

# **Fresherslive Current Affairs**

**MONTHLY EDITION – NOVEMBER 2018**



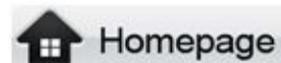
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## **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

### **G20 Summit 2018 begins in Argentina**

- The 2018 **G20 Summit** began on November 28, 2018 in the city of **Buenos Aires, Argentina**. It is the **13th** meeting of Group of Twenty (G20) and the first G20 summit to be hosted in South America
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will be representing India at the Summit and is scheduled to meet US President Donald Trump, Chinese President Xi Jinping, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Argentina President Mauricio Macri, Chilean President Sebastian Pinera and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, on the sidelines of the summit
- **Member Countries:**
- The members of the G20 consist of 19 individual countries plus the European Union (EU)
- The 19 member countries of the forum are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States

## **Global Wage Report 2018 Released, Bangladesh's gender wage gap lowest in the globe**

- According to the report the global average **monthly gender pay gap** was **21.2%** in 2017, while **Bangladesh** gender pay gap was only **2.2%**, the **lowest** in the world
- **Pakistan topped** the gap chart by **43.8%**
- **Nepal** topped the **low income group** with 26.7% gap and the average gender pay gap is 21.2%

## **UN selects Noida, Greater Noida to participate in Global Sustainable Cities 2025 initiative**

- A senior UN official said the **twin-cities** in Gautam Buddha Nagar district, adjoining the national capital, have been selected in the "**University City**" category ahead of Mumbai and Bengaluru as the only invitee from India
- Overall **25 cities** across the world have been selected in five categories by the UN Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) cities initiative
- In September **2015**, the UN General Assembly adopted the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** that includes 17 SDGs, otherwise known as the Global Goals, a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity

## **Ohio becomes the first US state to accept taxes in Bitcoin**

- **Ohio** will become the first US state to accept payment of taxes by businesses in **Bitcoin**, beginning this week
- Businesses can pay **23** different **taxes** with Bitcoin, from employee withholding tax to fuel and sales tax, through an online cryptocurrency portal
- The state will use **BitPay**, a cryptocurrency global payment system, to complete the process

## **IFFI nominates 12 movies for ICFT UNESCO Gandhi Medal**

- The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) has nominated **12 movies** for this year's International Council for Film, Television and Audio-visual Communication (ICFT) UNESCO Gandhi Medal
- Of these 12 films, **two** are from **India** and the rest are foreign movies. The two Indian movies competing for the honour are Tamil film **Baaram** and Ladakhi movie **Walking with the Wind**

## **US plans to cancel birthright citizenship**

- President Donald Trump announced his plans to sign an executive order to end the birthright citizenship provision
- It is by no means clear that the President has the legal authority to effect such a broad legal change through an executive order

- **Birthright Citizenship of USA:**
  - A person is a Citizen if they are born in the United States
  - The concept of jus soli (right of the soil) is derived from the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, enacted in 1868 after the Civil War
  - The amendment was made in order to grant legal rights to former slaves
  - It says: “All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside”
  - Therefore, the children born in the U.S. to the parents who are on temporary visas or without a valid visa, also become U.S. citizens

## **Netherland to be partner country for 25th DST-CII Technology Summit 2019**

- The Kingdom of Netherlands will be the Partner Country 25th DST – CII Technology Summit to be organized in 2019 announced Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, Forest and Climate Change

## **World's largest airport under one roof opened in Istanbul, Turkey**

- World’s largest airport terminal under one roof with a capacity to serve 90 million passengers was opened in Istanbul, Turkey
- It has been constructed as a part of the phase-1A of the project, Istanbul New Airport

- It has been constructed by – IGA and the first phase costed 7.5 billion Euro. It has five pier blocks as well as 77 boarding gates and 143 aero-bridges

### **U.S. grants temporary Iran oil waivers to eight countries**

- **Eight** countries namely, **India, China**, Italy, Greece, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Turkey have been granted exemptions by United States, allowing them to temporarily continue buying Iranian oil
- These countries have been exempted as they significantly reduced their imports of Iranian oil

### **India to extend USD 310 mn loan for Zimbabwe power plant**

- India announced that it would extend a **\$310 million loan** to Zimbabwe to finance a rehabilitation project for a thermal power plant that would entail upgrading the station and extending its lifespan
- A fund of \$2.9 million will also be extended to upgrade the Indo-Zim Technology Centre, which India had gifted to the African country

### **Singapore is Asia's most sustainable city**

- **Singapore** maintained its rank as number one Asian city in the **Sustainability Index** by engineering firm **Arcadis**
- The Sustainability Index assessed cities based on 3 pillars: profit pillar, people pillar and planet pillar

- Singapore secured fourth place in global rankings
- As per the study, Singapore ranked first for the profit pillar that assesses the business environment and economic performance of cities

### **Union Cabinet approves opening up of International Solar Alliance membership to all UN countries**

- The decision was taken to put solar energy on the global agenda with the universal appeal for **developing and deploying solar energy**
- International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an alliance dedicated to the promotion of solar energy among its member countries and is headquartered at **Gurugram, India**
- The main objective of ISA is to include global deployment of over **1,000GW** of solar generation capacity and mobilisation of investment of over \$1000 billion into solar energy by 2030

### **India and Japan signed a loan agreement worth Rs.1,817 crore for Hydel power project in Bengal**

- **Turga** pumped storage hydel power project is to be constructed at **Purulia** in West Bengal
- This project will contribute to the industrial development and living standards in the state
- The deal was signed by the Additional Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), **C.S. Mohapatra**, and **Katsuo Matsumoto**,

chief representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

## **India participates in China's First International Import Expo**

- It is the **world's first** import-themed national-level expo that will feature enterprise and business exhibitions, country pavilions for trade and investment
- Leaders from **18 countries**, including Pakistan Prime Minister **Imran Khan** participate in the six-day mega event in Shanghai, which is aimed at exhibiting China's import potential
- **12 countries** - Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Mexico, Pakistan, Russia, South Africa, Vietnam and the UK are the "**Guest of Honour**" at the mega business event
- The expo is being held amid China's trade war with the US, which slapped additional **tariffs on Chinese goods** worth about USD **250 billion**, demanding Beijing to bring down the trade deficit amounting to \$375 billion

## **India pledges contributions of USD 13.36 mn for UN agencies, development activities**

- India announced contributions of **\$13.36 million (over Rs.97.2 crore)** for various United Nations (UN) agencies and development activities at the 2018 'United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities'

- Around **19 countries** pledged a total of **\$425.69 million** at the conference
- India has committed over \$100 million to the India-UN Development Partnership Fund which was set up last year

### **UN World Food Programme, Alibaba Group form strategic partnership to eliminate hunger**

- The agreement was signed between United Nations **World Food Programme** (WFP) Executive Director David Beasley and Chairman of Alibaba Foundation Sun Lijun at Alibaba's headquarters in Hangzhou, China, to support efforts eliminate hunger globally by 2030
- World Food Programme is the food-assistance branch of the United Nations, established in 1961 after 1960 **Food and Agricultural Organization** (FAO) Conference. It is headquartered in **Rome** (Italy)

### **UNSC agreed to lift sanctions against Eritrea after nine years**

- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) lifted a range of sanctions against Eritrea four months after that country and Ethiopia signed a peace agreement that **UN chief António Guterres described as 'a wind blowing in the direction of peace'**
- An arms embargo, asset freeze, and travel ban were imposed in 2009 amid claims that Eritrea supported militancy in Somalia
- The resolution was drafted by the United Kingdom and backed by the United States and its allies

## **Morocco unveils Africa's first ever high speed train line**

- French President **Emmanuel Macron** and Morocco's King Mohammed VI have inaugurated Morocco's first high-speed rail line, the first ever such line in Africa. Known as the LGV, it will connect the economic hubs of Tangier and Casablanca in 2 hours 10 minutes at a speed of up to 320 kph (199 mph) instead of almost 5 hours on a regular train
- The **\$2 billion** project was launched in September 2011 by the king and Nicolas Sarkozy, then president of France
- France financed 51 percent of the project, Morocco 28 percent and the remaining 21 percent was provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates
- Morocco bought 12 high speed trains from French train manufacturer Alstom

## **IISc, IIT-Delhi among top 100 in Global University Employability Ranking 2018**

- The **Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bangalore** (28th position) , **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi** (53rd position) and **Bombay** are among the top education institutions from India that have made it to the **top 150 list** of the 'Global University Employability Ranking'
- The **Harvard University** topped the list, followed by the California Institute of Technology and Massachusetts Institute of Technology

## **100 years of World War 1 - India marks Armistice day in Paris, France**

- Vice President M **Venkaiah Naidu**, on a three-day visit to Paris, represented India at the Armistice of World War I centenary commemoration
- He inaugurated the **Indian Armed Forces Memorial** at Villers Guislain in **France**, the first India-built war memorial in the country, as a tribute to Indian soldiers who lost their lives during **World War I**
- Nearly **1.3 million** Indian soldiers fought during World War I, out of which 1,40,000 Indian soldiers took part in World War I in **France** and **Belgium**
- The main motif of the Indian War Memorial at Villers Guislain is the Indian national emblem which consists of **Ashoka lions** along with a bronze wreath, plaque, and lances which have been designed in India
- **Brief About World War I:**
  - World War I (or the First World War) was a global war which began on **July 28, 1914** and lasted until **November 11, 1918**. The war lasted exactly four years, three months and 14 days
  - 135 countries took part in World War I, and nearly 10 million people died while fighting

- The war was ended by the signing of many different treaties, the most important being the **Treaty of Versailles**

## **World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW) is observed from Nov 12 to Nov 18**

- The main aim is to **increase global awareness of antibiotic resistance** and to encourage best practices among the general public

## **Amnesty International withdraws Human Rights Award from Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi**

- Amnesty International had withdrawn its highest human rights honor from **Aung San Suu Kyi**, the civilian leader of **Myanmar**, citing her defense of the military's deadly crackdown against **Rohingya Muslims** and growing restrictions on free speech
- The international human rights group '**Amnesty International**' named Ms Suu Kyi as its **2009 Ambassador of Conscience Award** recipient when she was still under house arrest for her opposition to Myanmar's oppressive military **junta**

## **PM Modi attended Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih's swearing-in ceremony**

- Solih, the opposition **Maldivian** Democratic Party's candidate who surprisingly emerged victorious over incumbent president **Abdulla Yameen** in the election held on September 23, had extended the invitation during a phone call by Modi

- Former Sri Lankan president Chandrika Kumaratunga also attended the ceremony
- The last time an Indian prime minister visited Maldives was in **2011** when **Manmohan Singh** was the Prime Minister

### **U.S. suspended USD 1.66 billion assistance to Pakistan**

- The U.S. suspended \$1.66 billion in security assistance to Pakistan. This happened days after President Donald Trump said the country does not do “a damn thing” for America alleging that its government had helped al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden hide near its garrison city of Abbottabad
- Ties between the US and Pakistan strained after Trump, while announcing his Afghanistan and South Asia policy in August last year, hit out at Pakistan for providing safe havens to "**agents of chaos**" that kill Americans in Afghanistan and warned Islamabad that it has "much to lose" by harboring terrorists
- In September, the Trump administration **cancelled \$300 million** in military aid to Islamabad for not doing enough against terror groups like the Haqqani Network and the Taliban active on its soil

## **WTO panels agreed to review U.S. steel, aluminium tariffs**

- The **World Trade Organization (WTO)** agreed to hear complaints from a range of countries over new U.S. steel and aluminum tariffs, as well as complaints from Washington over retaliatory duties
- The **WTO's Dispute Settlement Body (DSB)** agreed to establish panels to review U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to hit a long line of countries with tariffs of 25% on steel and 10% on aluminum
- The DSB is to create separate panels for the complaints by the European Union (EU), China, Canada, Mexico, Norway, and Russia. This move will follow after the U.S. said it would not agree to a single panel to hear all of them.

## **NATIONAL AFFAIRS**

### **PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Statue of Unity**

- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Statue of Unity or Sardar Patel's statue, the **world's largest** statue, on the statesman's **143rd** birth anniversary in Gujarat. The statue has been dedicated to **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, fondly known as the **Iron Man of India**
- The statue stands in the midst of the Narmada River, on the islet of Sadhu Bet Sardar Patel is credited for unifying all of the 562 princely states in pre-independence India to form what is today the Republic of India
- The statue is made up of 1,700 tonnes of bronze, 1,850 tonnes of bronze cladding, 70,000 metric tonnes of cement and 24,500 metric tonnes of steel

### **Uttar Pradesh Ayodhya Deepotsav 2018 enters Guinness Book of World Records: Over 3 lakh diyas lit**

- A Guinness certificate was issued to UP government's tourism department and Dr **Ram Manohar Lohia** (RML) **Avadh University, Faizabad**, for over **3,01,152** earthen lamps illuminated on the bank of **River Sarayu** on Chhoti Diwali as part of Deepotsava
- The feat was achieved in the presence of Adityanath and South Korean first lady **Kim-Jung Sook**

## **World Bank and Centre and Andhra govt signed an MOU to USD 172 million loan to make farming viable in Andhra Pradesh**

### **Features of the project are:**

- To work with 1000 Small-Scale Community-Based Irrigation (SSCBI) systems spread over an area of 90,000 hectares (ha), covering over 1000 villages across 12 most climate vulnerable districts of Andhra Pradesh
- The project will improve the **capacity of Farmer Producers Organizations** to operate as sustainable, market-oriented, agri-enterprises
- This will benefit the Andhra Pradesh Integrated Irrigation and Agriculture Transformation Project (API ATP) and over 200,000 families of poor and marginalized farmers

## **Delhi's Signature Bridge inaugurated 14 years after conceptualisation**

- **Signature Bridge** over the **Yamuna** river is double the height of **Qutub Minar** and connects the Wazirabad across the river Yamuna to the inner city
- It will reduce the travel time between north and northeast Delhi from 45 minutes to just 10 minutes, saving the pollution and fuel

- With features like a 154-metre high observation deck and selfie spots, the bridge will also serve as a tourist spot

### **Centre to launch women's emergency helpline facility**

- National women's emergency helpline facility is to be launched in India. Women in distress can call helpline **181**
- Women can get assistance for any situations such as police, medical, legal, psycho-social or rescue shelter emergency
- In **Tamil Nadu**, the **1091** helpline is functioning in providing assistance for women. It provides police assistance to women in distress
- However, for 24x7 service, 181 helplines, under the Department of Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme, will provide all types of assistance and information to women. The helpline will function from the Amma Call Centre premises in Ambattur

### **Kolkata tops 'Ease of Moving Index 2018' by Ola Mobility Institute**

- Kolkata tops in public transport index in terms of cleanliness and affordability of public transport
- New Delhi was rated highly in terms of safety and ranked the best among the big cities in affording parking space to its residents
- Patna and Bhubaneswar topped the list for growing and emerging cities

## **Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched portal for granting loans of up to Rs 1 crore in 59 minutes**

- GST-registered Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) can now avail of loan of up to **Rs.1 crore** in just 59 minutes. Over 72,000 MSMEs have been sanctioned loans worth over **Rs.23,500 crore** through the portal till date
- Further, the mandatory sourcing limit by state-run companies from MSMEs has been increased to 25% from the previous 20%
- Modi added that companies above a **Rs.500 crore** will now have to compulsorily be a part of TReDs (Trade Receivables Discounting System), which will also include PSUs

## **Lucknow Cricket Stadium renamed after Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a day before India-WI T20I**

- UP government on November 5 renamed Lucknow's **Ekana International Cricket Stadium** as '**Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium**'
- This would be the first international cricket match to be played in the stadium
- India defeated Windies in the first T20I to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series

- The stadium, a dream project of former **UP Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav** was completed in **2017**. The stadium which has a seating capacity of 50,000 was built as a public-private partnership

## **UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath renamed Faizabad as Ayodhya**

- During the celebrations on the eve of Diwali, the Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath made three major announcements:
  - **Faizabad** district will be renamed as **Ayodhya**
  - A new airport will be named after **Lord Rama**
  - And a new medical college will be named after **King Dasharatha**

## **Gujarat tops in implementing Ayushman Bharat**

- **Gujarat** has emerged as the **top** performer of the Centre's ambitious health financing scheme - **Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)**, which was launched on September 23, promises health coverage of **Rs.5 lakh** per family to over 10 crore poor families
- Over 3.4 lakh beneficiaries have been treated under the scheme since its launch until November 24, according to the National Health Agency
- Tamil Nadu ranked second at 54,273 hospital and Chattisgarh third at 53,180

## **Govt hikes outlay for first phase of FAME India scheme to Rs 895 crore**

- The phase-I of the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) and Electric Vehicles (**FAME India**) scheme was supposed to be implemented over a two-year period commencing from April 1, 2015
- The Ministry of Finance has approved the enhancement of the total outlay on the first phase of the scheme **from Rs.795 crore to Rs.895 crore**

## **India laid Foundation Stone For Kartarpur Corridor Route**

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu laid the foundation stone of the Dera Baba Nanak Kartarpur Sahib corridor for **Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib** in Pakistan
- Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib is situated in district Narowal 4 KM away from Indo Pak border in Pakistan
- Presently Sikh pilgrims have to go through long visa processes and they have to wait for the particular dates of buses to reach Gurudwara via Wagah border only

## **Gauri Khan debuted on Fortune India's Most Powerful Women list 2018**

- Shah Rukh Khan's wife and Renowned interior designer and co-owner of Red Chillies Entertainment, **Gauri Khan** debuts on the list of 'Fortune **India's 50 Most Powerful Women**' in business' this year

- Being the founder and chief executive office of Gauri Khan Designs, Gauri gained the **42nd** spot
- **The top five Fortune India's Most Powerful Women list 2018:**
  1. Zia Mody - Co-founder, AZB & Partners
  2. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw - Chairperson and MD, Biocon
  3. Suneeta Reddy - Managing director, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise
  4. Alice G. Vaidyan - Chairman and managing director, General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re)
  5. Mallika Srinivasan - Chairman and CEO, Tractors and Farm Equipment (TAFE)

### **Maharashtra approves 16% Maratha quota**

- The Maharashtra assembly has unanimously approved **16%** reservation for the **Maratha** community in **jobs** and **educational institutes**
- Following this, the total reservation in the state for OBC, SC/ST groups, other minor social groups, and the Marathas will be **68%**
- The government created a separate category called **Socially and Educationally Backward Class (SEBC)**

## **Himachal Pradesh first state to launch single emergency number '112'**

- **Himachal Pradesh** became the **first** state to launch a **pan-India** single emergency number '112' where all kinds of immediate help can be sought in urgent matters
- Under this project, an **Emergency Response Centre (ERC)** has been established in **Shimla** along with 12 district command centres (DCCs), covering the entire state
- The ERC has been integrated with police (100), fire (101), health (108) and women (1090) helpline numbers to provide emergency services through the emergency number '112'
- The central government has allocated **Rs 321.69 crore** under **Nirbhaya Fund** for implementation of ERSS project across the country

## **National Projects Construction Corporation Limited NPCC conferred with the status of Miniratna**

- The **Government of India** conferred the **National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC)** with the status of Miniratna: Category –I
- This status will empower the company to take speedy decisions
- One of the premier construction companies, NPCC has also been awarded the ISO 9001:2015 Certification

- The National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC), is a schedule 'B' Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the administrative control of Ministry of Water Resources and was incorporated in 1957

## **South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa to be 2019 Republic Day chief guest**

- Ramaphosa's acceptance comes after the fiasco over US President **Donald Trump declining** the Indian government's invitation to be the chief guest
- Cyril Ramaphosa, a follower of Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela, was invited because this year will mark **Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary**
- Ramaphosa, 65, became president this year, succeeding Jacob Zuma as South Africa's head of state
- Ramaphosa will take part in **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas** celebrations, which commemorate Gandhi's return to India from South Africa
- In 2015, Barack Obama was India's Republic Day chief guest

## **Andhra Pradesh gets Official State Emblem with Dhamma Chakka 4 Years after Bifurcation**

- Nearly five years after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh in **2014**, the state has finalised its new emblem for official use

- The state emblem consists of the **Dhamma Chakka** or The Wheel of Law embellished with a ring of **Triratnas** alternating with **pinnate leaves** and precious stones
- "Puna Ghataka" or "The vase of Plenty" is at the hub of the Dhamma Chakka
- Further, the national emblem is placed at the bottom of the Andhra emblem

### **Winter Session of Parliament to be held from December 11 to January 8**

- This would be the **last** full-fledged Parliament session of the Narendra Modi-led government before the next Lok Sabha polls
- The winter session of Parliament usually starts in November, however, it has been delayed due to Assembly elections in **five states**. The results of polls in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram would be out on **December 11**

### **India celebrates the 130th birth anniversary of Pt Nehru**

- The nation celebrates the **130th birth anniversary** of **Pt Jawaharlal Nehru**, the first prime minister of independent India
- Pt Nehru was born on **November 14, 1889**. He was known for his love for children and was fondly called Chacha Nehru

- Before 1964, Children's day was celebrated in India on **November 20**. It was observed as the Universal Children's Day by the United Nations. But after Nehru's death in 1964, the nation decided to celebrate his birthday (**November 14**) as **Bal Diwas (Children's Day)** to honor his memory

## **Special Train to cover major spots related to Ramayana Flagged Off**

- The **Shri Ramayana Express**, a special tourist train to run on the **Ramayana circuit** to cover major spots related to the Hindu epic was flagged off from **Safdarjung** Railway Station in New Delhi
- The train will complete its journey till **Rameswaram**, Tamil Nadu, in 16 days covering all important destinations associated with the life of Lord Shri Ram

## **Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Trivandrum among 6 airports to be privatised**

- The Union Cabinet gave its approval for leasing out six airports namely **Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Mangaluru, Trivandrum, and Guwahati** - for operating, managing and developing under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model
- This comes 12 years after **Delhi and Mumbai** airports were privatised in **2006**
- The private player will hold at least **75 per cent** stake

## **Govt submitted price details of Rafale jets in sealed cover to Supreme Court**

- The government on November 12 submitted the details regarding the pricing and negotiations of the purchase of **36 Rafale jets** from **France's Dassault** for **Rs.59,000 crore** in a sealed cover to the Supreme Court
- Dassault has not yet formally conveyed to Centre the role of **Reliance Defence** as its **Indian offset partner**
- Centre said that till **Oct 2019** no offset partner can get any money under agreement from India

## **PM Modi inaugurated India's 1st Multi-Modal Terminal on Ganga**

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the country's **first Multi-Modal Terminal** on Ganga River in his parliamentary constituency, **Varanasi**
- It was the first of the **four** multi-modal terminals being constructed on the National Waterway-1 (river Ganga) as part of the **World Bank-aided Jal Marg Vikas** project of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)
- The total estimated cost of the project is **Rs.5,369.18 crore**, which will be equally shared between the Government of India and the World Bank

- The Jal Marg Vikas project involves construction of three multimodal terminals - at Varanasi, **Sahibganj** and **Haldia**, two intermodal terminals and five roll-on-roll-off or Ro-Ro terminal pairs
- The IWAI vessel, **MV Rabindranath Tagore** that PM Modi received in Varanasi was the **first container** movement on an inland waterway in India since Independence.
- The vessel transported 16 containers equivalent to 16 truckloads of food and snacks **from Kolkata** to Varanasi

### **Bangalore Ranked India's Most Congested City: NBER**

- **Bangalore** tops the index for the most congested city, and Mumbai in the second position, while Pune follows in the seventh place, according to a recent research published under the US-based organization, **National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)**
- In another index of traffic speed, Kolkata has been found to be the slowest city

### **Odisha govt. provides free smartphones for women self help groups**

- **Odisha government** is to provide free smartphones to all the **6 lakh women self-help groups** under its **Mission Shakti** programme
- Around 70 lakh women associated with various SHGs will benefit due to the move for groups

## **PM Modi inaugurated Western Peripheral Expressway in Gurugram**

- The **Kundli-Manesar-Palwal** expressway, also known as **Western Peripheral Expressway**, became fully operational on November 19 after PM Narendra Modi inaugurated its Kundli-Manesar stretch in Gurugram
- It'll bring down travel time from **Sonipat to Manesar** to about **45 minutes**
- Along with Eastern Peripheral Expressway, the six-lane expressway is expected to divert over 50,000 heavy vehicles away from Delhi

## **Punjab government bans hookah parlours after Gujarat and Maharashtra**

- After Maharashtra and Gujarat, **Punjab** becomes country's **third state** to ban **hookah bars** or lounges. The ban was announced through a law after **President Ram Nath Kovind** has given assent to a **bill** from the state to check the use of tobacco
- President has approved the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce,

Production, Supply and Distribution) (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2018 recently

- The Punjab assembly had passed the Bill in March, 2018

## **Government approves Rs.676 crore housing complex project for MPs in Delhi**

- The Environment Ministry has given the final clearance for a project to build duplex flats for **Members of Parliament (MP)** at a cost of **₹676.5 crore** in **New Delhi**
- The building complex will have **264** new flats along with servant quarters and basement car parking
- It will be constructed over an area of 19,91,37 square metre

## **Environment Ministry approved to induce artificial rain via cloud seeding to clear smog in Delhi**

- The Environment Ministry approved a project led by scientists at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur to **induce artificial rain via cloud seeding in Delhi**

- The objective is to clear smog in Delhi. The success of the project depends on the presence of a minimum quantity of rain-bearing clouds over Delhi
- In the project, an aircraft has been planned to fly into the clouds and inject silver iodide, which will lead to the formation of ice crystals that will make the clouds denser, cause them to condense into rain and settle atmospheric dust enough to clear the sky
- Researchers at **IIT-Kanpur** will use an aircraft of the National Remote Sensing Agency, an ISRO-affiliated body for the exercise
- The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) will provide forecasts on the likelihood of conducive clouds. **Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI)** on 20 November was in the **very poor category**

## DEFENCE

### **India's first nuclear-powered submarine INS Arihant completed its first deterrence patrol**

- The submarine completes India's **nuclear triad** -- which means that the country now has the capability of firing nuclear weapons from **land, air and sea**
- INS Arihant was commissioned into the Indian Navy in **2016**. Another nuclear submarine, the **Argihat**, will be commissioned in the next few years

#### HIGHLIGHTS:

- INS Arihant can fire nuclear weapons from **underwater**
- Arihant is an important part of India's no-first-use nuclear policy
- Arihant is part of a **top-secret** project

### **Tenth Indra 2018: India, Russia joint military exercise held in Jhansi, UP**

- The 10th joint military exercise between Indian and Russia—EXERCISE **INDRA**, under the United Nations (UN) started at Babina

Field Firing Ranges, Babina Military Station, in **Jhansi** in **Uttar Pradesh**

- The main aim is to **combat insurgency**. The main focus was upon:
  - Training on enhancing team building
  - Special tactical level operations such as Cordon and Search
  - To share best practices
  - For peacekeeping/ enforcement environment

## **Indo-US joint military exercise 'Vajra Prahar' commenced in Jaipur**

- Army's Indo-US Joint Special Forces Exercise 2018 commenced on November 19 at Mahajan Field Firing Range (MFFR), Bikaner and will conclude on December 2
- The American Special Forces will carry out 12 days rigorous joint training in semi desert and rural terrain with an aim to enhance the interoperability of the two armed forces and further the military to military cooperation

## **Indian Navy issued LoR to the U.S. for multi role U.S. copters**

- Indian Navy has issued the **Letter of Request (LoR)** to the U.S., under the **Foreign Military Sales (FMS)** route, for the purchase of 24 **MH-60R Multi-Role Helicopters (MRH)** in a deal estimated at **\$2bn**. This is among a series of defence procurements and inductions from the U.S. and Russia in the last two months
- The Navy is presently facing a critical shortage of helicopters and several frontline warships are plying with empty helicopter decks
- These helicopters are being procured as a replacement for 15 Sea King ASW helicopters de-inducted from service in 1991 and one Sea King 42B MRH lost in an accident
- The current MRHs in service, Sea King 42Bs, were inducted in the 1980s.

## **AWARDS AND HONOURS**

### **Prof. M S Swaminathan Received first World Agriculture Prize**

- Prof. MS **Swaminathan**, chief architect of India's **Green Revolution** was awarded the World Agriculture Prize for 2018
- He received the award from Vice-President M.Venkaiah Naidu at the event hosted by the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture
- The M.S. Swaminathan Junior Research Fellowship to be awarded from 2019 onwards was also instituted on the occasion
- The fellowship would help promote linkages between agriculture, nutrition and health, through a 'Farming Systems for Nutrition' programme

### **Clara Sosa Won Miss Grand International 2018 In Myanmar**

- She won the Miss Grand International 2018 title at the 6th edition of the beauty pageant in Yangon, Myanmar
- She succeeds Miss Grand International 2017 **Maria Jose Lora** of Peru

## **Malala Yousafzai to be honoured by Harvard University for her work promoting girls education**

- Malala Yousafzai will be honored by Harvard University for her work promoting girls' education
- Harvard's Kennedy School stated that Yousafzai will be conferred with the 2018 Gleitsman Award at a ceremony on 6th December
- The Gleitsman Award provides 125,000 US dollars for activism that has improved quality of life around the world

## **Super 30 founder Anand Kumar honoured with education award Global Education Award in Dubai**

- This was awarded by Malabar Gold & Diamonds', flagship company of Malabar Group, a leading Indian business conglomerate
- He was honored for his “**pioneering**” contributions to the field of education

## **Actor Anupam Kher honoured with 'Distinguished Fellow Award' in Boston**

- He was awarded at the **3rd India Global Summit** held at MIT Sloan School of Management in Boston
- The Summit discussed the growing importance of relationship between India, USA and China

- Anupam Kher holds the record for winning the Filmfare Award for **Best Comedian** five times in total for: Ram Lakhan (1989), Lamhe (1991), Khel (1992), Darr (1993) and Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (1995)

## **N Ram chosen for Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award by Press Council of India (PCI)**

- The award was presented on November 16, 2018, on the occasion of the National Press Day
- Award winners under various categories are listed below:
  - **Rural Journalism:** Ruby Sarkar, Chief Correspondent, Deshbandhu, Bhopal & Rajesh **Parshuram Joshte**, Daily Pudhari, Ratnagiri
  - **Developmental Reporting:** VS Rajesh, Deputy Editor, Kerala Kaumudi
  - **Photojournalism-Single News:** Subhash Paul, Rashtriya Sahara, Delhi
  - **Photojournalism-Photo Feature:** Mihir Singh of the Punjab Kesari, Delhi

## **ATP World Tour Awards 2018 announced**

- The Complete list of Winners of Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) World Tour Awards 2018:

S.No	Category	Winner
1	Comeback Player of the Year	Novak Djokovic
2	ATP World Tour No. 1 Doubles Team	Oliver Marach- Mate Pavic (1st time)
3	Most Improved Player of the Year	Stefanos Tsitsipas
4	Newcomer of the Year	Alex de Minaur
5	Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award	Rafael Nadal (2nd time)
6	Arthur Ashe Humanitarian Award	Tommy Robredo
7	ATP Coach of the Year	Marian Vajda
8	Fans' Favourite (Singles)	Roger Federer (16th time)
9	Fans' Favourite (Doubles)	Mike Bryan & Jack Sock
10	Ron Bookman Media Excellence Award	Sue Barker

### Swati Chaturvedi won the 2018 London Press Freedom award for Courage

- She is a freelance journalist who has been the target of online trolling and harassment for her investigative reports. Ms.Chaturvedi won the award for her work in exposing the “IT cell” within the Bharatiya Janata Party for keeping an army of angry trolls

- The award ceremony displayed the **importance of press freedom and safety of journalists**, especially in the wake of the killing of Saudi Arabian journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi embassy in Istanbul last month

### **Vijay Varma and P. Rajkumar were awarded the Asian of The Year awards**

- Indian Navy commander **Vijay Varma** and Captain **P. Rajkumar** were among those honored at the ‘**Asian of The Year**’ awards at Singapore on 28th November
- The two were acknowledged for their **selfless service and bravery** in rescue operations during the **Kerala floods**. They were awarded for their death-defying rescue flying during the floods in Kerala earlier this year
- Others awarded included the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (**AHA Centre**), and Singapore NGO **Mercy Relief**, who operated amid large-scale flooding, earthquakes and a variety of other disasters

## **SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

### **Miko 2 IIT-Bombay graduates launch India's first advanced personal robot for kids**

- Graduates of Indian Institute of Technology – Bombay (IIT-B) who are Co-founders of a start-up called Emotix have launched **India's first** advanced personal robot **Miko 2** for **Kids**
- IIT Bombay graduates Sneh Rajkumar Vaswani along with his batchmates Prashant Iyengar and Chintan Raikar have founded the Tech start-up Emotix
- **Miko 2** is India's first advanced robot that can see, hear, sense, express, talk, recognize faces, remember names, Identify moods and initiate a conversation

### **ISRO launched HysIS on 29th November**

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** launched the **Hyper Spectral Imaging Satellite (HysIS)**, being dubbed 'Sharp Eye', into space along with **30 other foreign satellites** on board the workhorse PSLV rocket on 29th November
- HysIS with a mission life of five years was placed in an orbit **636 km above the earth**

- While **23** satellites were from the **US**, the rest were from Australia, Canada, Columbia, Finland, Malaysia, the Netherlands, and Spain. These satellites were commercially contracted for launch through Antrix Corporation Limited, the commercial arm of ISRO

### **IIT-Madras researchers designed India's 1st microprocessor 'Shakti'**

- The '**Shakti**' family of processors was fabricated at ISRO's Chandigarh semi-conductor laboratory, making it the first '**RISC V Microprocessor**' to be completely designed and made in India
- Shakti microprocessor can be used in mobile computing devices, embedded low power wireless systems and networking systems
- 'Shakti' will reduce dependency on imported microchips and the risk of cyber attacks

### **World's largest supercomputer switched on for the first time**

- The world's largest neuromorphic supercomputer **SpiNNaker** ('Spiking Neural Network Architecture' machine), which was designed and built to work like a human brain, has been switched on for the first time
- Made up of **one million** processors, SpiNNaker can complete over 200 million-million actions per second
- The supercomputer will help scientists better understand how neurological diseases like Parkinson's impact the brain

## China unveiled 'Heavenly Palace' space station, as International Space Station retires in 2024

- With a lifespan of roughly **10 years**, China's **Tiangong space station**, otherwise known as **Heavenly Palace** is set to become the replacement of the International Space Station, which is due to retire in 2024
- Three astronauts will be permanently stationed in the **60-tonne** orbiting lab, which will enable the crew to conduct biological and microgravity research
- The International Space Station (ISS) - a collaboration between the United States, Russia, Canada, Europe and Japan - has been in operation since **1998**, but is due to be retired in 2024
- China will then have the only space station in orbit, though it will be much smaller than the ISS which weighs **400 tonnes** and is as large as a football pitch

## Definition of kilogram changed after 130 years

- The world's standard definition of the **kilogram**, the **ampere**, the **kelvin** and the **mole** has been changed, after representatives from **60 countries** voted to redefine the International System of Units (SI) for weight, current, temperature and amount of chemical substance
- The new definition of Kilogram will be replaced by the **Planck** constant. It will adopted on **May 20**, which is World Metrology Day

- The new definition of kg involves accurate weighing machines called **'Kibble balance'**

## **Neighbourly app launched in Bengaluru, Delhi to gather information about a neighbourhood: Google NBU**

- Google's Next Billion Users (NBU) team announced the national roll-out of its Neighbourly app in Delhi and Bangalore
- The full-fledged app offers services in 8 vernacular languages and is a targeted app with a geographic radius between 1 to 5 km
- The initial phase was tested in Mumbai, followed by Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Mysore, Vizag, Kochi and Coimbatore

## **NASA picked ancient Martian river delta for Mars 2020 rover landing**

- NASA has picked **Jezero Crater**, an ancient river delta, as the landing site for its **Mars 2020 rover**
- The Mars 2020 mission is to hunt for evidence of past life on the earth's neighboring planet

- Even though the Red Planet is now cold and dry, the landing site was filled with a 500-meter deep lake that opened to a network of rivers some 3.5 to 3.9 billion years ago
- Mars 2020 has been designed to land inside the crater and collect samples that will eventually be returned to Earth for further analysis, perhaps by the later 2020s
- The Mars 2020 will look at rocks on a finer scale to see what biosignatures are preserved

## **Mohammed VI-B: Morocco launches its second earth observation satellite**

- Morocco's first satellite named **Mohammed VI-A** was launched on 8th November 2017 by Vega rocket from Kourou space center
- Mohammed VI-B is the second satellite of Morocco's ambitious space program- the first in Africa
- The satellite is named after Mohammed VI, King of Morocco who launched this ambitious space program in 2013

## **BANKING AND FINANCE**

### **Reliance Industries receives India's first LC payment via blockchain**

- In a first for India, British bank HSBC Holdings Plc has executed a trade finance transaction using blockchain for a deal involving an export by Reliance Industries to an American client, **Tricon Energy**
- Blockchain massively reduced the time taken for processing the documents

### **Government of India and ADB signed USD 300 Million loan to support IIFCL in India**

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the Government of India signed a \$300 million Loan Agreement to support lending by **India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL)** in New Delhi
- The Project entails:
  - Long-term finance for PPP projects,
  - Improvement of the operational capacity of IIFCL, and
  - Expansion of the portfolio of infrastructure financing instruments available to IIFCL.

## **RBI agreed to inject Rs.8,000 crore into the market after 9 hour meeting**

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) agreed to inject **Rs.8,000 crore** into the market by purchasing **government bonds** by **November 22**
- RBI will buy these securities through multi-security auction using multiple price method
- An increased cash flow was among the issues behind an alleged rift between the Centre and RBI

## **India and World Bank Sign USD 310 million Loan Agreement For Jharkhand**

- The Government of India, the Government of Jharkhand and the World Bank signed in New Delhi a **\$310 million Loan Agreement** for Jharkhand Power System Improvement Project to provide reliable, quality, and affordable 24×7 electricity to the citizens of Jharkhand
- The Jharkhand Power System Improvement Project will help build new power transmission infrastructure, as well as put in place systems to improve the technical efficiency and commercial performance of the state power sector utilities

## **SPORTS**

### **India win eighth consecutive ODI series against Windies**

- India defeated Windies by **9 wickets** in the fifth ODI at Thiruvananthapuram to clinch the five-match series 3-1 and win their **eighth consecutive ODI** series against Windies
- With scores of 140, 157 not out and 107 in the first three games, **Kohli** became the **first Indian** to score three consecutive hundreds in the 50-over format
- India Team Captain - Virat Kohli
- Windies Team Captain - Jason Holder

### **Pankaj Advani becomes first Indian to win Asian Snooker Tour title**

- The 33-year-old from Pune, **Pankaj Advani** became the first Indian to win an Asian Snooker Tour event after defeating China's **Ju Reti** 6-1 in the final in Jinan, China
- Pankaj is **Nineteen-time** world champion
- He won Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Arjuna Award for Billiards & Snooker

## **Rahul Dravid became the fifth Indian to be inducted in the 'ICC Hall of Fame'**

- **Dravid** was presented with the framed cap by **Gavaskar** as he was formally inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame
- The four Indians who were inducted in the ICC Hall of Fame prior to Dravid are:
  - Sunil Gavaskar (1971-1987) - inducted in 2009
  - Bishan Singh Bedi (1966-1979) - inducted in 2009
  - Kapil Dev (1978-1994) - inducted in 2010
  - Anil Kumble (1990-2008) - inducted in 2015
- Earlier this year, Dravid, along with **Ricky Ponting** and England women wicketkeeper **Claire Taylor**, were announced as the new inductees in the Hall of Fame

## **Vietnam to host a Formula One race in April 2020**

- Vietnam capital **Hanoi** will be the **second** Southeast Asian city to host a race in 2020 along with Singapore
- Vietnam will be only the **third** Southeast Asian country to host a Formula One race in history after **Malaysia and Singapore**
- Formula One (F1) was taken over by US firm **Liberty Media** last year for \$8 billion

## **Rohit Sharma sets record, becomes first cricketer in history to score 4 T20I hundreds**

- He achieved the milestone in **58 balls** during the second T20I against the **Windies** at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee International Cricket Stadium in **Lucknow**. He now has **2,196** runs in the format
- He also **overtook Virat Kohli** (2,102 runs) to become India's leading run-getter in T20Is, and ended up **second** on the list of the highest run-getters in the **world**, just behind New Zealand's Martin Guptill
- He also became the first captain to score two T20I hundreds

## **Australia won the ICC Women's World T20 title for the fourth time**

- Australia defeated England by eight wickets in the final at North Sound, Antigua
- Overall **Meg Lanning** (Australia) has made the **most runs** in any tournament **257** runs, while **Anya Shrubsole** (England) has got the overall/most **wickets** in the women's T20 world cup with 13 wickets
- **Harmanpreet Kaur** (India) has been appointed as the **skipper** for the ICC Women's World T20 XI

## **Mary Kom Won Sixth World Championship Title, Creates History**

- **MC Mary Kom** created history by becoming the first woman to win six boxing world titles by clinching the 48 kg gold at the 2018 AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships in New Delhi
- The 35-year-old Indian legend got the better of Ukrainian Hanna Okhota in the summit clash

## **Saina Nehwal wins silver at Syed Modi International 2018, Sameer Verma Retains Title**

- World number nine **Saina Nehwal** bagged **silver** at **Syed Modi International Badminton** Championships 2018 after losing to world number 27 **Han Yue**
- India's **Sameer Verma** defeated Lu Guangzu of China in the men's **singles** final to successfully defend and win the Syed Modi International Championships in Lucknow

## **BCCI announces two-year ban for age frauds**

- From the 2018-19 season, any cricketer who is found guilty of tampering his/her date of birth will be disqualified and **barred** from participating in any BCCI tournament for a period of **2 years** i.e. 2018-19 and 2019-20 seasons
- Earlier, a cricketer faced a ban of one year

- In September, the BCCI had banned a Meghalaya-bound Delhi player, Jaskirat Singh Sachdeva, for producing a fake birth certificate to play in an Under-19 tournament

## **Harmanpreet Kaur becomes first Indian women to hit century in T20I cricket**

- Captain **Harmanpreet Kaur** became the first ever Indian woman to smash a hundred in T20I cricket, achieving the feat **against New Zealand** in the Women's World T20 2018
- The 29-year-old scored 103 runs off 51 balls, which included eight sixes and seven fours
- Further, Harmanpreet is only the **third** cricketer to smash a century in Women's World T20

## **Indian Wrestler Bajrang Punia becomes World No.1 in 65 kg category**

- The 24-year-old, who won **silver** in World Championships recently, is on **top** of the **United World Wrestling rankings** with 96 points, 30 points ahead of the second-placed wrestler
- He's the lone male Indian to figure in top-10 in any category
- Cuban Alejandro Enrique Valdes Tobier is a distant **second** with 66 points
- Russia's Akhmed Chakaev (62) is in **third** place

## **Mountaineer Satyarup Siddhanta became first Indian to scale Mt Giluwe in Papua New Guinea**

- He summited an elevation of **4,367 metres** which will be followed by Mt Wilhelm, the highest mountain of Papua New Guinea
- Satya scaled 5 of the 7 volcanic summits
- He aimed to complete his 6th Volcano in Mexico Mt Pico de Orizaba and then to Antarctica to climb Mt Sidley in December 2018

## **Gukesh won World U 12 Open chess championships**

- International Master, D.Gukesh, with 10 points, won the World u-12 open chess championships in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. Around 851 participants from 86 federations took part in the Championship event
- Volodar Murzin of Russia finished second by securing 8.5 points and Nico Chasin of USA settled for third place by securing 8.5. India stood second with two golds, while China and USA took the 1st and 3rd spot.

## **APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS**

### **Lok Sabha Secretary General gets one-year extension**

- The tenure of the Lok Sabha Secretary General, Snehlata Shrivastava, has been extended by Speaker Sumitra Mahajan for one year
- The 1982-batch retired IAS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre, who was appointed last year in rank and status of a Cabinet Secretary, was scheduled to retire on November 30, 2018
- Her extension will be effective from December 1, 2018 up to November 30, 2019
- She has served as Secretary in the Ministry of Law and Justice and as Special/Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Finance

### **Gafur Rakhimov elected as President of AIBA**

- He won 86 of the 134 second-round votes collected by **International Boxing Association (AIBA)** officials in Moscow to beat his only opponent, former boxer Serik Konakbayev of Kazakhstan

### **About International Boxing Association (AIBA)**

- **Formation:** 1946
- **Headquarters:** Lausanne, Switzerland
- **President:** Dr Wu Ching-kuo

## Sunil Arora appointed new Chief Election Commissioner

- Sunil Arora will take charge on December 2. He will replace outgoing Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) **OP Rawat**
- A former bureaucrat, Arora was appointed as election commissioner on August 31, 2017
- Arora, 62, had been the information and broadcasting secretary, and the secretary in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- A 1980-batch IAS officer of the Rajasthan cadre, Arora has worked in ministries such as finance, textiles and the Planning Commission

## Arvind Saxena appointed as Chairman of UPSC

- Saxena will have a tenure till August 7, **2020**, when he attains the age of 65 years
- He has been working as acting head of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) since **June 20**. He took over charge from **Vinay Mittal** who had completed his term
- Saxena joined the UPSC as a member on May 8, 2015. Prior to joining the UPSC, he was working as director of the Aviation Research Centre (ARC)

## **Ashok Kumar Gupta appointed as the chairman of Competition Commission of India**

- It was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). Gupta would replace acting chairperson **Sudhir Mital**
- Gupta, a **former IAS officer** of the Tamil Nadu cadre, would receive a consolidated salary of Rs 4,50,000 per month, without house and car, as per the communication
- The appointment would be **till October 25, 2022** -- the date when he attains the age of 65 years, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest

## **Asian Games gold medalist Hima Das appointed as UNICEF India Youth Ambassador**

- She won a silver medal in the **400 meters** sprint and also a gold in the 4X400 meters relay at the Asian Games in Jakarta this year will work towards supporting various initiatives by UNICEF

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **World Tsunami Awareness Day observed on 5 November**

- In December **2015**, the UN General Assembly designated **5 November** as **World Tsunami Awareness Day**
- Over the past 100 years, 58 tsunamis have claimed more than 260,000 lives, which is the highest number of deaths than in any other natural hazard

### **National Cancer Awareness Day observed on 7 November across the nation**

- 'National Cancer Awareness Day' started in **2014** when it was first announced by the former Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan
- **February 4th** is **World Cancer Day**, when organizations and individuals around the world unite to raise awareness about cancer and work to make it a global health priority

### **World Toilet Day is observed on 19 November**

- The World Toilet Day is organized around the world on 19th of November
- The day is about inspiring action to tackle the global sanitation crisis.

- The theme for WTD 2018 is ‘**When Nature Calls**’

## **Qaumi Ekta Week (National Integration Week) observed from 19th to 25th November**

- Qaumi Ekta Week is observed across the country from 19th to 25th November to foster and reinforce the spirit of **communal harmony** and **national integration**
- On November 19, National Integration Day was observed

## QUIZ CORNER

1) Which country appoints Sahle-Work Zewde As 1st Female President?

- A.Pakistan
- B.Ethiopia
- C.Saudi Arabia
- D.North Korea

**Answer: B**

2) India win their \_\_\_\_\_ consecutive ODI series against Windies.

- A.Fifth
- B.Sixth
- C.Seventh
- D.Eighth

**Answer: D**

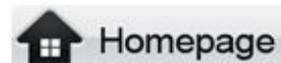
3) Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on 31 October 2018 embarked on a three-nation visit to Botswana, Zimbabwe and \_\_\_\_\_.

- A.Ethiopia
- B.Tanzania



**SUBSCRIBE**

**TAKE THE QUIZ**



- C.Nigeria
- D.Malawi

**Answer: D**

4) Amid rising air pollution, 'Clean Air Week' is being observed from November 1 to 5 in \_\_\_\_\_.

- A.Delhi
- B.Goa
- C.Uttar Pradesh
- D.Bihar

**Answer: A**

5) Which country has recently announced to withdraw from United Nations' (UN) migration pact?

- A.Brazil
- B.Canada
- C.Austria
- D.France

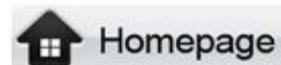
**Answer: C**

6) Which rank did India secure in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index 2018?



**SUBSCRIBE**

**TAKE THE QUIZ**



- A.103rd
- B.77th
- C.54th
- D.89th

**Answer: B**

7) Which country inked a \$950 million deal for inducting two new warships equipped with Brahmos missiles in the India Navy?

- A.Russia
- B.Indonesia
- C.Saudi Arabia
- D.Pakistan

**Answer: A**

8) Which country To Be Partner Country for 25th DST-CII Technology Summit 2019?

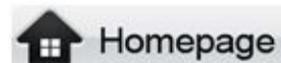
- A.Netherland
- B.Andorra
- C.Australia
- D.Botswana

**Answer: A**



**SUBSCRIBE**

**TAKE THE QUIZ**



9) Which country unveils ‘most advanced’ stealth drone - UAV – CH7?

- A. China
- B. South Africa
- C. Pakistan
- D. Sri Lanka

**Answer: A**

10) India's first nuclear-powered submarine \_\_\_\_\_ has completed its first deterrence patrol recently.

- A. INS Sahyadri
- B. INS Kalvari
- C. INS Chakra
- D. INS Arihant

**Answer: D**

11) World Tsunami Awareness Day is being observed on \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. November 5
- B. November 7
- C. November 4
- D. November 6

**Answer: A**

12) Delhi's Signature Bridge is built over the \_\_\_\_\_ river.

- A. Sahibi
- B. Ganga
- C. Brahmaputra
- D. Yamuna

**Answer: D**

13) Which company received India's first LC (letter of credit) payment via blockchain?

- A. Bharti Airtel Ltd.
- B. Tata Motors Ltd.
- C. State Bank of India
- D. Reliance Industries

**Answer: D**

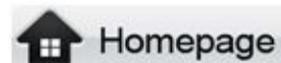
14) Which country will host a Formula One race in April 2020?

- A. Vietnam
- B. Malaysia
- C. Germany



**SUBSCRIBE**

**TAKE THE QUIZ**



D. Philippines

**Answer: A**

15) India and Japan signed a Loan Agreement worth Rs. 1,817 crore for the construction of hydel power project in \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Assam
- B. West Bengal
- C. Gujarat
- D. Uttar Pradesh

**Answer: B**

16) Who became the fifth Indian to be inducted in the 'ICC Hall of Fame'?

- A. Anil Kumble
- B. Sunil Gavaskar
- C. Rahul Dravid
- D. Kapil Dev

**Answer: C**

17) Which Indian actor has been honoured with 'Distinguished Fellow Award' in Boston?

- A. Anupam Kher
- B. Anil Kapoor
- C. Irrfan Khan
- D. Naseeruddin Shah

**Answer: A**

18) Which Cricket Stadium has been recently renamed after Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a day before India-WI T20I?

- A. Trivandrum's Greenfield International Stadium
- B. Bangalore's M. Chinnaswamy Stadium
- C. Lucknow's Ekana International Cricket Stadium
- D. Ranchi's JSCA International Cricket Stadium

**Answer: C**

19) An event organised to mark 2018 Diwali celebrations in \_\_\_\_\_ town - has entered Guinness Book of World Records.

- A. Kolkata
- B. Ayodhya (Faizabad)
- C. Varanasi
- D. Jaipur

**Answer: B**

20) Who became first cricketer in history to score 4 T20I hundreds?

- A. Steven Smith
- B. David Warner
- C. Rohit Sharma
- D. Virat Kohli

**Answer: C**

21) Recently, Supreme Court has given nod for a separate High Court for Andhra Pradesh. The new court will be the \_\_\_\_\_th High Court in the country.

- A. 25
- B. 26
- C. 34
- D. 30

**Answer: A**

22) China's 1st ‘International Import Expo 2018’, which is the world's first import-themed national-level expo, held in \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Guangzhou
- B. Beijing
- C. Shanghai
- D. Hong Kong

**Answer: C**

23) Which country unveiled new 'Heavenly Palace' space station, which is set to become the replacement of the International Space Station (ISS), which is due to retire in 2024?

- A. Japan
- B. United States
- C. Russia
- D. China

**Answer: D**

24) Who has been chosen for Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award 2018 by Press Council of India (PCI)?

- A. N Ram
- B. Dinesh Karthik
- C. Suresh Rajan
- D. Ganesh Kumar

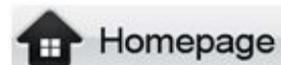
**Answer: A**

25) Which of the following Indian city have been selected by UN to participate in Global Sustainable Cities 2025 initiative?



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- A.Ahmedabad, Lucknow
- B.Surat, Pune
- C.Noida, Greater Noida
- D.Bhopal, Visakhapatnam

**Answer: C**

26) Who has been appointed as the new Chief Election Commissioner of India?

- A.Sunil Arora
- B.OP Rawat
- C.C. P. Gurnani
- D.Rashesh Shah

**Answer: A**

27) Which state topped in implementing Ayushman Bharat after 2 months of launch: NHA?

- A.Gujarat
- B.Kerala
- C.Tamil Nadu
- D.Bihar

**Answer: A**

28) Which team won the 'ICC Women's World T20 title' for the fourth time?

- A. West Indies
- B. India
- C. Australia
- D. England

**Answer: C**

29) ISRO launched its workhorse rocket PSLV-C43 carrying India's earth observation satellite HysIS. What does HysIS stand for?

- A. Hyper Spectral Imaging Satellite
- B. High Spectral Imaging Satellite
- C. High Spectral Image Sensing Satellite
- D. Hyper Spectral Image Sensing Satellite

**Answer: B**

30) According to the 'Global Wage Report 2018', which country's gender pay gap is the lowest in the world?

- A. Nepal
- B. Pakistan
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Myanmar

**Answer: C**

31) Who ranked top in the list of 'Fortune India's 50 Most Powerful Women' in business' this year?

- A.Suneeta Reddy
- B.Gauri Khan
- C.Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw
- D.Zia Mody

**Answer: D**

32) Which movie won the Golden Peacock award at the 49th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2018 at Panaji, Goa?

- A.Ee.Ma.Yau
- B.Donbass
- C.Yomeddine
- D.The Guilty

**Answer: B**

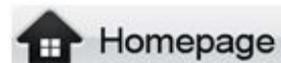
33) Who has appointed as the new chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)?

- A.C. P. Gurnani



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- B.Sandeep Jajodia
- C.Arvind Saxena
- D.Vinay Mittal

**Answer: C**

34) The Maharashtra assembly has unanimously approved \_\_\_\_\_% reservation for the Maratha community in jobs and educational institutes.

- A.24
- B.16
- C.18
- D.22

**Answer: B**

35) The 2018 G20 Summit began on November 28, 2018 in \_\_\_\_\_.

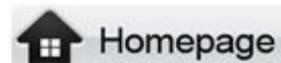
- A.Argentina
- B.Germany
- C.Brazil
- D.Turkey

**Answer: A**



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36) Which country will be the partner country for ‘International Gita Festival 2018’?

- A.Italy
- B.Spain
- C.Mauritius
- D.Mexico

**Answer: C**

37) Which state became the first to launch a pan-India single emergency number ‘112’?

- A.Assam
- B.Bihar
- C.Himachal Pradesh
- D.Odisha

**Answer: C**

38) Who are the Indians that were honored at the ‘Asian of The Year’ awards 2018 at Singapore for their selfless service and bravery in rescue operations during the Kerala floods?

- A.Vijay Varma and P. Rajkumar
- B.SV Bhokare and Mohan Mokashi
- C.SN Alamanda and Krishnan

D.Varghese Mathew and Rajesh Dhankhar

**Answer: A**

39) Who has been appointed as the chairman of Competition Commission of India (CCI)?

- A.Rajiv Mehrishi
- B.Ashok Kumar Gupta
- C.Sudhir Mital
- D.Arvind Saxena

**Answer: B**

40) Fortune Magazine sold to Thai businessman Chatchaval Jiaravanon for \$\_\_\_\_\_ Million.

- A.110
- B.100
- C.150
- D.125

**Answer: C**

41) Who became the first Indian women to hit century in T20I cricket?

- A.Harmanpreet Kaur
- B.Jhulan Goswami
- C.Mithali Raj
- D.Smriti Mandhana

**Answer: A**

42) At the Armistice of World War I centenary commemoration, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the Indian Armed Forces Memorial in \_\_\_\_\_.

- A.Russia
- B.Germany
- C.France
- D.Turkey

**Answer: C**

43) Armistice Day is commemorated on \_\_\_\_\_ to mark the end of the 1914-1918 conflict (World War I).

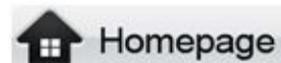
- A.November 12
- B.November 14
- C.November 13
- D.November 11

**Answer: D**



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44) Which of the following Indian Wrestler becomes World No.1 in 65 kg category?

- A. Bajrang Punia
- B. Vinesh Phogat
- C. Sandeep Tomar
- D. Sakshi Malik

**Answer: A**

45) Recently, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani announced that the state government was considering renaming Ahmedabad as \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Narsinhagaon
- B. Phevima
- C. Karnavati
- D. Prayagraj

**Answer: C**

46) India and France signed a deal worth Euro 7.87 billion (Rs 59,000 crore approximately) on September 23, 2016 for \_\_\_\_\_ Rafale jets.

A.34

- B.32
- C.36
- D.38

**Answer: C**

47) Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first Multi-Modal Terminal on \_\_\_\_\_ river.

- A.Ganga
- B.Brahmaputra
- C.Godavari
- D.Krishna

**Answer: A**

48) Name the Bangladesh cricketer, who will contest in the upcoming elections on a ticket from the ruling party, Awami League, as confirmed by PM Sheikh Hasina.

- A.Tamim Iqbal Khan
- B.Shakib Al Hasan
- C.Mashrafe Mortaza
- D.Mohammad Mithun

**Answer: C**

49) Which city ranked as India's Most Congested City according to NBER?

- A. Bangalore
- B. Chennai
- C. Pune
- D. Hyderabad

**Answer: A**

50) India celebrated \_\_\_\_\_th birth anniversary of Pt Jawaharlal Nehru on 14th November 2018?

- A. 130
- B. 134
- C. 135
- D. 139

**Answer: A**

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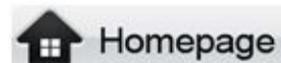
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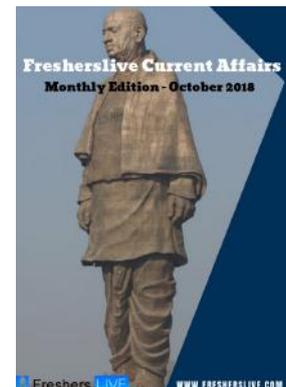
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