma Gandhi.

Madhya Pradesh
Capital – Bhopal; CM - Shivraj Singh Chauhan; Governor – Anandiben Patel

MP announces 52nd district, decision to come into effect from October 1
• The Madhya Pradesh government announced the creation of a new district 'Niwari'. The new district would include three tehsils of the present Tikamgarh district – Niwari, Orchha and Prithvipur. The government’s decision will come into effect from October 1.

Madhya Pradesh to get Ministry of cows
• Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced the setting up of a Ministry for cows. The Cow Ministry will replace the existing Madhya Pradesh Gaupalan Evam Pashudhan Samvardhan (MPGEPS) Board because it has limitations.

India's first Corn Festival Starts In Madhya Pradesh
• 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.

Government inks $150 Million loan agreement with ADB for India’s first Global Skills Park in MP
• Government has inked US $150 million loan agreement with multilateral lender Asian Development Bank (ADB) for establishing India’s first Global Skills Park park in Bhopal, capital of Madhya Pradesh. It will have training facilities focusing on skills for manufacturing, service and advanced agricultural jobs, benefitting about 20,000 trainees and trainers.

Government inks $110 million loan agreement with ADB to upgrade rural roads in MP
• Government has inked $110 million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to upgrade all-weather rural roads in Madhya Pradesh under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). It is second tranche of $500 million Second Rural Connectivity Investment Programme for India approved by ADB in December 2017.

Rs 469-cr revival plan approved for NEPA Ltd
• The government has approved a Rs 469.41 crore package for the revival of closed NEPA mill in Madhya Pradesh, Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said. NEPA Ltd is a public sector newsprint company, incorporated in 1947.

Government nod to establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation in Sehore
• The Union Cabinet has remodified its earlier decision to establish of 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.

Gwalior to host 4-day International Dance Festival
• Uzbekistan Ambassador to India Farhod Arziev inaugurated a four-day international dance festival titled “Udbhav Utsav” in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.

Meghalaya
Capital – Shillong; CM - Conrad K Sangma; Governor – Tathagata Roy
Meghalaya to launch Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries
• The state government of Meghalaya is planning to launch Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries. The Central Government has sanctioned Rs 51 crore for the scheme and it will be launched on October 26. With the launch of the scheme, the state would be self-sufficient in fish production.

Centre to build sports stadium for differently-abled in Meghalaya
• Union Minister Thawar Chand Gehlot announced that the Centre would set up a sports stadium of international standard for persons with disability in Meghalaya.

Meghalaya launches Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries
• The Meghalaya government is all set to launch a new scheme Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries on October 26 next to meet the requirements of the state. The Central Government has sanctioned Rs 51 crore for scheme and the State Government has already received the first installment of Rs 25 crore.
New Delhi

Delhi, Moscow sign twin-city agreement
- Delhi government signed a twin city agreement with the Moscow administration for cooperation in the fields of education, healthcare, sports, tourism, transport and environment for a period of three years.

The national program of Wild Life Week concluded at the National Zoological Park in New Delhi
- The national program of Wild Life Week concluded at the National Zoological Park in New Delhi. Wildlife Week is observed every year from October 2 to 8. Wildlife Week is celebrated since 1952. Minister of State of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Mahesh Sharma addressed the event. He also inaugurated a bio-methanation plant under an MoU between Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The capacity of plant will be 3 Metric Tonnes per day.

Delhi Government launches Chief Minister’s Urban Leaders Fellowship Programme
- Delhi government has launched Chief Minister’s Urban Leaders Fellowship Programme that seeks to attract young leaders across the country to work with it on addressing some of the most pressing urban challenges.

Korean War memorial to be built in Delhi
- A Korean War memorial will be built in New Delhi to commemorate India’s role in the war that ended in an armistice in 1953. “India and South Korea have agreed to build a war memorial. The idea was proposed by the Korean War Veterans Association in India. The Delhi government had identified the land for the memorial in central Delhi.

Museum on Prime Ministers of India will be set up in Delhi
- Minister of state for culture, Mahesh Sharma and Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri jointly laid the foundation stone for proposed Museum on Prime Ministers of India at Teen Murti Estate, New Delhi.

Much awaited Rani-Jhansi Flyover inaugurated in Delhi
- Rani Jhansi Grade separator, the ambitious flyover project in north Delhi was thrown open to public by Union Environment Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan.

IGI Airport to get Taxibots
- Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, Delhi, India is set to commence commercial use of semi-robotic tow trucks. The Taxibots are launched by TaxiBot India.

Supreme Court prohibited the plying of 15-year-old petrol and 10-year-old diesel vehicles in the Delhi
- The Supreme Court prohibited the plying of 15-year-old petrol and 10-year-old diesel vehicles in the Delhi-NCR (national capital region) in a move to deal with the prevailing “very critical” and “horrible” pollution situation in Delhi-NC

Orissa

Odisha CM launches own food security scheme
- Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launched his government’s own food security scheme on Gandhi Jayanti that would cover 25 lakh people in the first phase, who were left out under the National Food Security Act (NFSA)-2013.

India’s 1st ‘Methanol Cooking Fuel Program’ Launched in Assam
- Northeast and Assam Petro-chemicals, a state-owned company launched Asia’s first cannister-based and India’s first “Methanol Cooking Fuel Program”. The programme was inaugurated by Dr V K Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog and Chairman, Methanol Apex Committee at the Assam Petro-chemicals campus at Namrup, Assam Odisha CM launches Nirman Kusuma Yojana

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the “Nirman Kusuma Yojana”
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the “Nirman Kusuma Yojana” to provide financial assistance to children of construction workers for pursuing technical education. An ITI student will be entitled to get financial assistance of Rs 23,600, while a diploma student to get Rs 26,300 per annum. A total of 1878 students will get benefit from the programme.

CM launches ‘Odyssey City Card’ for Bhubaneswar
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched a common city payment card system “Odyssey City Card” for Bhubaneswar. As a joint initiative of the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, Bhubaneswar Smart City Ltd and the ICICI Bank, the card will facilitate payment transactions for citizen services across the city.
BPCL To Set Up Country's 1st Biofuel Plant In Odisha

- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) will complete commissioning of its second generation (2G) ethanol bio-refinery at Baulsingha village in Bargarh district of Odisha by 2020. This is the first biofuel plant in the country where ethanol will be produced from rice straw.

Cyclone ‘Titli’ Intensifies into Severe Cyclonic Storm in Odisha, Andhra

- Cyclone Titli has intensified into a “very severe cyclonic storm” and will make a landfall in areas bordering Odisha and Andhra Pradesh along the eastern coast.

Country's First Second Generation (2G) Ethanol Bio-Refinery Plant in Odisha

- Governor of Odisha Prof Ganeshi Lal laid the foundation stone on country’s first 58-acre Second Generation (2G) Ethanol Bio-Refinery plant at Baulsingha village in Bargarh district of Odisha.

Portal to Promote Odia Language, Literature Inaugurated in Odisha

- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched a new web portal of ‘Odia Virtual Academy’ (www.ova.gov.in) to promote the Odia language and literature at the Secretariat in Bhubaneshwar. The new website will be helpful in the promotion of Odia language at the international level, especially for the Non Resident Odias (NROs).

Odisha CM Patnaik launches EDWS

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched India’s first automatic Early Warning Dissemination System (EDWS). The inauguration coincided with Odisha Government observing Disaster Preparedness Day. On this day, 19 years ago, the state was left devastated by “Super Cyclone” in 1999.

Punjab

Capital – Chandigarh; CM – Amarinder Singh; Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

Punjab Launches Mobile Apps to Check Stubble Burning

- To check the practice of stubble burning, Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh on Thursday launched three mobile apps aimed at checking crop residue burning and creating awareness about its ill-effects. The three android mobile applications have been developed by Punjab Remote Sensing Centre (PRSC).
  - i-Khet: Machine for facilitating farmers to have access to the agriculture machinery/equipment for in-situ management of crop residue.
  - e-PEHaL: for monitoring tree plantation
  - e-Prevent: to have prompt and accurate information regarding incidents of crop residue burning

Punjab Government Signed a MoU with the Centre to Implement the PMJAY

- Punjab government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Centre to implement the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) in Punjab. By implementing PMJAY in Punjab, the scheme will be extended to cover more than 43 lakh families, instead of the proposed 14.96 lakh families.

The Punjab Government Has Banned the Sale of Glyphosate

- The Punjab government has banned the sale of glyphosate. Glyphosate is a herbicide which is extensively used in the State to control a wide variety of weeds in almost all the crops. The chemical has been observed to be a Group 2A cancer-causing material.

India’s First Robotic Dinosaurs Gallery Inaugurated in Kapurthala

- The country’s first gallery on robotic dinosaurs was opened to the public at the Pushpa Gujral Science City, Kapurthala.

Rajasthan

Capital – Jaipur; CM – Vasundhara Raje; Governor - Kalyan Singh

Jaipur Art Summit to Open in Delhi

- Over 20 artists from across the globe will showcase their works at a week-long international art summit in New Delhi starting from October 4-10, and are open for public participation. Currently in its sixth edition, the Jaipur Art Summit Metro Edition will open to the public at the Triveni Kala Sangam in an exhibition titled “Cross Border Art Connect”, along with talk shows and an art competition.

Rajasthan Opens Much-Awaited Dravyavati River Project

- Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje inaugurated the city’s ‘Dravyavati River Rejuvenation Project’ executed by Tata Projects Ltd. spread over 47.5 km rain-fed riverfront.
Rajasthan government launched a scheme aimed to provide free electricity to farmers of the state

- Rajasthan government launched a scheme aimed to provide free electricity to farmers of the state having electric connections in general category for specific limit. According to the scheme, more than 12 lakh farmers of the state will receive free electricity up to Rs 10,000 for a year on their agricultural electricity connection.

Health ministry confirms 22 Zika cases in Rajasthan

- Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has confirmed 22 positive laboratory-confirmed cases of Zika virus in Rajasthan’s capital Jaipur. It was detected through Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) surveillance system and all suspected cases in defined area and mosquito samples are being tested.

Tamilnadu

IIT-Madras will collaborate with Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency to enhance data-driven governance

- 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. The collaboration is expected to contribute towards various aspects of governance, including (but not limited to) education, healthcare, and agriculture, says a press release from IIT-Madras.

Government approves special package for footwear and leather sector

- The Union Government has approved a special package for employment generation in the leather and footwear sector. The government has approved four projects worth over Rs 105 crore to promote the leather industry in Tamil Nadu.

TN CM inaugurated Centre of Excellence at MIT

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami inaugurated the Skills Development Corporation at MIT Chromepet, Anna University and other engineering colleges through video conferencing. They were built at a cost of Rs.546.84 crore. He launched a new software application for e-procurement of paddy by Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd., developed at a cost of over Rs.7.6 crore.

Telangana

Centre granted Rs.450 crore for backward districts of Telangana

- Centre has released Rs.450 crore as special grant to Telangana government as it took up the developmental work in the former nine backward districts of the State. The fund has been granted upon the recommendations of the NITI Ayog.

Thamirabarani Maha Pushkaram – Oct 12 to Oct 23 ‘2018

- Thamirabarani Maha Pushkaram event that will be celebrated from Oct 12-Oct 23’ 2018 in the Thamirabarani River. This event was comes once in 75 years.

Nilgiris district administration proposed a 10 km road through tiger reserve

- The Nilgiris district administration has proposed a 10 km road that would cut through the core area of the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in Erode and the buffer zone of the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve in Udhagamandalam

SRiX Agribusiness Academy Indias first portal for agri biz learning launched in Warangal

- It was inaugurated by British Deputy High Commissioner Hyderabad Andrew Fleming. Additionally, Sarras Academies Ltd, a UK-based company, and SR Innovation Exchange have joined hands to launch the Academy. The name of the platform is SRiX Agri-Business Academy.

Tripura

Tripura to set up flute performance research institute

- Tripura Government would set up a flute performance research institute to take out the traditional musical act and its eminence as a traditional musical instrument across the world, Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb said.
Uttar Pradesh

Capital – Lucknow; CM – Yogi Adityanath; Governor – Ram Naik

Samarkand region, Uzbekistan and Agra, Uttar Pradesh MOU

- Memorandum of Understanding between the Khokimiat of Samarkand City, Samarkand region, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Municipal Corporation of Agra, Uttar Pradesh Republic of India

4th India International Science Festival-2018 held in Lucknow

- The fourth India International Science Festival 2018 (IISF 2018) will be held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh from October 5 to 8, 2018. It is being organized by Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences in association with Vijñana Bharati at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, Lucknow. The theme of this edition of the Science Festival is “Science for Transformation”.

REINVEST- 2018: 2nd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo held in Noida

- The second Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo (REINVEST-2018) was organised by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in Noida from October 3 to 5, 2018 in Noida.

Nitin Gadkari laid Foundation Stone For Rs1,224 Crore Highway Projects In Uttar Pradesh

- Besides, the highway projects, Gadkari also laid the foundation stone for the development of National Waterway 40 (river Ghaghra). This project undertakes development work of 354 km stretch of Ghagra river under the Sagarmala Programme of Ministry of Shipping.

Ghaziabad will soon house an institute for political training

- In a first, the Uttar Pradesh government has approved the setting up of a political training institute in Ghaziabad. The institute will give political training to public representatives and political workers, and will professionally groom political leadership in the country.

Allahabad may become Prayagraj

- A proposal to change the name was passed in the Kumbh Mela Margdarshak Mandal meeting held in Allahabad on Saturday. Governor Ram Naik, who presided over the meeting, included several State Cabinet Ministers and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath

In a first, UP govt makes man-animal conflict a ‘State Declared Disaster’

- The Uttar Pradesh government has made the man-animal conflict a ‘State Declared Disaster’ bringing such incidents under the ambit of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to ensure better coordination and relief during such mishaps in the state.

Uttarakhand

Capital – Dehradun; CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat; Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

Uttarakhand House nod to declare cow ‘Rashtra Mata’

- The Uttarakhand Assembly unanimously passed a resolution to declare cow the ‘Rashtra Mata’ or the mother of the nation. State Animal Husbandry Minister Rekha Arya, who moved the resolution in the Assembly, said that considering it a request from Uttarakhand Assembly, the Centre must grant the status of mother of nation to the cow.

Uttarakhand CM flags off test run of state’s first electric bus

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat flagged off the test run of the state’s first electric bus. In the recent Investors Summit, an MoU worth Rs 700 crore was signed for the operation of electric buses in the state. In this connection a bus has been provided by a Hyderabad based company for test run on Dehradun-Mussoorie and Haldwani-Nainital road for one month.

NSE Signs Pact With Uttarakhand Govt To Fuel SMEs Growth In State

- National Stock Exchange signed a pact with the Uttarakhand government to provide access to capital to MSMEs, which will fuel the growth of such entities in the state.

Karnataka

Capital – Bengaluru; CM – Kumarasamy; Governor - Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala

President gives assent to Karnataka Good Samaritan Protection Bill, 2016

- President Ram Nath Kovind has given assent Karnataka Good Samaritan and Medical Professional (Protection and Regulation during Emergency Situations) Bill, 2016 under Article 200 of Constitution. With this, Karnataka became first state give legal protection to good Samaritans who help accidents victims with emergency medical care within...
golden hour. This law will ensure that good samaritans are not harassed in any manner and face any criminal or civil liability.

Karnataka Unveils 'Unnati Scheme' To Help Entrepreneurs From SC/ST Communities

- The Karnataka Government has unveiled 'Unnati Scheme' to help entrepreneurs from SC/ST Communities. Karnataka Social Welfare Minister Priyank Kharge announced that the state government, under the Unnati scheme, will invest up to Rs 20 crore to create end-to-end support infrastructure for startups and entrepreneurs from a marginalised background.

Karnataka Unveils ‘Unnati Scheme’ to Help Entrepreneurs From SC/ST Communities

- The Karnataka Department of Social Welfare has launched Unnati, a scheme to foster entrepreneurs working on rural and social impact technologies. As part of the scheme, the department will invest up to Rs 20 crore to create end-to-end support infrastructure for start-ups and entrepreneurs from a marginalised background.

Karnataka cleared Rs.198 crore drinking water project for Ullal

- The Karnataka State government has cleared a Rs.198-crore drinking water project proposal for Ullal. Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy launched the Brand Mangaluru campaign and a village camp programme initiated by the Dakshina Kannada Working Journalists Union.

Karnataka CM announced formation of Kodagu Development Authority

- Karnataka Chief Minister H.D.Kumaraswamy announced the formation of the Kodagu Development Authority. The authority is to enable speedy reconstruction of the district, parts of which were ravaged by floods and landslips. So far, the State government funded Rs.127 crore for the rehabilitation works in the district.

Save Bandipur activists protested against the elevated highways through national parks

- Activists protested against the proposed elevated highways through national parks. Around 150 activists protested at Melkamanahalli gate, Karnataka.

Fact Sheet: Mammals of India (MaOI)

- Mammals of India (MaOI) is a new model of repository on Indian mammals by the Scientists and Researchers from the National Centers for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bangalore. It is a citizen-scientific repository initiated in September 2018. It is a first such repository of Mammals in India.

Kerala

Capital – Thiruvananthapuram; CM – Pinarai Vijayan; Governor – P. Sadasivam

Electric auto rickshaws are set to be launched in Kerala

- Electric autorickshaws are set to be launched in Kerala. A committee of six auto rickshaw driver unions signed a pact with a Kinetic Green, a private firm, to roll out 200 Electric auto rickshaws in Kochi. These vehicles are expected to be on the road in November.

Kerala the first smoke-free State to have 100% LPG

- The revenue department has imposed the duty based on the recommendations of the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR). A joint application was filed by domestic steel industries like JSW Steel Ltd, Sunflag Iron & Steel Co, Usha Martin, Gerdau Steel India, Vardhman Special Steels and Jayaswal Neco Industries before DGTR to initiate an investigation on this issue.

Kerala needs Rs 31,000 crore post floods: UN report

- Kerala will need about Rs 31,000 crore for recovery and reconstruction following the century’s worst floods, according to a UN report presented to the Chief Minister by UN Resident Coordinator in India Yuri Afanasiev.

Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board to issue masala bonds worth Rs 5,000 crore for development works

- Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) is going to issue Masala bonds worth Rs. 5,000 crore to mobilise funds for various development works. KIIFB has appointed Standard & Poor’s and Fitch Ratings for rating the Masala bonds issue.

Kerala the best State for teenage girls in India:

- Kerala tops the TAG index which compares the performance of each State based on the status of their teenage girls, as a part of the survey findings of The Teen Age Girls (TAG) Report, conducted by Project Nanhi Kali.
Foundation of India’s Largest Dry Dock Laid at Cochin Shipyard

- The Union Minister for Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation Nitin Gadkari and Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan laid the foundation for India’s largest Dry Dock at Cochin Shipyard in Kerala.

KAU initiated a mission to rejuvenate hill garlic

- The Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) has initiated a study on the farming practices of garlic followed in the hills of Kanthalloor and Vattavada areas of Idukki district of Kerala. This move is to promote the variety Malai poondu or hill garlic that are on the verge of extinction.

West Bengal

Capital – Kolkata; CM – Mamta Benerjee; Governor - Keshari Nath Tripath

Kolkata launches India’s first flood forecast system

- The Kolkata Municipal Corporation, with the support of the Asian Development Bank, has launched the country’s first flood forecasting and early-warning system. It will provide real-time data on inundation, rainfall intensity, temperature, air quality and other climate-related data. This is expected to help policy-makers make informed decisions during disasters.

Other National News

Second Anniversary of Surgical Strike was celebrated as Parakram Parv

- Second Anniversary of Surgical Strike was celebrated as Parakram Parv or Surgical Strike Day on September 29 – 30, 2018 by Indian Army 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’.

Suresh Prabhu launched the World Bank Group’s regional trade report

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, launched the World Bank Group’s regional trade report “A Glass Half Full-The Promise of Regional Trade in South Asia” at a seminar organised by FICCI in New Delhi.

'Kisan Kranti Padyatra' to reach Delhi on October 2

- Heavy security has been deployed at the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border ahead of the arrival of 'Kisan Kranti Padyatra', which is being staged by farmers under the banner of Bharatiya Kisan Union. Earlier on September 30, the Union had announced that their 'Padyatra' that has begun from Haridwar will reach the national capital on the occasion of the 149th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2.

AICTE to establish country’s first AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy in Jaipur

- All India Council for Technical Education will establish country’s first AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy in Jaipur, capital of Rajasthan. Moreover, three more ATAL academies will come at Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), Guwahati (Assam) and Baroda (Gujarat) by next year.

Government to convert 1.5 lakh Primary Health Centers into Wellness Centers

- Union Health Minister JP Nadda has said that 1.5 lakh Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and sub-centres will be converted into wellness centers by 2022. These centres will facilitate screening of every individual aged 30 for blood pressure, diabetes, tuberculosis, breast cancer and leprosy among others.

Gram Sabhas to inform farmers about crop insurance scheme

- Gram Sabhas across the country have been asked to inform farmers about the benefits of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) at the beginning of the Rabi Season

BCCI Brought Under RTI Act By Central Information Commission

- The Central Information Commission (CIC) brought the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) under the RTI (Right to Information) Act. The commission, which is the top appellate body in RTI matters, went through the laws and orders of the Supreme Court, the Law Commission of India report, submissions of the Central Public Information Officer in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to come to a conclusion that the characteristics of the BCCI fulfill the required conditions of Section 2(h) of the RTI Act.

Walmart Foundation announced that it is to invest Rs.180 crore in India to improve farmers’ livelihood

- Walmart Foundation announced that it is to invest Rs.180 crore in India over the next five years to improve farmers' livelihood. The funds would be used to support farmer organisations to develop knowledge of sustainable farming
practices, share business best practices and add value to primary agricultural commodities. The money will also be used to improve access to finance and markets. Walmart India would grow its direct sourcing from farmers to 25% of the products sold in its Cash & Carry stores over the same period.

Railways to install sanitary pad vending machines in 63 trains:
- The East Coast Railway is set to install automatic sanitary napkin vending machines in 90 compartments of 63 trains. The price of a sanitary napkin is Rs.5, while each machine can hold 75 sanitary pads at a time.

Cabinet hikes MSP of Rabi crops for 2018-19:
- A day after farmers demanding higher MSP prices and uniformity in loan waivers clashed with police at the UP Gate-Delhi border, the Cabinet hiked the minimum support price of Rabi crops for 2018-19. The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in its meeting approved the hike in minimum support prices (MSP) of wheat by Rs. 105 per quintal, masur Rs. 225/quintal, safflower by Rs. 845/quintal, and gram by Rs. 220/quintal.

India aims to generate 40% power from non-fossil fuel by 2030
- Stressing that India would generate 40 per cent of power from non-fossil fuels by 2030, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for connecting solar energy supply across borders giving the mantra of ‘One World One Sun One Grid’.

UN postal agency issues commemorative stamps on International Day of Non-Violence
- In commemoration of the International Day of Non-violence, marked on Mahatma Gandhi’s birth anniversary, the UN postal agency issued a new collection of stamps featuring artistic interpretation of ‘The Knotted Gun’, an iconic global sculpture giving the message of peace and non-violence.

Project Utkrisht: Railways to roll out 640 rakes by 2020 for Rs 4 bn
- Indian Railways have plans to develop 640 Utkrisht rakes under its project of upgrading the mail/express trains in the next two years at a cost of Rs 400 crore. Kalka Mail from Howrah station was the first lot of Utkrisht rakes departed to Delhi. The project has been undertaken as ‘green rakes’ consisting of 20 or 22 coaches at Eastern Railways’ Liluah workshop and they cost Rs 60 lakh each. The unique feature of this Utkrisht Rake is the provision of Swachh Rail Toilet (SRT), which is a hybrid design of the bio-toilet system.

Cabinet approves 50% profit over input cost for Rabi crops
- The Union Cabinet approved a hike in the minimum support prices (MSPs) for rabi crops for 2018-19. Union Minister for Law and Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad stated that hiked MSPs translated to 112.5 per cent more than the cost for wheat. Pegging the cost of production of wheat at Rs 866 per quintal, its MSP for the 2018-19 rabi season would now be Rs 1,840 against Rs 1,735 last year. The decision would translate in additional return of Rs 62,635 crore to the farmers by way of increased MSP of notified crops at least 50 per cent return over the cost of production and will aid in doubling farmers’ income.

Digi Yatra: Government releases policy on biometric based digital processing of passengers at airports
- Union Ministry of Civil Aviation has released 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. In later phase, Airports Authority of India (AAI) will roll out this initiative at Kolkata, Varanasi, Pune and Vijayawada airports by April 2019.

One in three companies in India prefer hiring men: WEF Study
- According to recently released World Economic Forum (WEF) “Future of Work in India” report, companies in India experiencing highest growth prefer hiring men.

India to expect 10 per cent rise in salary in 2019, highest increase in Asia Pacific
- Salaries in India are projected to rise 10% in 2019, same as the actual increase in 2018, according to the latest Q3 2018 Salary Budget Planning Report released by Willis Towers Watson, the global advisory, broking and solutions company.

IIT-Kharagpur was named the national coordinating institute of the SPARC
- IIT-Kharagpur was named the national coordinating institute of the Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) under the Ministry of Human Resource Development. As a national coordinating institute, it would do Managing the online portal, Coordinating with the other nodal institutes of India, Organising two annual SPARC conferences and Managing the intellectual output of SPARC.
Government sanctions 5 new battalions of Rapid Action Force
- Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has sanctioned five new battalions of anti-riot and crowd control Rapid Action Force (RAF). These new battalions will be stationed at Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Hajipur (Bihar), Jaipur (Rajasthan), Mangalore (Karnataka) and Nuh (Haryana).

Crop damages in wild animal attacks put under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna on pilot basis
- Union Government has decided to cover damages to crops in wild animal attacks under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna in select districts on an experimental basis. In this regard, Government has amended provisions of crop insurance scheme in consultation with various stakeholders after review of its working for the last two years. The amended provisions of the scheme have been implemented from October 2018.

Earth will reach 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold by 2030: Report
- The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report said the planet will reach the crucial threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels by 2030, precipitating the risk of extreme drought, wildfires, floods and food shortages for hundreds of millions of people.

Nitin Gadkari to lay the foundation stone for development of Ghagra River as National Waterway
- The waterway will stretch from Manjhighat at Ganga-Gaghra river confluence to Faizabad or Ayodhya along Gaghra River for a length of 354 km.

Idiocracy among 1,400 new words in Oxford dictionary
- 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. The OED has defined word as society consisting of or governed by people characterized as idiots or government formed of people considered stupid, ignorant, or idiotic.

Union Home Ministry will soon add Pondicherry police to UT force
- The Union Home Ministry will soon initiate the process to include the Pondicherry police into an amalgamated force, which would include senior ranks from Chandigarh and five other Union Territories including Delhi.

India's first National Environment Survey to kick off in 2019
- India’s first ever National Environment Survey (NES) will be kicked off in January, 2019 to map environment data of 55 districts across 24 states and 3 Union Territories.

External Affairs Ministry launches India for Humanity initiative
- Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has launched India for Humanity initiative to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and honour of his service to humanity.

Government exempts devices operating in low frequency range from licensing norms
- No licence will be required by any person to establish, maintain, work, possess or deal in any wireless equipment for purpose of usage of very low power radio frequency devices or equipments. It will be application for inductive applications in frequency bands of 302 to 435 KHz (kilohertz), 855 to 1050 KHz and 1.89 to 2.31 MHz on non-interference, non-protection and shared (non-exclusive) basis.

Cabinet approves merger of NCVT, NSDA to form NCVET
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the merger of the National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) and the National Skill Development Agency (NSDA) to establish the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET).

21% Indian children are under-weight: Global Hunger Index
- At least one in five Indian children under the age of five are wasted, which means they have extremely low weight for their height, reflecting acute under-nutrition, according to the Global Hunger Index 2018.

Government issues draft National Policy on Electronics 2018
- Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has issued draft ‘National Policy on Electronics 2018’ (NPE 2018) for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) Sector of India. It sets ambitious target of creating $400 billion electronics manufacturing industry by 2025, with mobile phone devices segment accounting for three-fourths of production.

Cabinet approves establishment of permanent campuses of two new IISERs at Tirupati and Berhampur
- Union Cabinet has approved establishment and operationalisation of two new permanent campuses of the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER) in Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) and Behrampur (Odisha). Cabinet also has approved creation of two posts of Registrar, one in each IISER.
NITI Aayog has organised Workshop on ‘Best Practices in International Arbitration’

- NITI Aayog has organised Workshop on ‘Best Practices in International Arbitration’ in collaboration with ICC International Court of Arbitration in New Delhi on 10 October 2018. Its purpose is to strengthen dispute resolution mechanisms and to not only encourage ‘Make in India’ but also to ‘Resolve in India’. The workshop would cover basic concepts of international arbitration and include best practices on drafting, selection of arbitrators, enforcement of arbitral awards, role of courts in the arbitration life cycle, among other topics, with information sharing sessions to be conducted by world class faculty and practitioners from the United Kingdom, Singapore, Paris and India.

Centre exempts Sikh women from wearing helmet in Chandigarh

- The Central government has sent an advisory to the Chandigarh Administration to follow the notification issued by the Delhi Government giving exemption to Sikh women from wearing protective headgear (helmet) while riding two-wheelers in the city. This is in response to the representation received by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh from representatives of Sikh bodies.

Union Cabinet approves Productivity linked bonus for Railway Employees

- Union Cabinet has approved the payment of Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) equivalent to 78 days’ wages for financial year 2017-18 for all eligible non-gazetted Railway employees. It will be not available to Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel. This decision will benefit about 11.91 lakh non-gazetted Railway employees.

India suffered $79.5 billion economic loss due to climate-related disasters in last 20 years: UN Report

- According to United Nations report titled ‘Economic Losses, Poverty and Disasters 1998-2017’, India has suffered whopping $79.5 billion economic loss due to climate-related disasters in last 20 years. The report was compiled by UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction which highlights impact of extreme weather events on global economy. The report was released ahead of International Day for Disaster Reduction, observed every year on October 13.

India remains polio free, all vaccines used in Government immunisation programme safe: UNICEF, WHO

- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organization (WHO) have reiterated India’s status as polio-free country. This comes in backdrop of some oral polio vaccine vials being found contaminated with the type-2 polio virus.

Government hikes import duty on certain communication items up to 20 per cent

- The government has hiked the import duty on certain communication items, including base stations, to up to 20 per cent as part of efforts to check a widening current account deficit by curbing imports. According to the notification issued by the Central Board of Excise and Customs, the increased duties will be effective from October 12, 2018.

India Wins the Seat to UN Human Rights Council

- India was elected to the United Nations’ top human rights body for a period of three years beginning 1 January 2019, getting 188 votes in the Asia-Pacific category. The 193-member UN General Assembly held elections for new members to the UN Human Rights Council. The 18 new members were elected by absolute majority through a secret ballot.

National Human Rights Commission celebrates Silver Jubilee

- 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. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the function and appreciated role of NHRC.

CPCB to implement action plan to combat air pollution

- The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is to implement an emergency action plan called the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). It aimed at combating air pollution that has begun to show a trend towards very poor category.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates Silver Jubilee Celebrations Of NHRC

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the National Human Rights Commission’s (NHRC) 25th anniversary an important role to play in government’s efforts to achieve sustainable development goals.

Government opens new series of sovereign gold bonds scheme for subscription

- Union Government has opened new series of sovereign gold bonds scheme for subscription. Under this scheme, sovereign gold bonds will be issued every month from October 2018 to February 2019. This bond will be sold through Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited, Post Office, Stock Exchange (NSE and BSE).
Union Government Releases Analytical Report Of National Health Profile 2018

- Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for 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.

35 Multimodal logistics park policy proposed by Commerce ministry

- The Commerce ministry announced formulation of a national logistics policy for development of multimodal logistics parks to enable easy movement of goods and domestic and global trade purposes. Each park is supposed to have a plot of 50 acres with each costing Rs. 200-300 crore for development. 35 such parks have been proposed by different ministries including railways.

Foreign tourists can now visit Andaman and Nicobar Islands without any restrictions

- Government has allowed foreign tourists to visit Andaman and Nicobar Islands without any restrictions. In this regard, Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has modified its earlier order which made it mandatory for foreign tourists to register with Foreigners Registration Officer (FRO) within 24 hours of their arrival.

Government launches Swasth Bharat Yatra national campaign for food safety

- The Union Government launched national campaign ‘Swasth Bharat Yatra’ on occasion of World Food Day (observed on 16 October) to sensitize 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).

Government committed to achieving goal of zero hunger by 2030: Agriculture Minister

- The government is continuously working on achieving the goal of zero hunger by 2030 in a systematic manner, Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Radha Mohan Singh said. He said, this year’s world food day aims at showcasing centre’s global commitment towards zero hunger. Mr. Singh was addressing a two-day Agri-Start up and Entrepreneurship Conclave in New Delhi on the occasion of World Food Day. Mr Singh said, 45 models on integrated farming.

Ocean Cleanup Foundation launched floating pipe to gather ocean plastic

- The Ocean Cleanup Foundation has launched a project to collect the plastic in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Wilson, a 2,000-foot-long floating pipe has begun its mission to collect the plastic in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. The pipe is constructed in U shape. It features a three-metre-deep net to trap floating plastic under the water’s surface. A boat will visit the spot every few months to remove the debris.

MJ Akbar resigns as Union Minister

- MJ Akbar, Minister of State For External Affairs, has resigned from his post in the wake of allegations of sexual harassment made by several women against him. MJ Akbar said in a statement that he would "seek justice in a court of law" in a "personal capacity".

CVC analyses 100 top bank frauds, suggests improvements in system after identifying gaps

- The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has reviewed and analysed 100 top bank frauds and has suggested systematic improvement in the system after identifying the gaps.

Air India gets equity infusion of Rs 1,000 crore from NSSF: Union Government

- Air India raised Rs 3,000 crore so far which includes Rs 1,000 crore to the airline from the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF) on behalf of the government. Another Rs 500 crore will be raised by the airline through a loan from the unused sovereign guarantee. It is a part of the Rs 4,200 crore debt of AI to oil companies.

IIT Bombay tops in the "QS India University Rankings 2019"

- QS Quacquarelli Symonds, the global higher education think tank, has released "QS India University Rankings 2019", its first standalone ranking of India's higher education institutions. The rankings include Public Universities, Private Universities and H.E. Institutions or Deemed Universities. IIT Bombay has been named India’s leading institution.

Four Himalayan peaks near Gangotri glacier of Uttarkashi district have been named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee

- Four Himalayan peaks near Gangotri glacier of Uttarkashi district have been named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Located near Sudarshan and Saifi peaks in Raktvan valley, the peaks have been named Atal-1, 2, 3 and 4.

PM announces national award in Netaji’s name for disaster relief workers

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced launch of national award in name of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose to honour those involved in disaster response operations.
Experts’ group to cut schoolbag weight

- Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) informed the Madras High Court on Monday that an Expert Group has been constituted to formulate a draft policy on reducing the weight of school bags in proportion to the age and average weight of children.

Supreme Court moves to make Diwali less noisy

- The Supreme Court on Tuesday struck a balance between the interests of the firecracker industry and the right to public health, allowing the manufacture and sale of only “green” and reduced-emission or “improved” crackers, while banning those that are loud and toxic to man, animal and the environment.
- The judgment reduced the time for bursting crackers during Deepavali and other festivals to two hours: between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. For Christmas and New Year, the time slot allowed is just half-an-hour, between 11.55 p.m. and half-past midnight. The reduced time window is applicable across the country.

GCF approves $43 million to boost climate resilience for India’s coastal communities

- UN-backed fund Green Climate Fund (GCF) has approved US $43.4 million for enhancing climate resilience for millions of people living in India’s coastal communities as part of its efforts to combat extreme impacts of climate change. The grant is part of more than US $1 billion approved by 21st meeting of GCF Board held in Bahrain’s capital Manama for 19 new projects to help developing countries tackle climate change.

80% of Ganga to be clean before March 2019: Gadkari

- Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Nitin Gadkari said that the work for cleaning and rejuvenation of River Ganga is ongoing and 70-80per cent of the work will be completed before March next year.

ICRI has declared year 2018 as International Year of the Reef

- International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) has declared year 2018 as International Year of the Reef (IYOR 2018). It is designed to raise awareness about the threats to coral reefs and the associated ecosystem.

India has most outward migrants in 2017, says ADB report

- Most of the international migrants in 2017 were from India, followed by China and Bangladesh, an Asian Development Bank (ADB) report titled ‘Asian Economic Integration Report 2018’ said.

No Sale Of BS-IV Vehicles Across Country From April 1, 2020:

- The Supreme Court ruled that no Bharat Stage-IV vehicle shall be sold across the country with effect from April 1, 2020. The Bharat Stage VI (BS-VI) emission norm would come into force from April 1, 2020 across the country.

Railway panel to probe Santragachi stampede

- The South Eastern Railway set up a committee headed by J.N. Laldas to inquire into the circumstances which led to the stampede at the Santragachi station in Howrah district of West Bengal.

Sachin Tendulkar gave away prizes to the winners of South Asia Regional WASH innovation in Thimphu

- India’s legend cricketer and UNICEF Ambassador for South Asia, Sachin Tendulkar gave away prizes to the winners of South Asia Regional WASH innovation in Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan.

Researchers from India country developed a skin gel to protect farmers from pesticides

- Indian researchers have developed a gel when applied on the skin, can inhibit some pesticides from getting absorbed into the body, and would help preventing serious adverse effects and even death.

Ayush Ministry to develop parameters to certify Yoga professionals

- Ayush Ministry is to develop parameters to certify Yoga professionals at various levels. The Chairman of the steering committee and Yoga Guru Ramdev said the scheme aims at certifying the competence of yoga professionals and institutions meeting the prescribed standards.

Indian telecom industry will rollout one million WiFi hotspots by December next year:

- Minister of Communications Manoj Sinha has said that Indian telecom industry will rollout one million WiFi hotspots in the country by December next year. He said, it is another step towards the digital empowerment of the nation.

Govt. notifies rules on granting citizenship

- A parliamentary committee has been examining the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, which proposes to grant citizenship to six persecuted minorities: Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Parsis, Christians and Buddhists who came to India from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh before 2014.
India’s first made-in-India engineless train ‘Train 18’ is set to hit the tracks for trials on October 29, 2018. The train will be unveiled on October 29 for three to four days trial outside the Coach Factory’s premises.

**Six-member panel set up to resolve stressed assets**
- The overseeing committee (OC) that is being set up under the inter-creditor agreement (ICA) for resolution of stressed assets will have six members, including 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 also includes a senior Tata Group executive with expertise in the power sector and a Bombay High Court Judge, said a senior public sector bank official.

**MHRD to spend Rs 200 cr on research in social science**
- The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) launched a scheme in New Delhi in which it will be spending Rs 200 crore for promoting research in social sciences. The ‘Impactful Policy Research in Social Science’ (IMPRESS) will fund around 1,500 projects on merit basis and each will be allocated Rs 20-25 lakh. The fund would be released in four phases, with the first batch being finalised by January 2019.

**Fact Sheet: Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FAIDF)**
- To double farmers’ income by 2022 the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved creation of FAIDF recently. The proposal for creation of fund was made in budget 2018-19.

**India Building 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.

**India-UK to collaborate on research on Ganga delta, Bay of Bengal**
- India and the United Kingdom will collaborate on research on different aspects of the Ganga delta region and the Bay of Bengal. The two countries are also collaborating in several areas of earth sciences and weather, like the monsoon.

**India contributes $300K to UN programme to train commanders**
- India has donated $300,000 to a programme to train commanders for UN peacekeeping. Known as the “Pipeline to Peacekeeping Command Programme,” it will “over a period of three years, help develop the capacity of future commanders and managers to lead by example and raise awareness of UN standards of conduct among their personnel.

**WTO sets panel to examine the India, U.S. export case**
- The World Trade Organisation’s (WTO) panel is to examine the India-U.S. export case. WTO’s dispute settlement body has set up a panel to examine the U.S.’ complaint against certain export-subsidy measures by India as both the sides failed to resolve the issue at the consultation level.

**A Rs.700 crore project to clean up courts has been proposed under Swachh Nyayalaya**
- In the pre-launch function of the ‘Swachh Nyayalaya’ project, a Rs.700-crore project has been proposed to have clean courts, right from the Supreme Court and the High Courts to the 3,388 lower courts. Under the project, construction of toilets for both male and female lawyers and litigants, a facility that many courts sorely lack, has been planned.

**CII Joins WhatsApp to Train SMEs Across India**
- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) announced that it would work with WhatsApp to educate and train Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) on how WhatsApp Business app can help them grow their businesses.

**Facebook launches Digital Literacy Library in 6 Indian languages**
- As part of its efforts to train 3,00,000 people in India on digital literacy by end of 2018, Facebook has announced the launch of the Digital Literacy Library, a collection of lessons in six local languages – Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam.

**United Nations decided to launch project on creating Indias intangible heritage inventory**
- This project dubbed- A snapshot inventory of intangible cultural heritage, will be launched to protect the disappearing intangible cultural heritage of India. This will include art forms, craftsmanship and other intangible cultural heritage of the country.

**CSIR developed Less Polluting Firecrackers named – SWAS, SAFAL and STAR**
- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) scientists has developed less polluting green firecrackers named SWAS, SAFAL, STAR. Green crackers are so named because they do not contain harmful chemicals that would cause air pollution.
Important International News

US, Morocco launch GCTF Terrorist Travel Initiative to curb terrorist travel
- United States and Morocco have launched GCTF Terrorist Travel Initiative under auspices of Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF). The initiative brings together stakeholders to share expertise on developing and implementing effective counterterrorism watchlisting and screening tools. It was launched on sidelines of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session in New York.

Nobel scandal: French photographer imprisoned for rape
- The French photographer, Jean-Claude Arnault, who has close links to the Swedish Academy and was embroiled into controversies for sexual assault, was convicted. The 72-year-old has been sentenced to two years in prison for rape.

India, Uzbekistan join hands for developing ICT Sector
- Minister for Electronics & Information Technology, Ravi Shankar Prasad and his counterpart Shuhrat Sadikov was held for strengthening the ICT sector. Union IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad assured his counterpart that India will provide all possible technical support from the Indian side in the digital growth of Uzbekistan.

India releases commemorative stamps in Netherlands to mark Gandhi Jayanti
- The Indian embassy in the Netherlands released commemorative stamps in honour of Mahatma Gandhi’s 150th birth anniversary.

Dubai’s Burj Khalifa pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi
- Pictures of Mahatma Gandhi and his messages were beamed on Dubai’s Burj Khalifa to mark his birth anniversary. Indian embassies had arranged LED projections highlighting Mahatma Gandhi’s life and philosophy at over 120 locations globally.

India launches relief operation for tsunami-hit Indonesia
- India has launched a massive operation to provide assistance to the earthquake and tsunami victims in Indonesia, dispatching two aircraft and three naval ships carrying relief material to the country. Operation Samudra Maitri for humanitarian assistance was launched on October 1, and following Indonesia’s acceptance of international aid.

World’s first full-sized Hyperloop capsule unveiled in Spain
- The world’s first full-sized Hyperloop passenger capsule “Quintero One” has been unveiled in Spain giving those in attendance a glimpse of the future. California based company Hyperloop Transportation Technologies (Hyperloop TT) revealed the slimline capsule, which can reach speeds of 1,220 kilometres per hour.

Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Auditorium dedicated to people in Sri Lanka
- The Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Auditorium built with Indian grant assistance of Rs. 300 million at the University of Ruhuna, Matara in the Southern Province, was dedicated to the people of Sri Lanka. The auditorium named after Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore is a symbol of cultural links with India.

Bangladesh enacts Digital Security Bill, 2018
- Bangladesh’s President Abdul Hamid has given his assent 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. Bangladesh Government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (Bangladesh Awami League) has defended the digital law as necessary to combat cyber crime.

China to sell 48 high end armed drones to Pakistan
- China is to sell 48 high-end armed drones to Pakistan. This will be the largest deal of its kind. The cost of the major defence deal hasn’t been revealed yet. Wing Loong II is a high-end reconnaissance, strike and multi-role endurance unmanned aerial system, capable of being fitted with air-to-surface weapons.

Japanese Passport Named World's Most Powerful, India 81st
- Japan’s passport has been named the most powerful in the world, overtaking Singapore, according to the Henley Passport Index 2018.

Scientists from US develop world’s first bioelectronics medicine
- Scientists from US claimed that they have developed world’s first bioelectronic medicine which is implantable, biodegradable wireless device that speeds nerve regeneration and improves healing of damaged nerve.

India has offered USD 20 mn grant to Tajikistan for development projects
• India offered a grant of USD 20 million to Tajikistan for financing development projects in the resource-rich Central Asian country as Indian President Ram Nath Kovind and Tajik President Emomali Rahmon held talks and reaffirmed their determination to counter all forms of terrorism and violent extremism.

**Cabinet approves MoC between India and Finland on Environmental Cooperation**
• Union Cabinet has approved Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between India and Finland on Environmental Cooperation. The MoC will enable establishment and promotion of closer and long-term cooperation between two countries in field of environment protection and management of natural resources on basis of equity, reciprocity and mutual benefits.

**British scientists have created 3D-printed meals**
• British scientists have created 3D-printed meals for St Helen’s Primary School in Canning Town, London, to develop an interest in science subjects among students. Scientists from the annual Big Bang Fair that promotes science, technology and maths (STEM) subjects worked with St Helen’s Primary School. They created dishes like geometric fish and chips, cauliflower cogs and mathematical constant 'Pi' shaped pie, etc.

**Malaysia to abolish the death penalty for all crimes**
• Malaysia’s Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has agreed to abolish death penalty for all crimes and halt pending executions.

**Stanford University of California named World’s Most Innovative University: Reuters**
• Stanford University was named as World's Most Innovative University by Reuters news agency rankings. 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.

**India and Sri Lanka sign two MoU for construction of 1200 houses**
• India and Sri Lanka signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) for construction of 1200 houses through 50 model villages, using Indian grant assistance of 60 crore Sri lankan rupees. With this, India’s collaboration with Sri lanka government under Model Villages Housing Program stands at 2400 houses in 100 model villages. As per the new MoUs, 600 houses each will be constructed in the Southern and Northern Provinces.

**UK Minister to Launch Anti-loneliness Strategy To Combat 'Scourge of Isolation'**
• 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.

**Germany and the UK, with support from the World Bank, new GRiF**
• The governments of Germany and the UK, with support from the World Bank, are establishing a new Global Risk Financing Facility (GRiF) to pilot and scale up support to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable countries to climate and disaster shocks.

**After Uruguay, Canada becomes second country to legalises use of cannabis**
• Canada has legalised the possession and use of recreational cannabis. After Uruguay, it has become the second country and the largest country to do so.

**India to set up special desk to facilitate investments from UAE**
• India will soon set up a special UAE desk to facilitate investments and resolve any business issues between the two nations.

**Rwanda announced gender balanced cabinets with 50 percent women**
• Rwanda, the East African nation, announced gender-balanced Cabinets with 50% women. It said that women now make up half of the slimmed-down, 26-seat Cabinet. A higher number of women in decision-making roles might lead to a decrease in gender discrimination and gender-based crimes. Inter-Parliamentary Union and UN Women said that Rwanda joins a handful of countries, mostly European, where women make up 50% or more of ministerial positions.

**World's longest sea bridge between China-Hong Kong to open on October 24**
• The world's longest sea bridge Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge will be thrown open for traffic on October 24.

**China has successfully tested the world's largest unmanned transport drone "Feihong-98 (FH-98)"**
• China has successfully tested the world’s largest unmanned transport drone "Feihong-98 (FH-98)", which can carry a payload of 1.5 tonnes, at Baotou test site in North China’s Inner Mongolia autonomous region.

China is in the process of creating an "artificial moon"
• China is in the process of creating an "artificial moon" that would be bright enough to replace the streetlights in the south-western city of Chengdu by 2020.

Chinese-made world’s largest amphibious aircraft completes successful flight
• China’s home-grown amphibious aircraft AG600, claimed by Beijing as the world’s largest, carried out its first take-off and landing on waters.

US has said that it could remove India from its currency monitoring list of major trading partners
• In its latest report, the US has said that it could remove India from its currency monitoring list of major trading partners citing certain developments and steps taken by New Delhi, which address some of its major concerns.

US to pull out of Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty signed with Russia
• United States (US) President Donald Trump has announced that US will unilaterally pull out of three-decade-old Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty signed with Russia during Cold War.

World’s oldest intact shipwreck found in Black Sea
• An ancient Greek trading ship dating back more than 2,400 years has been found virtually intact at the bottom of the Black Sea.

NASSCOM partnered with Hiroshima for Japan-India IT corridor in Hiroshima
• Indian IT industry’s apex body National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom) entered into a partnership with the Hiroshima government for co-creating a Japan-India IT Corridor in Hiroshima.

US to pull out of Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty signed with Russia
• United States (US) President Donald Trump has announced that US will unilaterally pull out of three-decade-old Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty signed with Russia during Cold War.

Xi Jinping opens world’s longest sea bridge
• Chinese President Xi Jinping inaugurated a 55-km bridge that will deepen the integration of Hong Kong and Macao with the rest of China.

Hurricane Willa hits Mexican coast
• Hurricane Willa swept onto Mexico’s Pacific mainland with 195 kph winds, hitting an area of beach towns, fishing villages and farms after roaring over an offshore penal colony.

Paul Biya, won the 7th term as President of Cameroon
• Paul Biya, won the 7th term as President of Cameroon. Paul Biya has been ruling Cameroon since 1982. He is 85 years old. He had won 71.3 % of the ballot in the presidential election. His rival Maurice Kamto came second with 14.2 % of the vote.

Mahinda Rajapaksha sworn in as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka
• Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena has sacked Ranil Wickremesinghe, incumbent prime minister of Sri Lanka and appointed former President Mahinda Rajapaksha as new Prime Minister.

World’s largest airport ‘under one roof’ to open in Istanbul
• The world’s largest airport terminal “under one roof” with a capacity to serve 90 million passengers will be officially opened on October 29 in Istanbul, Turkey. Dubbed as phase-1A of the project Istanbul New Airport will have a capacity to handle 90 million passenger per year, making it the largest such facility in the world.

Philippine Island once called ‘Cesspool’ reopens to visitors
• The Philippine island- Boracay, which was once called ‘cesspool’ due to overcrowding, partying and neglect, was opened for visitors on October 26, 2018 after a six-month closure to clean waters.

China and Japan to partner in building Asia infrastructure
• China and Japan to partner in building Asia infrastructure. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has arrived in China. His visit is expected to trigger significant collaboration between Tokyo and Beijing in developing infrastructure in Asia. He was received by his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang, at the Great Hall of the People. The function was held to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the China-Japan treaty of friendship.

Pakistan to send first manned space mission in 2022
• Pakistan’s plan to send a human to space is aimed for the same year that India plans to launch its own manned human space mission. The major difference between the two missions is that while ISRO’s mission will be their own, Pakistan will do so with China’s help.

US to not allow Iran to develop world’s deadliest weapons
• US President Donald Trump said that all sanctions against Iran lifted by the 2015 nuclear deal will be back in full force from November 5 and promised more in the future to prevent Tehran from developing the world’s deadliest weapons.

Higgins re-elected Irish President again
• Michael D Higgins has been re-elected Irish president after winning a landslide victory with 822,566 votes. The 77-year-old professor and campaigner will serve his second term after first being elected in 2011.

Jair Bolsonaro Wins Presidential Election In Brazil
• Far-right candidate Jair Bolsonaro has won a sweeping victory in Brazil’s presidential election. Mr. Bolsonaro won 55.2% of the votes cast against 44.8% for Fernando Haddad from the left-wing Workers’ Party.

Angela Merkel to Step Down As German Chancellor In 2021
• Germany’s Angela Merkel has announced that she will step down as Chancellor in 2021, following recent election setbacks. She would not seek re-election as leader of the centre-right Christian Democratic Union(CDU).

Researchers at the University of Michigan in the United States, have developed a web-based tool to monitor fake news on social media platforms
• Researchers at the University of Michigan in the United States, have developed a web-based tool to monitor fake news on social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter. The tool uses a Platform Health Metric called the Iffy Quotient, which draws data from 2 external entities: NewsWhip and Media Bias/Fact Checker.

Seychelles launches world’s first sovereign Blue Bond
• The Blue Bond is a part of an initiative that combines public and private investment to mobilise resources for empowering local communities and businesses. Proceeds from the bond will be utilised for the expansion of marine protected areas, improved governance of priority fisheries and the development of the Seychelles’ blue economy.

Important Appointments

National Appointments

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<td>N. Ravi</td>
<td>Chairman of the Press Trust of India (PTI).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jayant Mammen Mathew</td>
<td>President of the prestigious Indian Newspaper Society</td>
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<td>Madan Bhimarao Lokur</td>
<td>National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ravi Venkatesan</td>
<td>UNICEF’S special representative of young people</td>
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<td>Rangachari Sridharan</td>
<td>Chief of National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)</td>
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<td>Arun Kumar</td>
<td>New Director-General of Railway Protection Force (RPF)</td>
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<td>Adam Mosseri</td>
<td>New Instagram Head</td>
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<td>Mohd Mushtaqe Ahmad</td>
<td>New Hockey India president</td>
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<td>Ranjan Gogoi</td>
<td>46th Chief Justice of India</td>
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<td>Nikki Krishnamurthy</td>
<td>Uber's Chief People Officer (CPO).</td>
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<td>Sandeep Bakhshi</td>
<td>New CEO of ICICI</td>
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<td>R N Ravi</td>
<td>Deputy National Security Advisor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pankaj Sharma</td>
<td>India’s Ambassador to UN Conference on Disarmament</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pankaj Sharma</td>
<td>Ambassador and India’s permanent representative to (UNCD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>Srinivasan Swamy</td>
<td>Chairman of International Advertising Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vikram Limaye</td>
<td>Chairman of the working committee and director of World Federation of Exchanges (WFE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richie Benaud</td>
<td>Sport Australia Hall Of Fame Legend</td>
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<td>Ministry of Railways</td>
<td>Best department for its contribution to &quot;Swachchta Pakhwada&quot; under the &quot;Swachchta Hi Seva&quot; category</td>
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<td>Tushar Mehta</td>
<td>The new Solicitor General of India</td>
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<td>Rakesh Sharma</td>
<td>Managing director and chief executive officer of IDBI bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pravin Srivastava</td>
<td>India’s third Chief Statistician</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mahesh Reddy</td>
<td>PHDCCI Secretary-General</td>
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<td>Arundhati Bhattacharya</td>
<td>Chrys Capital Advisor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shekhar Mande</td>
<td>Director-General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milind Pant</td>
<td>CEO of Amway</td>
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<td>Nimesh Shah</td>
<td>Chairman of Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)</td>
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<td>S B Zaware</td>
<td>9-member group to study issues at IL&amp;FS: ICAI</td>
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<td>SS Mundra</td>
<td>BankBazaar Advisor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arundhati Bhattacharya</td>
<td>Additional director, designated as independent director, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sajjan Jindal</td>
<td>Treasurer of World Steel Association</td>
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<td>Vikas Sehgal</td>
<td>Independent director Cyient</td>
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<td>Suresh Nambath</td>
<td>Next Editor of ‘The Hindu’</td>
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<td>Arpwood Capital and JM</td>
<td>The Infrastructure Leasing &amp; Financial Services (IL&amp;FS) financial and transaction advisers</td>
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<td>Alvarez &amp; Marsal</td>
<td>The Infrastructure Leasing &amp; Financial Services (IL&amp;FS) restructuring advisers</td>
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<tr>
<td>K.N. Radhakrishnan</td>
<td>TVS Motor’s New CEO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saurabh Kumar</td>
<td>India’s ambassador to Myanmar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chief justice of the</td>
<td>Justice Ramesh Rangnath</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uttarakhand HC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chief justice of the Sikkim</td>
<td>Vijai Kumar Bist</td>
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<tr>
<td>HC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chief justice of the</td>
<td>Debasis Kar Gupta</td>
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<td>Calcutta HC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chief justice of Gauhati</td>
<td>Ajjikuttira Somaiah Bopanna</td>
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<tr>
<td>HC</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chief justice of the Bombay</td>
<td>Naresh Harishchandra Patil</td>
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<tr>
<td>HC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interim Director of the</td>
<td>Sanjay Mishra</td>
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<td>Enforcement Directorate</td>
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<td>(ED)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independent director of</td>
<td>Arundhati Bhattacharya</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wipro</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# International Appointments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person</th>
<th>Designation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barham Salih</td>
<td>Iraq President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gita Gopinath</td>
<td>Chief Economist of IMF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ravi Venkatesan</td>
<td>UNICEF special representative of young people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramon Laguarta</td>
<td>Chief Executive Officer of global beverage giant PepsiCo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pankaj Sharma</td>
<td>India’s Ambassador To UN Conference On Disarmament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brett Kavanaugh</td>
<td>US Supreme Court Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maeren Abdulmalik</td>
<td>Yemen’s New PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nageshwar Rao</td>
<td>Interim CBI director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former British Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg</td>
<td>Head Of Facebook’s global affairs and communications team</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rohini Bopanna</td>
<td>FIH International Technical</td>
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# Resignation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person</th>
<th>Designation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elon Musk</td>
<td>Tesla Chairman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nikki Haley</td>
<td>US ambassador to the UN</td>
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# Awards and Honors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awards</th>
<th>Winners</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business World’s ‘40 Under 40’ title</td>
<td>Chiranji Patel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award</td>
<td>Dr. Evan Atar Adaha</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations’ highest environmental honour</td>
<td>Prime Minister Modi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Posthumously honored with US Congressional Gold</td>
<td>Gandhiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-day Young Achiever Icons Award 2018</td>
<td>Ruhaan Rajput</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother Teresa Award-2018</td>
<td>Nadia Murad and Dr Denis Mukwege</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tourism awards at Annual Travel Awards ceremony</td>
<td>Nepal</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISSA GOOD Practice Award, Asia &amp; The Pacific 2018</td>
<td>ESIC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dhanvantari Award</td>
<td>Sultan Pradhan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midday Young Achiever Icons Award 2018</td>
<td>Ruhan Rajput</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018 Deming Prize</td>
<td>Rane NSK</td>
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<tr>
<td>India’s first 'Miss Trans Queen'</td>
<td>Veena Sendre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ramineni Foundation’s Outstanding Person award</td>
<td>Pullela Gopichand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Sportsperson of the Year by SJAM</td>
<td>Rahul Aware</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAO's Future Policy Gold Award</td>
<td>Sikkim's 100% organic farming</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Academy Prize in Literature or Alternative Nobel Literature Prize</td>
<td>Maryse Conde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special lifetime achievement award from the Music Academy in Chennai</td>
<td>Vikku Vinayakram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hridyanth Award for lifetime achievement</td>
<td>Mohammed Zahur Khayyam Hashmi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award</td>
<td>Recipient</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018 Fukuoka Arts and Culture Prize</td>
<td>Dr. Teejan Bai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Entrepreneur of the Year award 2018</td>
<td>Prema Gopalan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man Booker Prize for Her Novel 'Milkman'</td>
<td>Anna Burns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Olympic committee award</td>
<td>Suheil Tandon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Photographer of 2018 award</td>
<td>Dutch Oosten</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vishwa Konkani Book Award</td>
<td>H M Pernal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presidential Medal for Combating Human Trafficking</td>
<td>Minal Patel Davis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Top Wildlife Photo Award in Junior Category</td>
<td>Arshdeep Singh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caron Prize for Rural Electrification Effort</td>
<td>Piyush Goyal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018 Shakti Bhatt Prize</td>
<td>Sujatha Gidlla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ustad Chand Khan Lifetime Achievement Award</td>
<td>Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Rajbhasha Kirti&quot; award on the occasion of Hindi Diwas</td>
<td>Punjab National Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration</td>
<td>Fali S. Nariman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Mahanshi Valmiki award</td>
<td>Deva Gowda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN Award for excellence in promoting investments in sustainable development</td>
<td>Invest India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018 Seoul Peace Prize</td>
<td>PM Narendra Modi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INSA Teachers Award</td>
<td>Ashish Mukherjee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Deaf Asia 2018</td>
<td>Haryana girl Nishta Dudeja</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Agriculture Prize</td>
<td>M.S. Swaminathan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India's richest book prize</td>
<td>Benyamin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the FICCI India Sports Awards 2018</td>
<td>Athletics Federation of India</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management Award, 2018</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• 2014 – Manipuri dance Sh. Rajkumar Singhajit Singh</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• 2015 – Chhayanaut (a cultural organization of Bangladesh)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 2016 – India's greatest sculptors, Sh. Ram Vanji Sutar</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Posthumously awarded UN Human Rights Prize</td>
<td>Asma Jahangir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Mining Equipment Seller Award</td>
<td>Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Health Summit Startup Award In Berlin</td>
<td>Roopam Sharma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Grand International 2018 In Myanmar</td>
<td>Clara Sosa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently conferred Swachh Survekshan Grameen Awards 2018**

- **Top 3 States:** Haryana (1st), Gujarat (2nd) and Maharashtra (3rd).
- **Top 3 Districts:** Satara (Maharashtra), Rewari (Haryana) and Pedapalli (Telangana).
- **States with maximum citizen participation:** Uttar Pradesh (1st), Gujarat (2nd) and Maharashtra (3rd).
- **Districts with maximum citizens’ participation:** Nashik (Maharashtra), Solapur (Maharashtra) and Chittorgarh (Rajasthan).

**India Post honors Narayan Seva Sansthan with new postal stamp**

- The Indian postal services honoured the Narayan Seva Sansthan, the Udaipur-based non-profit organisation, by launching their postal stamps. The stamp of Rs 5 includes the official logo of the Narayan Seva Sansthan in bright colours along with the picture of NGO’s Polio Hospital which is situated in Udaipur.

**Record number of nearly 50,000 nominations received for Padma Awards 2019**

- A record number of nearly 50 thousand nominations have been received for the Padma Awards-2019. Home Ministry said that the nomination received this year is 32 times higher compared to 2010.
## Important Committees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Heads</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seven-member ministerial panel to examine modalities for revenue mobilisation in case of natural calamities and disasters.</td>
<td>Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority</td>
<td>Bhure Lal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security Policy Group under NSA to assist National Security Council</td>
<td>National Security Advisor Ajit Doval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panel set to probe e-commerce firms’ big discounts</td>
<td>Injeti Srinivas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee to examine #MeToo cases</td>
<td>Maneka Gandhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The parliamentary panel on labor was constituted to examine the functioning of retirement fund body Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)</td>
<td>Kirit Somaiya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four member Group of Ministers to crackdown on workplace sexual harassment</td>
<td>Rajnath Singh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A panel of governors constituted by President Ram Nath Kovind submitted its report ‘Approach to Agriculture : A Holistic Overview’ on approach to agriculture for doubling farmer's income.</td>
<td>Ram Naik</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Important MOU’s

**India, Japan sign Loan Agreement for Bullet Train Funds**
- India has signed two loan agreements with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for construction of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project and Kolkata East West Metro Project. Under these agreements, Japan will provide Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan of around Rs 5,500 crore as tranche 1 for Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project Rs.1619 crore for tranche 3 Kolkata East-West Metro Project.

**Victoria and India strengthening ties through sports**
- The State of Victoria, Australia is celebrating six key sporting activities taking place in India and Melbourne over the next six months which are aligned with Victoria’s India Strategy to strengthen trade, investment and people to people linkages.

**Goa, Portugal ink MoU on water management**
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Portuguese Environment Ministry and the Public Works Department of Goa will help the State manage its water resources better.

**India, Russia ink action plan to set up 6 more n-reactors in India**
- India and Russia signed a document for cooperation on a new nuclear power project in India with the latest VVER-1200 type reactors powered by advanced fuel. The action plan document was signed by India’s Department of Atomic Energy Secretary Kamlesh Vyas and Rosatom Director General Alexey Likhachev on the sidelines of 19th India-Russia annual bilateral summit in New Delhi.

**Atal Innovation Mission & SIRIUS Sign MoU**
- To promote innovative cooperation between students of India and Russia, a Memorandum of Understanding was exchanged between India’s Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and the Russian Federation’s SIRIUS Educational Foundation in the presence of the PM Narendra Modi and the President of Russia Vladimir Putin, in New Delhi.

**Indian Railways Signed Agreements with Government Of Russian Federation**
- A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the Ministry of Railways of the Republic of India and the Joint Stock Company ‘Russian Railways’ on the sidelines of India-Russia Summit. The MoC intends to carry forward the activities taken up under the MoU signed between the two countries on 24th December 2015. The MoU aims at providing organizational and methodological support to higher educational institutions implementing joint projects in the field of transport education of both countries.

**CII And UN Environment Sign MoU**
- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) signed an MoU with the UN Environment for coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development. The agreement aims to cover all major areas of interest common to both CII and UN Environment.
UNICEF and NASSCOM signed MoU To Strengthen Child Rights
- This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will work collaboratively on two key areas including national sensitization on child online protection and encouraging innovations for child rights' in the country. NASSCOM Chairman is Rishad Premji.

IBM India partners Niti Aayog to skill students in new-age tech
- Tech major IBM India and NITI Aayog announced an internship programme for the top performing under-18 students selected by the ATAL Innovation Mission, a flagship programme of the government to promote entrepreneurship and innovation.

Coal India Signs MoU With NLC For 5000 MW Power Generation
- Coal India tasked to become a net zero emission energy company by the ministry of coal and a move which requires it to generate 3,000 MW of solar power. About NLC Neyveli lignite Corporation (NLC) Industry: Mining
Founded:1975 Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal, India.

NITI Aayog's AIM and IBM India Design Industry-Tailored Student Internship Programme

IIT Kharagpur and Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) have signed an MoU to facilitate cooperation in research and education
- The IIT Kharagpur and Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) have signed an MoU to facilitate cooperation in research and education between the two institutes in New Delhi. NTNU is an expert in Hydro Power, Ocean Modelling, Deep Sea Resources and Marine Technology which will be key areas of focus under this MoU.

India and China launch first joint programme to train Afghan diplomats
- Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan Vinay Kumar hosted 10 Afghan Diplomats who will be traveling to India for the 1st India-China joint training programme. This will be under the Trilateral Cooperation between India, China, and Afghanistan.

MoU signed between Lady Irwin College & MoRD for Roshni
- Ministry of Rural Development and Lady Irwin College, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishing ROSHNI – Centre of Women Collectives led Social Action. ROSHNI is technically and financially supported by UNICEF India serving as a technical support unit at national level.

ICFRE inks two MoUs to launch Prakriti programme
- 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.

Nasscom, Dubai Internet City sign MoU to attract Indian enterprises
- The National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom) said it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Dubai Internet City (DIC) to facilitate expansion of Indian businesses in the Middle East.

India, Myanmar sign MoU towards Sittwe Port operationalisation
- India and Myanmar signed an important MoU on Monday for the appointment of a private Port Operator for the Operation and Maintenance of Sittwe Port, Paletwa Inland Water Terminal and associated facilities included in the Kaladan Multi Model Transit Transport Project in implementation of India’s Act East Policy.

India, China sign 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. The agreement was signed by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and China’s State Councilor and Minister of Public Security Zhao Kezhi in New Delhi.

India, Iran, Afghanistan hold first trilateral 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.

Cabinet okays BRICS nations’ pact on cooperation in social, labour sphere
- The Union Cabinet approved an agreement signed among BRICS nations for cooperation in the social and labour sphere.
India, Japan sign MoC to promote Ayurveda, Yoga

- India and Japan decided to cooperate for the first time in the areas of Indian traditional medicinal systems such as Yoga and Ayurveda to provide holistic healthcare and wellness in both the countries.

India, Japan sign bilateral currency swap agreement worth $75 Bn

- India and Japan concluded a USD 75 billion bilateral currency swap agreement, a move that will help in bringing greater stability in foreign exchange and capital markets in the country.

India and European Union (EU) decided to cooperate on Digital communications

- India and European Union (EU) decided to cooperate on Digital communications, Digital economy and society. The Minister of State for Communications (Independent Charge) Government of India, Mr Manoj Sinha and the H.E. Mr Andrus Ansip, European Commissioner for Digital Single Market and Vice President of the European Commission in their meeting in New Delhi.

UP and Uttarakhand sign agreement to strengthen bus services

- The Uttar Pradesh government on October 19, 2018 signed an agreement with its neighbouring state Uttarakhand to strengthen inter-state bus services. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said his government is committed to provide better transport facilities to the people of the state.

The Union Cabinet of India constitute a Joint Working Group (JWG) on Fintech with Singapore

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and Singapore in June 2018 on the constitution of a Joint Working Group (JWG) on FinTech. As per the pact, both countries will improve their regulatory connect to exchange best practices by sharing experience on policies and regulations related to fintech.

India and Qatar on October 29, 2018 established a joint commission to review all bilateral matters

- India and Qatar on October 29, 2018 established a joint commission to review all bilateral matters, as well as regional and global issues of mutual interest. A joint declaration was issued to this effect. The decision was taken following a meeting between Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Qatari Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, during former's visit to Qatar.

Important Summit & Conference

President of India Inaugurates Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention in New Delhi on September 29, 2018. Speaking on the occasion, the President said that achieving universal access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene by 2030 is a major challenge in many parts of the world.

Sustainable mountain development summit from Oct 3-5 held in Shimla

- Deliberations on ecological, social and economic drivers of change will mark the Sustainable Mountain Development Summit VII to be held in Shimla from October 3 to 5.

World Boxing Council convention kicks off

- The 56th annual convention of the World Boxing Council (WBC) kicked off in Kiev, Ukraine. The meeting, which is hosted by Ukraine for the first time, will last until October 5.

Government launches 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, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Infosys.

India to be guest of honour at Mexico’s international cultural fest

- The 46th edition of Cervantino International Festival, to be held in Mexico, will see India participating as a guest of honour, with an elaborate programme of performing arts. The nearly three-week long festival will kick off on October 10 in the heritage city of Guanajuato in Mexico.

India Chem 2018 Conference Begins in Mumbai
• India Chem 2018, the 10th Biennial International Exhibition & Conference began in Mumbai. The largest event of Chemicals and Petrochemical Industry in India will continue till 6 October. Union Road, Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the conference.

India to Host the 14th International GCA Conference on Media and Communication
• Global Communication Association (GCA), a not-for-profit body of media and communication professionals, is organizing its 14th international conference of communication experts and specialists, in India, on 11-12 October 2018, in the historic ‘Pink City’ of Jaipur.

Women achievees meet at UN forum in Bengaluru
• Over a dozen women achievers from different walks of life participated in a day-long festival at a UN forum in Bengaluru.

Sumitra Mahajan inaugurated Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference of India Region, Zone III in Guwahati
• Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan inaugurated the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference of India Region, Zone III in Guwahati. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference plays an important role in promoting democracy.

Jharkhand to become partner state at Goa International Film Festival
• This year Goa International Film Festival from 20th to 28th of November will have Jharkhand’s partner state. It was also decided to organize Jharkhand Film Festival, under Indian Panorama, in two towns of Jharkhand in the first month of next year.

IPCC Special Report on Climate Change:
• United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has released special report on global warming in Incheon, South Korea. The report includes contributions from 91 authors and review editors from 40 countries. It will be key scientific input in upcoming Katowice Climate Change Conference in Poland in December 2018.

Minister of State for Commerce Attends India and West Africa Conclave in Nigeria
• President and Vice President of Nigeria along with Ministers and Delegation of West African countries are participating in the Conclave.

The 29th Accountants General conference was inaugurated in New Delhi
• The 29th Accountants General conference was inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind in New Delhi. The conference comprised deliberations on adopting most modern audit techniques to further improve audit effectiveness and enhance accountability in public spending.

The Organics and Millets International Trade Fair 2019 held in Bangalore
• The Organics and Millets International Trade Fair 2019, organised by the Karnataka’s Department of Agriculture, will be held in Bengaluru from 18-20 January.

Sushma Swaraj Participates In 17th CHG Meeting Of SCO In Tajikistan
• External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will be participating in the 17th Council of Heads of Government, CHG, meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to be held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on 11th to 12th of this month.

IOC picks Senegal as first African host for Youth Olympics
• The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has picked its first African host of any Olympics, formally awarding the 2022 Youth Games to Senegal. The 2022 decision was taken at a two-day IOC meeting on the sidelines of the Buenos Aires Youth Olympics.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan
• External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has participated in the 17th Council of Heads of Government (CHG-2018) meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

India, Australia participate in second 2+2 dialogue in Canberra, Australia
• India and Australia participate in the second ‘2+2’ secretary-level dialogue in Canberra during which key issues related to their strategic and defence ties were discussed and the two countries underlined the need for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.

46th edition of world’s largest IHGF-Delhi Fair
• The 46th edition of world’s largest (Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair) IHGF-Delhi Fair was held at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida from October 14 to 18, 2018. It was inaugurated by Union Minister of State (MoS) for
Textiles Ajay Tamta. It was organized by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH). It saw participation by over 3200 exhibitors and visit of overseas buyers from over 110 countries.

New Delhi to host 6th India International Silk Fair
- The Textile ministry announced that the Union Minister of Textiles, Smriti Zubin Irani, will inaugurate the 6th edition of India International Silk Fair (IISF) in New Delhi

Australia to engage deeply with TN at the upcoming Global Investors Meet 2019
The Australian government is to engage actively with Tamil Nadu at the upcoming Global Investors Meet 2019. It is to pursue opportunities in education, road safety technology, urban infrastructure, fisheries and agribusiness.

Two-day Agri-startup and Entrepreneurship inaugurated in New Delhi
- The Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh inaugurated a two-day Agri-startup and Entrepreneurship in New Delhi on October 16, 2018, on the occasion of World Food Day. The theme of the event was unleashing potentials in agriculture for young agri-preneurs.

6th Meeting Of UAE-India High-Level Joint Task Force Held In Mumbai
- The sixth meeting of the UAE – India High Level Joint Task Force on Investments (‘the Joint Task Force’) was held in Mumbai to review the progress being made in addressing the agreed actions of the previous meeting held in Abu Dhabi in January 2018 and to elaborate a number of new key issues of mutual importance.

Goa Maritime Symposium 2018 inaugurated by the Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Sunil
- The 2018 Goa Maritime Symposium, the second edition of the Goa Maritime Symposium (GSM) was inaugurated by the Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Sunil in Goa.

PM Narendra Modi chairs 6th meeting of NDMA
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired sixth meeting of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) at New Delhi. In this meeting, he reviewed activities of NDMA to effectively manage and respond to disasters affecting country.

12th ASEM Summit held in Brussels, Belgium
- The 12th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit was held in Brussels, Belgium. The theme of summit was ‘Global Partners for Global Challenges’. It was chaired by European Council President Donald Tusk. India was represented by Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu.

7th Meeting of Education Ministers of SCO Member States held in Astana, Kazakhstan
- The seventh meeting of education ministers of member states of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held in Astana, capital city of Kazakhstan. The meeting was organised with assistance of Kazakhstan Government and its Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Rector’s Office of University of SCO (USCO).

Singapore hosts 12th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting and 5th ADMM-Plus
- The 12th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) and 5th ADMM-Plus was held on October 19 and 20, 2018 in Singapore. 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.

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

Eighth European Congress on SMEs held in Katowice, Poland
- The motto of the Congress was: “Science- Business-Self Government TOGETHER FOR ECONOMY”. This would engage in the challenges and possibilities of development of SMEs as Small and Medium-size Entrepreneurship is the most important sector of the Polish Economy.

27th Fusion Energy Conference held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- The 27th Fusion Energy Conference (FEC 2018) was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The six-day event is organised by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and hosted by Department of Atomic Energy and Gandhinagar-based Institute of Plasma Research.

India To Host 4th Edition Of Global Partners’ Forum in December 2018
- India will host the fourth edition of Global Partners’ Forum on 12th and 13th December 2018 in New Delhi.

The World Diamond Council (WDC) is to hold its 14th annual general meeting (AGM) in Mumbai
- The World Diamond Council (WDC) is to hold its 14th annual general meeting (AGM) in Mumbai on October 22-23, 2018.
India to host global meet on maternal, child health in Dec: UNICEF

- India will be the global host of UNICEF’s Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health stakeholders meeting, including participation from nearly hundred countries, this December.

PM Modi inaugurates 36th Indian Carpets Expo in Varanasi

- The 36th edition of India Carpet Expo, organised by Carpet Export Promotion Council at Trade facilitation Center and Craft Museum, Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) was inaugurated by Narandra Modi, Prime Minister through video conferencing at Amphitheatre near the museum.

7th meeting of education ministers of member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held in Astana, Kazakhstan

- The 7th meeting of education ministers of member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Uttar Pradesh government made the man-animal conflict a 'State Declared Disaster'

- The Uttar Pradesh government made the man-animal conflict a 'State Declared Disaster'. These incidents would be under the ambit of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

27th IAEA Fusion Energy Conference Starts In Gandhinagar, Gujarat

- The 27th IAEA Fusion Energy Conference (FEC 2018) has started in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) fosters the exchange of scientific and technical results in nuclear fusion research and development through its series of Fusion Energy Conferences.

Fourth Edition Of NITI Lecture Series Held In New Delhi

- Fourth Edition Of NITI Lecture Series Held In New Delhi. The theme for this year is “AI for ALL: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Inclusive Growth”.

India-China high-level meeting on bilateral security cooperation held in New Delhi

- The first India-China high-level meeting on bilateral security cooperation held in New Delhi recently. During the meeting, the two sides discussed issues of mutual interest including bilateral cooperation on counter-terrorism and welcomed increased cooperation between India and China in the area of security.

Sagar conference inaugurated in Goa

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu will inaugurate the second edition of the Sagar conference at Bambolim, Goa. It is being organised by the Forum for Integrated National Security (FINS).

STAPCOR 2018: International Conference on Status and Protection of Coral Reefs held at Bangaram Island, Lakshadweep

- International Conference on Status and Protection of Coral Reefs (STAPCOR – 2018) was held at Bangaram Island, Union Territory of Lakshadweep from 22nd to 24th October, 2018. The theme of the conference was “Reef for Life”. It was inaugurated by Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Dr. Harsh Vardhan.

Global Agriculture Leadership Summit 2018 opens in New Delhi

- The Global Agriculture Leadership Summit 2018 opened in New Delhi. The theme of the 2-day summit is, ‘Connecting Farmers to Market’. Inaugurating the summit, Secretary Agriculture and Co-operation Sanjay Agrawal said, several measures are being taken to double farmers’ income by 2022.

UNESCO MGIEP(Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education) in association with Government of Andhra Pradesh announces TECH 2018

- UNESCO MGIEP(Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education) in association with Government of Andhra Pradesh announces TECH 2018, an international conference which 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 2018 WETEX (Water, Energy, Technology, and Environment Exhibition) has started at the Dubai

- The 2018 WETEX (Water, Energy, Technology, and Environment Exhibition) has started at the Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Dubai from October 23. It is considered as one of the leading sustainability exhibitions in the Middle East and North Africa region.

India Mobile Congress 2018 held in New Delhi

- The second edition of India Mobile Congress (IMC-2018) was held New Delhi from October 25-27, 2018. It was organised by Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI). The theme was “New Digital Horizons. Connect. Create. Innovate”.

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Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurates 10th Nuclear Energy Conclave

- Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurates 10th Nuclear Energy Conclave. The theme of the conclave is ‘Nuclear Power- Towards a Clean & Base Load Energy’.

2nd International Conference On Primary Health Care Held in Kazakhstan


Union Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the 10th Edition of BIOFACH INDIA

- Honourable Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the 10th Edition of BIOFACH INDIA, the largest show on the “Organic Sector” in India.

North East Festival and Experiencing the North East held in New Delhi

- The sixth edition of North East festival is being organized till October 28, 2018 in New Delhi and the 15th edition of Indian International Centre festival is to be held from 27-31 October 2018.

2nd Guwahati International Film Festival 2018 begins with focus on ASEAN

- The second edition of the Guwahati International Film Festival (GIFF 2018) began on October 25. The week-long festival will end on October 31 and will witness the screening of more than 100 films from 50 countries.

5th National Summit on Public Health Care Begins In Assam

- The 5th National Summit on Good and Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Health Care Systems in India have begun at Kaziranga in Assam. State Chief Minister Sarbanand Sonowal and Union Health Minister J P Nadda inaugurated the three-day summit.

Fifth National Summit on Public Health Care held

- The 5th National Summit on Good and Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Health Care Systems in India began in Kaziranga, Assam on October 30, 2018. Addressing the summit Union Health Minister J P Nadda stressed on perform, reform and transform as emphasised by Prime Minister.

Important Mobile App and Web Portal

WHO launches ‘SAFER’, a new initiative to reduce harmful use of alcohol

- The World Health Organization (WHO) released SAFER, a new initiative and technical package outlining five high-impact strategies that can help governments reduce the harmful use of alcohol and related health, social and economic consequences.

Truecaller launches chat feature to curb spread of fake news:

- Swedish caller ID service Truecaller has launched Truecaller Chat, an instant messaging (IM) service which will let users report links to curb the spreading of fake news.

MobiKwik launched an instant loan approval and disbursal product called 'Boost'.

- MobiKwik launched an instant loan approval and disbursal product called 'Boost'. As per the offer, loans of upto Rs 60,000 can be sanctioned as well as disbursed in a matter of 90 seconds. The approval time for the loan would be 30 seconds based on an innovative risk scoring model called 'Mobiscore'. The minimum amount of loans that can be approved is for Rs. 5000 and the users will have the option to transfer the amount in their bank accounts. They can pay the loan in easy monthly installments of 6-9 months. It is the first-of-its-kind of credit disbursal product that disburses loan amount in the user’s mobile wallet.

Bharti Airtel acquired artificial intelligence (AI) service provider AuthMe ID Services

- Bharti Airtel acquired artificial intelligence (AI) service provider AuthMe ID Services. Bharti Airtel has not revealed the size of the deal. As part of the acquihire deal, the core team of AuthMe will join Airtel and will be part of Airtel X Labs in Bengaluru.

IAF launches MedWatch mobile health app

- Indian Air Force (IAF) has launched ‘MedWatch’ mobile health app to provide health information to users, including first-aid and other health and nutritional topics. It was launched on 8 October on the occasion of IAF’s 85th anniversary. It is first of its kind mobile health app built by any of the three armed forces.
Environment Ministry, World Bank release report on Strengthening Forest Fire Management in the Country
- Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and World Bank Report have jointly released report on Strengthening Forest Fire Management in the Country.

IRCTC launches 'AskDisha' for customer support and engagement
- The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) Saturday launched 'AskDisha' (Digital Interaction to Seek Help Anytime) -- a chatbot powered by artificial intelligence (AI) for improving customer services of railway passengers, a statement from railways said.

Kamal Haasan launched a safety app named Raudram
- Kamal Haasan, Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) founder, launched a safety app named ‘Raudram’. The app aimed at ensuring the safety of women in the city. The launch function held at Sri Sairam Engineering College. One can store three contact numbers upon registration in the app.

NCR RASTA and Yatri RASTA: North Central Railways launches two mobile apps
- The North Central Railways (NCR) launched two mobile apps, NCR RASTA (Railway assets Summerised Tracking Application) and Yatri RASTA (Railway Approach to Station Tracking Application) for its employees and passengers, respectively, for locating assets and stations.
  - NCR RASTA app: It is for use of railway officers and staff and has exact mapping of all railway assets. It will enable railway staff to reach desired asset using Google Navigation in case of any emergency.
  - Yatri RASTA app: It will allow general public to locate railway stations easily. It is already available for smartphones running on Android and can be downloaded free of cost from Google Play Store.

NCW launches dedicated e-mail address to report instances of sexual harassment at workplace
- The National Commission for Women (NCW) has come out with dedicated e-mail address (ncw.metoo@gmail.com) to report instances of sexual harassment at workplace. On receiving complaint mail, NCW will take forward complaints of sexual harassment at workplace received so that appropriate action may be taken, as per law.

CSIR-IITR has developed an innovative technology for "Drinking Water Disinfection System" OneerTM
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (CSIR-IITR), Lucknow, has developed an innovative technology for "Drinking Water Disinfection System" with the trade name "OneerTM".

PNB Metlife launches AI-powered customer service app
- Life insurer PNB Metlife has unveiled an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered customer service app ‘Khushi’.
  - In 2016, the company had launched ‘conVRse’, virtual reality (VR) service platform as well as ‘eBranch’, a paperless digital platform enabling real time transfer of information. Going forward, PNB MetLife would upgrade Khushi to include other languages and IOS devices

Paytm launches ‘PayPay’ mobile wallet in Japan in JV with SoftBank, Yahoo Japan
- Paytm has launched a QR-based smartphone payment settlement service in Japan in collaboration with SoftBank and Yahoo Japan Corporation.
  - In addition, for sellers and establishments, “PayPay” will not charge any fee for user scan type settlement till the end of September 2021.

PM Modi Launches ‘Main Nahi Hum’ Portal In New Delhi
- Prime Minister Modi said this while interacting with IT professionals in Delhi. He also launched a portal and app, Main Nahin Hum, which will enable IT professionals and organisations to bring their efforts towards social causes and service to society on one single platform.

Union HRD Minister launches the web portal SPARC in New Delhi
- The Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Prakash Javadekar launched the web portal of the Scheme “Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)” in New Delhi.

Railways’ UTS app to be launched on 1 November
- The railways ‘UTS mobile’ app for buying unreserved tickets online will be launched nationwide on November 1, 2018. It was first launched in Mumbai because a large number of people travel in locals.

WhatsApp partnered with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to train small and medium enterprises (SMEs)
- WhatsApp partnered with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to train small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs on using the messaging platform.
Important Defence News

Multi-National Maritime Exercise ‘IBSAMAR-VI’ Starts In South Africa
- The sixth edition of IBSAMAR, a joint Multi-National Maritime Exercise between the Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies, is being held at Simons Town, South Africa.

Joint Exercises Between Coast Guards Of India, Vietnam
- The Indian and Vietnamese Coast Guards will take part in joint exercises off Chennai to promote interoperability between the two maritime forces. The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) vessel Sagar Manjusha will participate in the exercise.

IAF successfully conducts series of flight trials of Astra Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile
- Indian Air Force (IAF) has successfully undertaken series of flight trials of Astra Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVR-AAM) from September 26 to October 3, 2018. The tests were conducted at Integrated Test Range (ITR), Balasore, Odisha as part of final development trials of the missile.

Sahyog HOP TAC -2018: First India-Vietnam Coast Guards exercise held in Bay of Bengal
- 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.

Parker Solar Probe completes first Venus flyby: NASA
- NASA’s Parker Solar Probe has successfully completed flyby of Venus at distance of about 2,415 kilometres during its first gravity assist from planet. These gravity assists will help spacecraft tighten its orbit closer to Sun over course of the mission. The spacecraft in future will be carrying six Venus gravity assists over the course of the seven-year mission.

Gaganyaan: ISRO, ROSCOSMOS to work together for first Indian manned mission
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Russia’s federal space agency Roscosmos State Corporation for Space Activities (ROSCOSMOS) have agreed to worked together for first manned space mission Gaganyaan. In this regard, both space agencies have signed MoU at end of delegation level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladmir Putin in New Delhi.

India-Japan maritime exercise commences at Visakhapatnam
- JIMEX-18, a bilateral maritime exercise between India and Japan, began in Visakhapatnam. The nine-day event is aimed at enhancing inter-operability, improving understanding and imbibing the best practices of each other.

Pakistan Test-Fires Nuclear-Capable Ghauri Ballistic Missile
- Pakistan successfully test-fired Ghauri ballistic missile capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads up to a distance of 1,300 kilometers. The launch was conducted by Army Strategic Forces Command and was aimed at testing the operational and technical readiness.

Clear Sky 2018: Ukraine Launches Air Exercises With NATO Countries
- Ukraine began a series of large-scale air force exercises with the United States and other NATO countries. The "Clear Sky 2018" war games are being held in western Ukraine. The main aim is to enhance regional capabilities to secure air sovereignty and promote peace and security through cooperation.

IND-INDO CORPAT: 32nd edition of India-Indonesia coordinated patrol being held in Indonesia
- The 32nd edition of India-Indonesia coordinated patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) is being held in Belawan, Indonesia from 11 – 27 October 2018. The patrolling will be conducted in three phases, followed by closing ceremony at Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Island. Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kulish, a Kora class missile corvette and Dornier naval maritime time patrol aircraft from Andaman and Nicobar command are participating.

Soyuz crew survives emergency landing
- The Soyuz rocket made a successful emergency landing after an engine problem on lift-off to the International Space Station (ISS). The two-man crew, astronaut Nick Hague and Russian cosmonaut Aleksey Ovchinin, survived. The rocket was launched was from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan at 0840 GMT.

First India US Special Forces exercises to be take place in 2019
The first India-U.S. tri-services exercise will be taking place in 2019. The talks are on to include the special forces of the two countries in the drill. The focus of the drill will be on a United Nations (UN) based scenario and the overarching mission of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief measure.

Japan joins PH-US armed exercises
- Japanese troops stormed a beach in the Philippines Saturday in joint exercises with US and Filipino troops that officials said marked the first time Tokyo’s armored vehicles rolled on foreign soil since World War II.

NASAs Chandra Observatory is back in action after brief shutdown
- NASA's Chandra X-ray telescope that suffered technical glitch is back online. Due to the glitch occurred in one of Chandra’s gyroscopes it went into safe mode. Chandra X-ray telescope observes galaxies from the Earth’s orbit.

Dharma Guardian: First India, Japan joint military exercise to be held in Mizoram
- The first joint military exercise named “Dharma Guardian” between India and Japan will be held at the Army’s Counter-Insurgency Warfare School at Vairengte (Mizoram) from November 1 to 14, 2018.

AG600: China’s first amphibious aircraft completes first water takeoff
- China’s first home-grown amphibious aircraft AG600 (code-named Kunlong) successfully carried out its first take-off and landing on water. It is claimed to be as the world’s largest amphibious aircraft.

Cope India air exercise: India, Japan, US planning to host joint trilateral air exercise
- India and US have agreed to elevate their bilateral ‘Cope India’ air exercise to trilateral format by including Japan.

NASA Space Apps challenge 2018 on DSU campus
- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s (NASA) Space Apps challenge 2018 Hackathon has been organised at Dayananda Sagar University (DSU), Kudlu Gate campus, on Hosur Road.

European and Japanese space agencies launched an Ariane 5 rocket successfully
- European and Japanese space agencies stated that an Ariane 5 rocket successfully lifted a spacecraft carrying two probes into orbit for a joint mission to Mercury, the closest planet to the sun.

India’s First Domestic Cruise ‘Angriya’ Flagged Off From Mumbai
- Angria, India’s first luxury cruise ship, has been inaugurated at Mumbai. Union minister for shipping Nitin Gadkari and Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis flagged-off the cruise which will operate between Mumbai and Goa.

The first-ever joint maritime exercise will be conducted between ASEAN and China in the South China Sea
- The first-ever joint maritime exercise will be conducted between ASEAN and China in the South China Sea near the city of Zhanjiang in an effort to reduce tensions in the disputed region.

European Space Agency and JAXA have successfully launched an unmanned Bepi Colombo spacecraft to Mercury
- The European Space Agency and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) have successfully launched an unmanned Bepi Colombo spacecraft into orbit from an Ariane 5 rocket for a joint mission to Mercury, the planet closest to the sun.

Iron Magic 19: UAE, US to conduct military exercise near Dubai
- The joint military exercise Iron Magic 19 between United Arab Emirates (UAE) and United States (US) kicked off near Dubai.

Druzhba-III: Russia and Pakistan holding military exercise in Pakistan
- The Druzhba 2018 (Friendship 2018) joint bilateral military exercise between Pakistan and Russian special forces has begun in Pakistan.

NASA celebrates 10 years of operation of Fermi Gamma ray Space Telescope
- NASA’s Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope completes 10 years of operations. To celebrate this, the NASA scientists have devised a new set of 21 modern gamma-ray constellations. The constellations were named them after fictional characters such as the Hulk and Godzilla.

Coast Guard Training Ship ICGS Varuna Launched
- Anil Ambani-led shipbuilder Reliance Naval and Engineering (RNEL) launched a 3,000-tonne training ship for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), which will be delivered in May next year.
NATO's biggest military maneuvers begins in Norway

- NATO's biggest military maneuvers began in Norway that involves restoring the Scandinavian country's sovereignty after an attack by a "fictitious aggressor.

ISRO successfully tests lander for soft landing on the moon

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted crucial tests to ensure smooth and precise landing of Vikram, the lander aboard Chandrayaan 2. The aim of the Lander Actuator Performance Test (LAPT) was to assess the performance of the navigational system onboard the lander for steering the module horizontally and vertically to reach a predefined target.

Japanese rocket lifted off the United Arab Emirates first locally made satellite H2A

- 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 Center.

Important Schemes and Programs

LooReview Campaign: Government and Google launch campaign to review public toilets

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has partnered with Google to launch Loo Review campaign on Google Map. The joint campaign has been launched under aegis of Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM–U).

Petroleum Minister Launches SATAT Initiative

- Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched an innovative initiative titled SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation).

Government launches SATAT initiative to promote Compressed Bio-Gas production

- 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).

National Khadi Festival 2018 inaugurated by Union MSME Minister

- A month-long National Khadi Festival 2018 to promote Khadi products has been inaugurated on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti 2018, by Union Minister for Micro Small & Medium Enterprises, Shri Giriraj Singh.

Centre to release state rankings under Poshan Abhiyaan next year March

- The government said that it will come up with 'Status of India Nutrition’ report in March next year where states will be ranked according to their performance under the Poshan Abhiyaan. The National Institute on Nutrition (NIN) will come out with the report which deals with various parameters of nutrition.

Country's biggest skill competition 'India Skills 2018' concludes in New Delhi

- The country’s biggest skill competition, ‘India Skills 2018’ has concluded in New Delhi. The 164 winners were awarded by Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Anant Kumar Hegde.

Exhibition “Revisiting Gandhi: The Art of Shelly Jyoti”

- Union Minister of Textiles, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani Inaugurated the exhibition “Revisiting Gandhi: The Art of Shelly Jyoti” at IGNCA, New Delhi, the 06th of October, 2018.

Website for Aero India 2019 launched by Minister of Defence

- The Website for Aero India 2019 is: https://aeroindia.gov.in/Aero-India The portal facilitated payment of registration fee online for business visitors. Furthermore, it has been integrated with multi-currency Payment Gateway where Indian companies would be able to pay in Indian Rupees using Credit Card/Debit Card/Net Banking/UPI/NEFT/RTGS and foreign companies would be able to pay in US dollars using credit card/debit card.

Youth Road Safety Learners Licence Programme launced by MoS Road Transport Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya

- Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya, Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways and Chemical & Fertilizer today launched the Youth Road Safety Learners Licence programme in New Delhi. This programme will be run in collaboration with Diageo India and the Institute of Road Traffic Education (IRTE).

Environment Ministry launches Harit Diwali, Swasth Diwali campaign

- Environment Ministry has launched Harit Diwali, Swasth Diwali campaign. This campaign was initiated in 2017-18 wherein large number of school children participated and took pledge to minimize bursting of crackers.
President inaugurated three-day Vishwa Shanti Ahimsa Sammelan in Maharashtra

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated three-day Vishwa Shanti Ahimsa Sammelan in Maharashtra. The conference was organized by the Bhagwan Rishabhdev Murti Nirman Samiti.

PM Modi Inaugurated Krishi Kumbha In Lucknow

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a farmers’ conclave ‘Krishi Kumbh 2018’ in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh via video conferencing. The three-day ‘Krishi Kumbh’ is being organized to promote modern technique and diversification in agriculture that could help in doubling farmers income.

Important Ranking and Indexes

India set to be third largest aviation market soon: now in 7th rank

- India will be the third largest aviation market globally a year sooner than was earlier predicted. It is now expected to be among the top three countries by 2024 from its current seventh position, according to global aviation body IATA.

Apple displaced Google to become the top brand in the world in 2018

- Apple displaced Google to become the top brand in the world in 2018 while Facebook, mired in data breach controversies, fell to ninth place in the top 100 brands globally.

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Important Books and Authors

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Hawkings final scientific paper on black holes has been released

- Stephen Hawking’s final scientific paper has been written and posted online by his colleagues at Cambridge and Harvard universities. The paper was completed days before his death. The paper titled ‘Black Hole Entropy and Soft Hair’ tackles with what happens to information when it falls into a blackhole, a problem that theoretical physicists refer to as ‘the information paradox’.
Important Sports News

**Cricket**

**Virat Kohli becomes fastest batsman to score 24 Test hundreds since Don Bradman**

- India captain Virat Kohli became the quickest batsman to reach 24 Test centuries after the great Donald Bradman early on day two against the West Indies. The Indian skipper also surpassed Australia’s Steve Smith to go second in the list of centurions among active players, behind South Africa’s Hashim Amla on 28. 16-year-old Manu Bhaker is leading the Indian team in the opening ceremony as the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for the games.

**Former England Batsman Nick Compton Retires From Cricket**

- Former England batsman Nick Compton announced his retirement from cricket. Compton, who scored more than 12,000 first-class runs at an average of 40.42, including 27 hundred.

**India won the U19 Asia Cup 2018 title**

- India beat Sri Lanka by 144 runs to clinch the Under-19 Asia Cup 2018 title in Dhaka.

**India, England, Sri Lanka to play blind cricket tri-series in Goa**

- Goa is gearing up to witness the blind cricket triangular series between India, England and Srilanka, slated to commence on 8 October at the Goa Cricket Association Alto Porvorim.

**Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah maintain top positions in ICC ODI rankings**

- Virat Kohli led the batsman’s list with 884 points, his deputy Rohit Sharma with 842 ranking points maintained the second position. The other Indian batsman in the top-10 was Shikhar Dhawan, who is placed fifth in the list with 802 points. Among the bowlers, death overs specialist Bumrah with 797 points was on the top while left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav with 700 points is placed third in the list.

- In the team ranking, India is currently placed second with 122 points behind England, which has 127 points.

**Former Chelsea and England defender John Terry retires from football**

- Former Chelsea and England captain John Terry has decided to call time on his playing career after 23 years in the game.

**Abdur Rehman bids adieu to International cricket**

- Pakistan spinner Abdur Rehman has announced his retirement from international cricket. Declaring the same, the 38-year-old said that it is a “tough call” but it is no longer possible for him to continue playing the game.

**Kumble launches Power Bat**

- The Power Bat is powered by the Microsoft Azure cloud platform using AI and Internet of Things (IoT) services. Power Bat is a unique concept whereby a lightweight, Azure Sphere-powered sticker is stuck on the shoulder of the bat. As soon as the batsman hits the ball, data on different parameters (speed, twist, and quality of the shot) are captured in a new unit of measurement titled Power Speks.

**India wins triangular series by defeating Sri Lanka in Blind Cricket**

- Indian blind cricket team defeated Sri Lanka and won the triangular series in Goa. Goa Governor Mridula Sinha was invited as the chief guest for the final. India played the tri-series against England and Sri Lanka.

**Kohli Becomes Fastest to Reach 10,000 Runs in History of ODI Cricket**

- Virat Kohli is now the fastest man in the history of ODI cricket to reach 10,000 runs. The Indian skipper reached the landmark on his way to his 37th ODI ton in the Vizag ODI against the West Indies. He has reached the 10,000-run mark in 205 innings, which is 54 fewer than ‘Master Blaster’ Sachin Tendulkar who held the record earlier.

**Dwayne Bravo retires from international cricket**

- All-rounder Dwayne Bravo announced his retirement from international cricket on Wednesday (October 24. The 35-year-old, who last represented the Windies in September 2016, played a grand total of 270 internationals and played a starring role in each of their two World T20 triumphs in 2012 and 2016.

**Football**

**World Cup Veteran Mile Jedinak Retires From Australian National Team**

- Australian football captain Mile Jedinak has announced his retirement from international football after a stellar career that saw him reach three World Cups.

**Russia’s World Cup hero Igor Akinfeev retires from international football**

- Russia’s World Cup hero Igor Akinfeev has announced his retirement from international football after a stellar career that saw him win three World Cups.
Russia goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev is retiring from international soccer after leading the national side as captain to this year’s World Cup quarter-finals on home soil.

**Bengaluru FC win Puttaiah Memorial Cup**
- Bengaluru FC clinched their second Puttaiah Memorial Cup after a 2-1 win over Madras Engineering Group (MEG) in the final of the 2018 edition of the competition at the Bangalore Football Stadium in Bengaluru.

**India’s FIFA ranking unfazed, retain 97th spot**
- The Indian men’s football ranking is unfazed, as it continues to be placed at the 97th spot in the latest rankings released by Federation International Football Association (FIFA). Belgium have retained the pole position ahead of World Cup champions France.

**Others**

**Yuvraj Wadhwani clinches Asian Junior Squash title**
- India’s Yuvraj Wadhwani defeated Anas Ali Shah of Pakistan in the final to win the boys under-13 title in the 25th Asian junior individual squash championship in Chennai.

**Hamilton wins Russian Grand Prix**
- Formula One defending champion Lewis Hamilton of Britain (Mercedes) won the Russian Grand Prix after Mercedes’ other driver Valtteri Bottas of Finland at the Sochi Autodrom circuit in Sochi, Russia.

**Manpreet Singh will be captain of Asian Men’s Hockey Champions Trophy 2018**
- Indian midfielder Manpreet Singh will be captain of the 18-member Indian team at the 5th edition of Asian Men’s Hockey Champions Trophy 2018.

**Sanya Richards-Ross will be the event ambassador for the Airtel Delhi half marathon**
- Four-time Olympic gold medallist athlete Sanya Richards-Ross will be the event ambassador for the Airtel Delhi half marathon to be held on October 21.

**Manu Bhaker Named India’s Flag-Bearer At Youth Olympic Games**
- 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, Argentina from October 6-18.

**36th National Games To Be Held Next Year In Goa**
- The much-delayed 36th National Games in Goa will be held from March 30 to April 14 next year. Opening and Closing ceremonies will be held at PJN Stadium, Fatorda. Shooting and cycling events will be held in New Delhi as Goa does not have facilities for these two sports. Five sports Rugby, Wushu, Modern Penthatlon, Lawn Bowl, and Billiards and Snooker will be added in the Games programme.

**Lewis Hamilton wins Japanese Grand Prix**
- Lewis Hamilton won the Japanese Grand Prix in a Mercedes one-two to take a 67-point lead in the Formula One championship. Finland’s Valtteri Bottas secured the Mercedes one-two with second place while Verstappen finished third.

**India’s Keerthana Pandian wins IBSF world U-16 snooker title**
- India’s Keerthana Pandian has won the girls’ title in the IBSF World Under-16 Snooker Championships, her maiden international crown.

**Indian pair win U-15 girls doubles title in Badminton Asia Junior U-17 & U-15 championships**
- The Indian pair of Meghana Reddy and Tasnim Mir has won the Under-15 girls doubles title in the Badminton Asia Junior Under-17 and Under-15 championships.

**Keerthana Pandian won the World Under-16 Snooker Championships**
- Keerthana Pandian won the World Under-16 Snooker Championships to seal her first international title. She defeated Albina Leschuk 3-1.

**Weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga wins India’s maiden gold medal at Youth Olympic Games**
- Weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga (15) won India’s maiden gold medal at 2018 Youth Olympic Games being held in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina.

**Youth Olympics: Thangjam Tabahi Devi clinches India’s first judo medal at Youth Olympic Games**
- Thangjam Tabahi 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.
Manu Bhaker, 1st Indian Woman to Win Gold At YOG
- Sixteen-year-old shooter Manu Bhaker has become the first-ever Indian woman to win gold at Youth Olympics.

Sharad Kumar won gold in men’s high jump in Asian Para Games
- Indian para high jumper Sharad Kumar won gold in men’s high jump T42/63 category. This is his second successive gold in the Asian Para Games 2018 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Japan all set to host 2019 World Relays
- Japan is all set to host the 2019 International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Relays, beginning May 11. The development came after IAAF council voted to award the prestigious event to Yokohama city of the country.

Bajrang Punia Becomes First Indian To Get World Championship Seeding
- CWG and Asian Games gold medallist Bajrang Punia is the only Indian wrestler from a strong 30-member squad to get a seeding at the upcoming World Championships as he has been seeded third in the 65kg category in men’s freestyle competition.

Indian Men’s & Women’s Hockey teams bag Silver medals at Youth Olympic Games in Argentina
- The Indian Under-18 men’s and women Hockey team finished their 2018 Youth Olympic Games campaign with silver medals at Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Great Britain lifted the 8th edition of Sultan Johar Cup
- Great Britain lifted the 8th edition of Sultan Johar Cup Junior Hockey tournament in Johor Bahru, Malaysia on October 13, 2018. In the final, Great Britain defeated India 3–2. The other teams in the tournament were Japan, Australia, Malaysia and New Zealand.

Turtle ‘Olly’ named official mascot for the Odisha Men’s Hockey World Cup
- Turtle ‘Olly’ has been declared as the official mascot for the Odisha Men’s Hockey World Cup, scheduled to be held at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar from November 28 to December 16, 2018.

The 4th edition of IAAF World Relays 2019 will be hosted by JAAF
- The 4th edition of International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Relays 2019 will be hosted by Japan Association of Athletics Federations (JAAF) at Nissan Stadium in Yokohama (near Tokyo), which is scheduled to begin from May 11-12, 2019.

Kimi Raikkonen wins US Grand Prix
- Finnish Formula One driver Kimi Raikkonen registered his first victory in last five years by finishing at the top of the podium in the United States (US) Grand Prix.

Denmark Open: Top-seeded Tai Tzu Ying of Taiwan defeats Saina Nehwal in women’s singles final
- In Badminton, a valiant Saina Nehwal went down fighting to world number one Tai Tzu Ying in the 2018 Denmark Open final match.

North East Olympics begins in Imphal
- Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh declared open the first edition of North East Olympic Games 2018 at Main Stadium Khuman Lampak Sports Complex, Imphal.

Spain’s Marc Marquez won MotoGP world champion for the fifth time
- Spain’s Marc Marquez won MotoGP world champion for the fifth time in six years in the Japanese MotoGP. Honda factory rider becomes the youngest rider to win five premier class titles. Marquez’s Repsol Honda teammate Cal Crutchlow of Britain finished second.

Wheelchair shuttler Sanjeev Kumar wins two gold medals at Denmark Open
- Dropped for Para Asian Games, wheelchair badminton player Sanjeev Kumar returned with two gold medals and a bronze from the first Victor Denmark Championship recently in Odense, Denmark.

Fact Sheet: World Wrestling Championships – 2018
- The 2018 World Wrestling Championships were fifteenth edition of World Wrestling Championships of combined events and were held from October 20 to 28 in Budapest, Hungary.

Sourav Kothari wins World Billiards Championship title
- India’s Sourav Kothari defeated Peter Gilchrist of Singapore to clinch the 2018 WBL World Billiards Championship title. The former national and Asian Billiards champion was pipped at the post for the coveted World Billiards crown on two occasions in the last two years.
Indian Golfer Khalin Joshi Clinches Panasonic Open India Title
- Indian golfer Khalin Joshi clinched the Panasonic Open India title at the Delhi Golf Club. With this win, Joshi became the seventh Indian to win the Panasonic Open India title in the last eight editions of the tournament.

Simona Halep becomes first recipient of Chris Evert 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, named after WTA’s first-ever world number one, Chris Evert.

Tata Steel named as official partner of men's hockey World Cup
- Steel manufacturing giant Tata Steel was named as an official partner for the prestigious men’s hockey World Cup to be held here from November 28 to December 16.

Roger Federer Won 99th Career Title in his Hometown
- He won his 99th career title after winning the Basel Open for the ninth time in his career. Federer, who was born in the Swiss city of Basel, won his fourth title of the year in the form of the Basel Open.

Vishal bags gold, Raegan settles for silver in Egypt
- Vishal Rajveer Shah won the mini cadet boys singles' title at the Egypt Junior and Cadet Open table tennis tournament after he outclassed local boy Badr Mostafa in straight games. He dominated the match from the very beginning as he defeated Mostafa to clinch the yellow metal.

India & Pakistan Declared Joint Winners of Asian Champions Trophy in Oman
- In Men’s Hockey, India and Pakistan were declared joint winners of the Asian Champions Trophy at Muscat in Oman. The tournament director declared both teams as winners after the summit clash was called off due to heavy rain.

Important Obituaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person</th>
<th>Field</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pandit Tulsidas Borkar</td>
<td>Legendary Harmonium Artist</td>
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<td>Balabhaskar</td>
<td>Kerala violinist and music composer</td>
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<td>Thampi Kannanthanam</td>
<td>Veteran Malayalam film personality</td>
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<td>Will Vinton</td>
<td>Oscar-winning animator</td>
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<td>Gita Uplekar</td>
<td>Girl in iconic 'Glow of Hope' painting</td>
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<td>Pradip Chowdhury</td>
<td>Veteran journalist and former News Editor of Press Trust of India (PTI)</td>
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<td>Montserrat Caballe</td>
<td>Spanish soprano</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natwar Thakkar</td>
<td>Eminent Gandhian, popularly known as ‘Nagaland’s Gandhi’</td>
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<td>Nitin Bali</td>
<td>Singer</td>
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<td>G.D. Agarwal</td>
<td>Save Ganga’ crusader</td>
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<td>M.N Paloor</td>
<td>Noted Malayalam poet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annapurna Devi</td>
<td>Hindustani classical musician</td>
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<td>Paul Allen</td>
<td>Co-founded Microsoft with his childhood friend Bill Gates</td>
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<td>Narayan Datt Tiwari</td>
<td>Former Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand Chief Minister</td>
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<td>Bhola Singh</td>
<td>BJP leader and sitting Member of Parliament (MP)</td>
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<td>Osamu Shimomura</td>
<td>Japanese Nobel chemistry laureate</td>
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<td>Madan Lal Khurana</td>
<td>Former chief minister of Delhi</td>
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<td>Yashwant Dev</td>
<td>Senior composer and lyricist</td>
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The Complete List of Winners of Nobel Prize 2018:

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<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Winner</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Physiology or Medicine</td>
<td>For their discovery of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation</td>
<td>James P. Allison(USA), Tasuku Honjo(Japan)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>For their method of generating high-intensity, ultra-short optical pulses in the field of laser physics</td>
<td>Gérard Mourou (France), Arthur Ashkin (USA), Donna Strickland (Canada)</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>For control of evolution and used it for purposes that bring the greatest benefit to humankind.</td>
<td>George Smith (USA), Frances Arnold (USA), Greg Winter (UK)</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>This year no Nobel Prize for Literature</td>
<td></td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Peace</td>
<td>For their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict.</td>
<td>Denis Mukwege (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Nadia Murad (Germany)</td>
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</tbody>
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**Why this year there is no Nobel Prize for Literature?**

An expose published late last year by the Swedish newspaper Dagens Nyheter told the story of 18 women who said they were sexually harassed or assaulted by a French arts promoter named Jean-Claude Arnault. He's married to poet Katarina Frostenson and is friends with Horace Engdahl, two members of the Swedish Academy, which awards the Nobel Prize in literature. Earlier this week, Arnault was sentenced to two years in prison after being found guilty of raping a woman in 2011.