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AWARDS & HONOURS

Name of the Award	Award Winner	Additional Information
Blue Cross from ISSF	Abhinav Bindra	India's Olympic gold medal-winning shooter Abhinav Bindra became the first Indian to be honoured with the Blue Cross
Asian of The Year awards	Vijay Varma and P. Rajkumar	Indian Navy commander Vijay Varma and Captain P. Rajkumar were among those honored at the 'Asian of The Year' awards at Singapore
Golden Peacock award	Donbass	Donbass, a Ukrainian film directed by Sergei Loznitsa, won the coveted Golden Peacock award at the 49th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) at Panaji, Goa
highest French civilian honour	Wipro's Azim Premji	Wipro Chairman Azim Premji on Wednesday received the highest French civilian honour, Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour) from French Ambassador to India Alexandre Ziegler.
Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle	Professor S.P. Ganguly	
FIAPF Award	Filmmaker Nandita Das	Filmmaker Nandita Das will be honored with the International Federation of Film Producers Associations (FIAPF) Award at the 12th Asia Pacific Screen Awards (APSA) in Brisbane
Third Sayaji Ratna Award	superstar Amitabh Bachchan	For his social contribution to pay off the loans of several farmers from Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.
Global Education Leaders Award	Dr. Saroj Suman Gulati	For her remarkable contribution to 'K-12 education and promotion of Art and Culture'.
Munin Barkotoki Literary Award	Dr Debabhuson Borah	For his book on literary criticism titled 'Nirbochon'.
London Press Freedom award	Swati Chaturvedi	For her work in exposing the "IT cell" within the Bharatiya Janata Party for keeping an army of angry trolls.
Global Education Award	Super 30 founder Anand Kumar	Malabar Gold & Diamonds', flagship company of Malabar Group, a leading Indian business conglomerate, awarded this.

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Natvarya Prabhakar Panshikar Lifetime Achievement award	Actor Jayant Sawarkar	
Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award	N Ram	
‘Distinguished Fellow Award’	Actor Anupam Kher	

APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Person	Name of the Position	Additional Information
Arvind Saxena	Chairman of UPSC	
AM Naik	Chairman of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)	
Salome Zurabishvili	first female president of Georgia	
Alia Bhatt	Uber Eats, ambassador	
Sunil Arora	Chief Election Commissioner	
Joyce Msuya	Executive Director of UNEP	
IAS Vijay Kumar Dev	New Delhi Chief Secretary	
Millie Bobby Brown	Youngest UNICEF envoy	
South Korea’s Kim Jong-yang	Interpol President	He was elected by the Interpol’s 194 member states at the organisation’s annual congress in Dubai.
Jalaj Srivastava	New IWAI Chairman	He served as Chairman of New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) and Principal Secretary of Department of VAT, Delhi Government.
Sumanta Chaudhuri	New Coal Secretary	
Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen	Fortune Business Person of the Year	
Jayesh Sanghrajka	Infosys, interim Chief Financial Officer	
Thomas Kurian	Head of Google Cloud	

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Ajay Bhushan Pandey	Revenue Secretary	Pandey will continue to hold the additional charge of Chief Executive Officer of UIDAI and Chairman of Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) until further orders.
Siddharth Tiwari	Chief Representative for Asia	
Hima Das	Youth ambassador of UNICEF India	
S. S. Deswal	DG of ITBP	
Ashok Kumar Gupta	chairman of Competition Commission	
Gafur Rakhimov	President of AIBA	
Dinkar Asthana	Ambassador of India to Lao Peoples Democratic Republic	
Atul Goel	MD, CEO of UCO Bank	

BANKING & FINANCE

Reserve Bank of India Eases Hedging Norms For ECBs To 70% From Current 100%

Reserve Bank of India relaxed norms for External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) by reducing the mandatory hedging provision to 70% from the current 100%. The relaxed norms will apply to the ECBs with a maturity period between 3 and 5 years.

Centre and ADB sign 200 Million Dollar loan pact to upgrade State Highways in Bihar

The Centre and Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a 200 million dollar loan agreement to finance widening and upgrading of about 230 Kilometers State Highways in Bihar to all-weather standards with road safety features. The agreement was signed by Additional Secretary in the Finance Ministry Sameer Kumar Khare and Officer-in-Charge of ADB's India Resident Mission, Rajeev P Singh in New Delhi.

World Bank provides US\$155.7 million to Nepal

The World Bank is providing US\$155.7 million in loan and grant to Nepal to build and maintain bridges, and improve food security of vulnerable households and communities. Two Agreements to these effects were signed between the Washington, DC-based multilateral financial institution and the government of Nepal in Kathmandu.

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Government of India and ADB signed \$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.

Yes Bank chairman Ashok Chawla resigns over corruption charges

In July, the CBI named Ashok Chawla in a chargesheet relating to the Aircel-Maxis case. Mr. Chawla has also been the chairman of the Competition Commission of India, and continues to be the chairman of the National Stock Exchange and is also on the Jet Airways board.

India economic growth to slow to 7.3% in 2019: Moodys

Indian economy will expand 7.4 percent in 2018, but the growth will slow down to 7.3 percent in the next fiscal. The economy grew 7.9 percent in the first half (January-June) of 2018, reflecting post demonetization base effect.

World Bank and Centre and Andhra govt signed an MOU to \$172 million loan to make farming viable in Andhra Pradesh

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.

Reserve Bank of India initiates process to set up Digital Public Credit Registry

Reserve Bank of India initiated the process to set up a digital Public Credit Registry (PCR) to capture all the details of borrowers including wilful defaulters and also the pending legal suits in order to check financial delinquencies.

Chola MS renewed its partnership with IndusInd Bank

Chola MS General Insurance has renewed its bancassurance partnership with IndusInd Bank for a further period of five years. Chola MS General Insurance a joint venture between Murugappa group and Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Company of Japan. The partnership is to roll out more digital innovative insurance solutions, especially in claims servicing that will ensure the adoption of more products per customer.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

Eight States achieve 100% household electrification under Saubhagya scheme

8 States which achieved 100% household electrification under Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana – Saubhagya scheme are Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Mizoram, Sikkim, Telangana and West Bengal. With this, total 15 States in India have 100 per cent household electrification.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Rs 16320-Crore ‘Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana’- Saubhagya on September 25, 2017 to mark the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya. The scheme aims to achieve the goal of universal household electrification in the country by March 31, 2019.

Global Nutrition Report 2018 – One-third of world’s stunted children live in India

Nearly one-third of the world’s 150.8 million stunted children live in India, the 2018 Global Nutrition Report revealed. With 46.6 million children who are stunted, India tops the list of countries followed by Nigeria (13.9 million) and Pakistan (10.7 million).

Over 46 million Indian children aged under five years are stunted due to malnutrition and 25.5 million more are ‘wasted’, meaning they don’t weigh enough for their height. India is suffering from two forms of malnutrition– anaemia and stunting.

IIT Kharagpur, University of Auckland ink pact for research tie-up

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur and University of Auckland signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to foster academic exchange and research collaboration, faculty exchange and visiting/adjunct appointments and Student Mobility. It is the first strategic partnership of University of Auckland with a Higher Educational Institute of India.

Reggae music gets into heritage list of UNESCO

Reggae music, with artists like Bob Marley, won international fame and secured a spot on the United Nations’ list of global cultural treasures. UNESCO, the world body’s cultural and scientific agency, added the genre that originated in Jamaica to its collection of intangible cultural heritage deemed worthy of protection and promotion.

NGT imposed Rs.5 crore on the DJB

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has imposed a cost of Rs.5 crore on the Delhi Jal Board (DJB). It directed the DJB to complete work on the sewerage network in Inderpuri by May 2019. A Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel directed the DJB to deposit a “performance guarantee” to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) within one month.

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Centre proposes ban on use of animals in circuses, performances

The Centre has proposed a prohibition on the use of all animals for performances, exhibition at any circus or mobile entertainment facilities and has invited comments from various stakeholders on the issue within 30 days. Earlier, the environment ministry had banned training and use of lions, tigers, panthers, monkeys, bears and bulls for entertainment purposes.

Defence Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman launched Mission Raksha

The main aim is to provide a boost to the Intellectual Property Right (IPR) culture in indigenous defence industry. The event showcased the successful outcomes of adopting and utilizing the Intellectual Property Right (IPR) applications which enhanced inventions and innovations among Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs).

Govt to sell 100% stake in Air India's ground handling subsidiary

A ministerial panel led by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley decided to sell 100% of Air India's ground handling arm Air India Air Transport Services (AIATSL). The proceeds will be used to retire a part of Air India's debt. The government also plans to transfer a "significant part" of the airline's debt to a special purpose vehicle (SPV).

Govt launched 'Paisa' portal for affordable credit and interest subvention access

The government launched a centralised electronic platform for processing interest subvention on bank loans to beneficiaries under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), called 'Paisa'. PAiSA, or 'Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access', is a web platform designed and developed by Allahabad Bank, which is the nodal bank.

Govt transferred over Rs 1,600 crore to 48.5 lakh mothers under PMKVY: CDFI

According to Centre for Digital Financial Inclusion (CDFI), the government had transferred over Rs 1,600 crore to 48.5 lakh mothers under Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana through direct benefit transfer. The exact figure is Rs 16,04,66,63,000 and the process have been conceptualized, designed and implemented by CDFI through the PMMVY-CAS (Common Application Software) System.

India To Host 50th Union World Conference On Lung Health In 2019

The 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health will be held in Hyderabad, a global organization working in this field announced. The conference 'Ending the Emergency: Science, Leadership, Action' which will start in October 2019, the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease stated.

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Dehradun airport to be renamed after late PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee

The Uttarakhand government approved a proposal to rename capital Dehradun's Jolly Grant Airport's name after late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, an official said. The proposal was approved by the state cabinet at a meeting chaired by CM Trivendra Singh Rawat. A proposal to convene a three-day Winter Session of the Assembly from December 4 was also passed.

Centre made jute packaging mandatory for all food grains

The Centre approved a proposal making jute packaging mandatory for all food grains. The decision was taken by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In India, the jute sector employs approximately 3.7 lakh workers directly. The move is significant as it would support several lakh farm families and workers whose livelihood is dependent on the jute sector.

Paytm partners with LIC for insurance premium payments

Softbank-backed, digital payments service provider, Paytm (One 97 Communications Limited) partnered with the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to offer online insurance premium payments on its platform.

India ranked 5th in the list of most vacation deprived nation in the world: Expedia

Expedia Vacation Deprivation Report 2018 was released that stated that India is among the most vacation deprived nation in the world ranking 5th among the 19 surveyed countries. As per data, 53 percent of Indians take fewer vacation days than they get. 35 percent don't take leave as work schedule does not allow for vacation. 68 percent of Indians have ended up canceling their vacation due to work.

Cabinet approves medical college in Dadra and Nagar Haveli

The Union Cabinet approved the setting up of a medical college at Silvassa in the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli. "The Cabinet...approved a capital cost of ₹189 crore for the setting up of...medical college," Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said.

New rules may force 50% of ATMs in India to close: Industry body

The Confederation of ATM Industry (CATMI) has said that recent regulatory changes are making it unviable to operate ATMs and may lead to closure of half of the machines by March 2019. A majority of the ATMs which can be shut down will be in the non-urban areas, it added. India had about 2.21 lakh ATMs as of September end.

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Malaria cases declined by 24% in India: WHO report

The World Health Organisation (WHO) in a report stated India recorded a substantial decline of 24% in cases of Malaria in 2017 compared to 2016. The report attributed the reduction largely to a substantial decline of the disease in “highly malarious Odisha”. The success factors for reduction of the disease include rejuvenated political commitment, the report noted.

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.

PM Modi inaugurates Western Peripheral Expressway in Gurugram

The Kundli-Manesar-Palwal expressway, also known as Western Peripheral Expressway, became fully operational 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.

India's 1st engine-less train conducts trial run successfully

India's first indigenously developed engine-less train “Train 18” successfully conducted its first trial run on tracks at Moradabad-Rampur section of Northern Indian Railways. The train was made to run at different speeds and its braking was also checked during its trial run. The train comprises of as many as 16 coaches including the driving coach.

Cabinet approved extension reservation for Maratha community

The Maharashtra Cabinet approved the decision to extend reservation to the Maratha community. The reservation was extended by creating a new category called Socially and Educationally Backward Class.

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’.

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The Harvard University topped the list, followed by the California Institute of Technology and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

UIDAI head Ajay Bhushan Pandey to be next Revenue Secretary

Ajay Bhushan Pandey, the head of Aadhaar-issuing authority UIDAI, will be the next Revenue Secretary as Hasmukh Adhia retires on November 30. Pandey will continue to hold the additional charge of Chief Executive Officer of UIDAI and Chairman of Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) until further orders. A 1984 Maharashtra-cadre IAS officer, Pandey will take over from December 1.

Union Agriculture Minister launched NCDCs new scheme to promote young entrepreneurs in cooperatives

The main objective is to provide cheaper loans to startups in the cooperative sector. This scheme will be implemented by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) by linking it to Rs 1000 crore 'Cooperative Start-up and Innovation Fund (CSIF) created by it.

UP cabinet approved the name change of Faizabad to Ayodhya

The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath approved the proposal to change the name of Faizabad district to Ayodhya and the Allahabad division as Prayagraj. The approval comes after the announcement made by the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on the eve of Diwali.

38th India International Trade Fair begins in New Delhi

The 38th edition of the India International Trade Fair began at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. It will run till the 27th of November. The main theme is – Rural Enterprises in India.

PM Modi inaugurates 1st inland waterway terminal at Varanasi

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the first of the four multi-modal 'Inland Waterways Terminal' at Varanasi being built on Ganga. He also received a container consignment at the terminal, the first to be sent on an inland waterways vessel post Independence. The project will allow commercial navigation of vessels with 1,500-2,000 deadweight tonnes (DWT) capacity on the River Ganga.

PM Modi inaugurates projects worth over ₹2,400cr in Varanasi

PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated and laid the foundation for projects worth over ₹2,400 crore in his constituency, Varanasi. These included two important roads, having a total length of 34

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kilometres and built at a cost of ₹1,571 crore. He inaugurated two sewage infrastructure projects worth ₹425 crore and laid the foundation for another project worth ₹72 crore in Ramnagar.

‘Mere Pyaare Prime Minister’ only Asian film screened at Rome Film Festival

Filmmaker Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra’s upcoming film ‘Mere Pyaare Prime Minister’ was the only Asian film which was screened at the Rome Film Festival. The film revolves around four children living in a Mumbai slum. One of them wants to build a toilet for his single mother and makes an appeal to the Prime Minister.

India to start exporting raw sugar to China from early 2019

India is the largest producer of sugar in the world with 32 million tonnes of production in 2018. It produces sugar of all three grades- raw, refined and white. Indian sugar is also of a high quality and is Dextran free because of the minimum time taken from cut to crush.

IITians develop app to prevent deaths while taking selfies

A team from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar has developed an artificial intelligence-based app ‘Garuda’ to prevent deaths while taking selfies. The team collected 11,000 images labelled for different levels of danger and embedded them in the app’s deep learning module. It works by analysing the environment around the smartphone and sends alerts to users in cases of danger.

Mahila-E-Haat online portal to promote women farmers and entrepreneurs launched by WCD

The main aim is to unique organic products of the women farmers and entrepreneurs from across the country. It will serve as an e-platform to bring them together and promote the achievements of women farmers. It was launched during the 5th “Women of India National Organic Festival, 2018”.

Arunima Sinha gets honorary doctorate in UK

Arunima Sinha, worlds first Indian woman amputee to scale Everest gets honorary doctorate in UK. She has been awarded for her inspirational achievements in mountaineering. In 2013, she became the world’s first woman amputee to climb Mount Everest. She is a former Indian national Volleyball player.

Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Trivandrum among 6 airports to be privatised

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for leasing out six airports for operating, managing and developing under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model. The airports chosen are Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Mangaluru, Trivandrum, and Guwahati. The government said that PPP

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model has helped Airports Authority of India in enhancing its revenue and developing airports in rest of the country.

Namrata Ahuja bags IPI-India Award for excellence in journalism 2018

Namrata Ahuja is a senior special correspondent with The Week magazine. She has received this award for her exclusive story on Nagaland underground camps. The award consisted of a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh, a trophy, and a citation. The jury was headed by former Attorney-General of India Soli Sorabjee.

India re-elected as member of ITU council till 2022

India elected as a member of the International Telecommunications Union-ITU Council for another four-year term from 2019 to 2022. The elections to the Council were held during the ongoing ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 at Dubai. India secured 165 votes and ranked third among the 13 countries elected to the council from the Asia-Australasia region, and eighth among the 48 countries elected to the council globally.

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 US\$ 1000 billion into solar energy by 2030.

India pledges ₹97 cr for UN agencies, development activities

India announced contributions of \$13.36 million (over ₹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.

PM Modi celebrates Diwali with jawans in Uttarakhand

PM Narendra Modi celebrated Diwali with jawans of the Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) at Harsil in Uttarakhand. “Your devotion to duty in the remote icy heights is enabling the strength of the nation and securing...the dreams of 125 crore Indians,” he told the jawans. PM Modi then also visited the Kedarnath shrine and offered prayers.

India ranked 12th globally in web-borne threats Kaspersky Lab

Kaspersky Lab products detected 48,093,743 Internet-borne malware incidents on computers of KSN participants in India. Regarding vulnerabilities in browsers and their plugins (drive-by download), infection happened when visiting an infected website, without any intervention from the user and without their knowledge. This is the most used method by cybercriminals for this kind of attacks.

Indian Railways rolls out All-India Unreserved Mobile Ticketing facility

Railway tickets can be booked online as the Ministry has introduced Unreserved Mobile Ticketing with a view to promoting three C's- Cashless transactions (Digital payment), Contactless ticketing (no need to physically visit the point of sale) and Customer convenience and experience.

Mary Kom named brand ambassador of 2018 Women's World Boxing Championships

Five-time World Champion Mary Kom leads the 10th edition of AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships, which is to be held at the IG Stadium's K.D. Jhadav Hall, New Delhi between November 15 and 24. Over 300 women boxers from 70 countries will participate in this edition.

Govt approves Pune-Mumbai hyperloop to cut travel time to 25 mins

The Maharashtra government has approved the hyperloop project between Pune and Mumbai as a public infrastructure project, aiming to cut the travel time between the two destinations to 25 minutes. The government will invite global firms to challenge the original bid placed by Virgin Hyperloop One for the project. Virgin Hyperloop plans to build a 15-km-long test route in 2019.

PM 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 ₹23,500 crore through the portal till date.

Union Cabinet approves Renaming Of Jharsuguda Airport, Odisha as Veer Surendra Sai Airport, Jharsuguda

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the renaming of Jharsuguda Airport, Odisha as "Veer Surendra Sai Airport, Jharsuguda". Veer Surendra Sai is a well-known freedom fighter of Odisha. The Jharsuguda airport in his name will fulfill the long-pending demand of the Odisha Government, which reflects the sentiments of the local public of the respective area.

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Air Marshal Pradeep Padmakar Bapat VSM takes over as the Air Officer-in-Charge Administration of IAF

Air Marshal Pradeep Padmakar Bapat VSM succeeds Air Marshal HN Bhagwat AVSM VM who retired on 31 October 2018. Air Marshal PP Bapat was commissioned in the Indian Air Force in the Administrative Branch on 28 May 1983. He was commissioned as a Fighter Controller. Earlier, he carried out the responsibilities of Director General (Works & Ceremonials). He was awarded 'Vishisht Seva Medal' by President of India in 2014.

Mahendra Singh Foundation Inc appoints Aishwarya Sharma as their India brand ambassador

Mahendra Singh Foundation (MSF), a New York-based organization, has appointed Aishwarya Sharma as its India brand ambassador for #takethepowerback project. Aishwarya Sharma has a blog named Figuramoda where she speaks on various topics through her fashion blog posts. She is a fashion activist.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to launch Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Support and Outreach Programme

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Support and Outreach Programme in New Delhi. On the occasion, various announcements and deliverables focussing on access to credit, access to market, hand-holding and facilitation support to the sector are likely to be announced. The MSME Outreach Programme will run for 100 days covering 100 Districts throughout the country.

Pather Panchali on BBC's list of 100 best foreign language films

Pather Panchali, Satyajit Ray's epic masterpiece, has been included in BBC's list of 100 best foreign language films and is the only film from India to feature in it. The film was released in 1955 and the first in Ray's Apu trilogy was placed at number 15 in the list, which was topped by Akira Kurosawa's Seven Samurai.

India will become 3rd largest aviation market in world by 2020: Foreign Secretary

Foreign Secretary Vijay Keshav Gokhale announced that India is aimed at laying 40 kilometres of highways every day by 2018 and 2019 – a three-time jump from four years ago.

Projects which lift India's position to 3rd largest aviation market by 2020 are:

- ◆ Chabahar port being developed in Iran to improve connectivity to the West.

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- ◆ Activities in Bangladesh include inland waterways container ports.
- ◆ The Kaladan project being implemented in Myanmar.

Malayalam film Olu to be the opening film at 49th International Film Festival of India

The feature film Jury, headed by acclaimed film director and screenwriter, Rahul Rawail, selected the film 'Olu', directed by Shaji N Karun as the opening feature film of the Indian Panorama Section of 49th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2018.

IFFI 2018 would be celebrated from 20th November to 30th November in Goa. Four selected mainstream films include 'Tiger Zinda Hai', 'Padmaavat' and 'Raazi'.

PM Modi launches portal for loans of up to 1 crore in 59 minutes

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a 59-minute approval portal for loans of up to ₹1 crore to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Over 72,000 MSMEs have been sanctioned loans worth over ₹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%.

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.

Seven Indian States celebrate their formation day on November 1

November 1 marks the foundation day of seven Indian states namely Karnataka, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh. The union territories of Lakshwadeep, Puducherry, Andaman & Nicobar also celebrate their formation day on November 1.

STATE RELATED CURRENT AFFAIRS

Bengaluru's proposed 102km elevated corridor to cost 26,000 cr

Bengaluru's Elevated Corridor Project, covering a distance of 102 kilometres with six corridors, is estimated to cost between ₹25,000 and ₹26,000 crore. The proposed elevated corridors along with the Peripheral Ring Road are proposed as the answers to decongest the city's roads. The

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project, expected to be completed by 2025-2026, awaits Karnataka Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy's nod.

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).

TN govt's shutdown of Sterlite Copper plant unjustified: NGT

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) said the Tamil Nadu government's shutdown of Sterlite Copper's plant in Thoothukudi was unjustified. The company was not given any notice or opportunity to explain its position, NGT added. State authorities ordered permanent closure of the plant in May following protests by locals over alleged pollution of the environment by the plant.

Himachal Pradesh 1st state to launch single emergency number

Himachal Pradesh became first Indian state to launch a single emergency number "112". This will connect to police, fire, health and other helplines through an Emergency Response Centre in the state. "Ensuring safety of women,... 'SHOUT' feature has been introduced in '112 India' mobile app to seek immediate assistance from registered volunteers..." Union Home Ministry statement said.

Gujarat topped in implementing Ayushman Bharat after 2 months of launch: NHA

According to the National Health Agency, after 2 months of the launch of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, Gujarat emerged as the top performer under the scheme. Around 76,000 hospital admissions have been cleared in Gujarat since September 23, Tamil Nadu ranked second at 54,273 and Chhattisgarh third at 53,180 sanctioned hospitals.

UP government cleared the proposal to build Ram statue

The Uttar Pradesh government has cleared a proposal to build a 221-meter-tall statue of Lord Ram on the banks of the Saryu river in Ayodhya. The government did not furnish the details of the funding, the construction agency and the location of the statue. The size of the statue will outdo the 182-meter-tall statue of Sardar Patel in Gujarat.

FAO to team up with Telangana for seed development

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations has offered to collaborate with Telangana for South-South Cooperation in the development of the seed sector in African countries

Delhis AQI improved to poor category

The National Capital Region's air quality showed an unusual improvement on 25th November. The change is due to the increased wind speed, favorable for dispersion of pollutants, but settled in the "poor" category. The overall **air quality index (AQI)** of Delhi was recorded at **262, which falls in the "poor" category.**

Karnataka CM launched Badavara Bandhu scheme

Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy launched mobile banks to disburse interest-free loans to street vendors and small traders at the AMPC Market in Yeshwantpur. The mobile bank scheme is called 'Badavara Bandhu' (friend of the poor). The scheme announced in the budget this year seeks to free the poor business community from the clutches of moneylenders.

Under the scheme, small traders will get loans of up to Rs.10,000 without any interest and collateral. The beneficiaries will have the flexibility of repaying the loan on daily installments of Rs.100 or one-time repayment within three months. If they repay within the stipulated time, they are eligible for a fresh loan of up to Rs.15,000.

India's First Justice City To Set Up In Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh is building a world-class and India's first 'Justice City' within its new capital Amaravati with the vision to provide a state-of-the-art ecosystem built on the latest technology for supporting the judicial system in the state. The state provides the necessary infrastructure to provide speedy justice for litigants, easy and better access to justice for the masses and reduce pending cases.

Jammu and Kashmir governor dissolved the State Assembly

Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik dissolved the State Assembly. The dissolution of assembly is because the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and Peoples Conference (PC) separately staked claim to form a government. The Governor has passed an order in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by clause (b) of subsection (2) of Section 53 of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir to dissolve the Legislative Assembly.

Cyclone-hit Tamil Nadu seeks nearly ₹15,000cr from Centre

Tamil Nadu CM EK Palaniswami met PM Narendra Modi and sought financial assistance of nearly ₹15,000 crore for restoration and rehabilitation works in the districts affected by cyclone Gaja. Out of this, over ₹7,000 crore has been sought as relief for Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation and ₹6,000 crore for huts and houses damaged in the cyclone.

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Andhra assembly will be taller than world's tallest statue: Naidu

CM Chandrababu Naidu has nearly finalised the design for Andhra Pradesh's 250-metre-high assembly building that would make it taller than the world's tallest statue, Gujarat's 'Statue of Unity', by 68 metres.

Tripura will be hosting International Tourism Mart from 22nd November

Tripura will host the 7th International Tourism Mart from 22nd November 2018 at Agartala. The three day event, which aims at propagate tourism potentials of the northeast states, will have tour operator delegates from 18 countries.

The International Tourism Mart is an annual event that is held in the northeastern states. Tripura will be hosting it for the first time this year.

Nongkrem Dance Festival Celebrated In Meghalaya

Nongkrem dance festival, an annual event during which prayers are offered for good harvest, peace, and prosperity of the community was celebrated with great zeal and enthusiasm by the inhabitants of the Khasi Hills in Shillong, Meghalaya. The unique dance is performed by the members of Hima Khyrim, a sub-tribe of the indigenous Khasi tribe.

Second Mega Food Park in Maharashtra inaugurated in Aurangabad

Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated 2nd Mega Food Park in Maharashtra, in Wahegaon and Dhangaon village in Paithan taluka of Aurangabad district. It was launched under Mega Food Park Scheme and is promoted by Paithan Mega Food Park Pvt Ltd.

India International Cherry Blossom Festival Held in Meghalaya.

During the programme, the Chief Minister also handed over the Meghalaya Entrepreneurship Recognition Award (MEG-ERA) to Perastill R Sangma, an entrepreneur from Garo Hills. The award consists of a citation and a cash award of one lakh rupees..

India's first elephant hospital opens in Uttar Pradesh

India's first specialised hospital for elephants was inaugurated by Agra Divisional Commissioner Anil Kumar in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura district on Friday. It offers laser therapy, hydrotherapy, quarantine facilities and has a medical hoist to lift elephants. It also has an observation deck that allows veterinary students and interns to observe elephants' behaviour.

Karnataka govt proposes to build 125 ft Mother Cauvery statue in own Disneyland

The statue will be built in Krishnarajasagara Reservoir in Mandya district. The project which is expected to cost ₹1,200 crore, includes a museum and two glass towers measuring 360 feet to provide a bird's eye view of the reservoir.

The statue proposal was approved by Water Resources Minister D K Shivakumar and Tourism Minister Sa Ra Mahesh during a meeting in Bengaluru.

NGT imposed Rs.50 crore fine on Odisha government

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) ordered the Punjab government to submit a penalty of Rs.50 crore as environmental compensation for polluting rivers Sutlej and Beas due to industrial discharge. The bench, headed by Justice AK Goyal, has asked the Punjab government to recover the fine from industries in two weeks.

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.

Odisha government signed MoU with AIFF

Odisha government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the All India Football Federation (AIFF) at the Kalinga Stadium complex, Bhubaneswar, Odisha in the presence of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. As per the agreement, the State government will host National team camps and also I-League side Indian Arrows.

The training and connected infrastructure like gymnasiums, swimming pool, etc, will be housed at the Kalinga Stadium Complex.

Andhra gets state emblem nearly five years after bifurcation

Nearly five years after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, the state has finalised its new emblem for official use. The state emblem consists of the Dhamma Chakka embellished with a ring of Triratnas alternating with pinnate leaves and precious stones. Further, the national emblem is placed at the bottom of the Andhra emblem.

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).

Goa bans importing of fish officially for 6 months

Goa has banned importing/bringing fish from outside. The announcement was made on November 10. The ban included import from Karnataka. The announcement has kicked off a controversy with fishermen from the State questioning the rationale behind the decision.

Gujarat to introduce new digital platform for Agriculture land

Gujarat government decided to launch a digital platform for the conversion of agricultural land to Non-Agriculture (NA). Under the scheme of Digital India, all district collector offices and District Panchayats will be covered and monitored through a dedicated online system.

With 5462 beds, Patna Medical College to be world's largest hospital

The Bihar cabinet gave its nod for the redevelopment of Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH) into a world's largest 5462-bed hospital at an estimated cost of Rs 5540.07 crore.

The hospital would be redeveloped by Bihar Medical Services & Infrastructure Corporation Ltd (BMSICL). The PMCH was established in 1925. The hospital would be redeveloped in three phases in seven years. The new PMCH will have 250 MBBS seats against the existing 150, and 200 PG seats against the existing 146.

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.

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Lucknow's 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 Ratan 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.

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.

Shillong to host Cherry Blossom Festival this month

Shillong is set to host the third edition of the India International Cherry Blossom Festival between November 14 and 17. The festival will feature several events, including a Japanese tea ceremony, music concerts and beauty pageants. In addition, there will be skydiving, film screenings, archery competitions, a dog show and a golf tournament.

Soura Jananidhi scheme launched in Odisha

The main aim is to increase the use of solar energy for helping farmers in irrigation. It is a dug well based solar pump irrigation system in convergence mode. The total cost of the scheme allocated by the state government is Rs. 27.18 crore in the 2018-19 financial year.

Under this scheme, 5,000 solar pumps will be provided to farmers at a subsidy of 90 percent to irrigate 2,500 acres of land. The Chief Minister distributed four go-ahead orders for installation of solar pump to the farmers.

India ranked 65 in Global Passport Index, Singapore tops the chart

The ranking improved nine notches since the previous year and means that the Indian passport holders has been granted visa-free access to 65 countries. The other countries are India, Kyrgyzstan and Zimbabwe share the 65th rank. Singapore and Germany have the world's "most powerful" passport with access to 165 countries.

Entrepreneurship scheme Samruddhi launched in Karnataka

The main objective is to impart skill development and benefit aspiring, young citizens from rural and tier II cities. The scheme, targeted at socially marginalized communities to provide them with skill development and alternate means of employment has a total cost of Rs.800 crore.

For this, the government is partnering with private enterprises to train the youth from backward communities. The training will include retail management, taxation policies, and GST, inventory management, soft skills, and logistics.

Madras HC bans online drug sale

Tamil Nadu Chemists and Druggists Association filed a writ petition seeking a ban on websites that facilitate the online sale of drugs. It said the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 was enacted during the colonial era and much before the advent of online trade. Despite making amendments to the law over the last 78 years, there is no provision in it that permits the online sale of drugs and medicines.

Delhi observes 'Clean Air Week' from November 1-5 to fight against the worsening air quality

Centre in collaboration with the Delhi, UP and Haryana governments organise 'Clean Air Week' between November 1-5 in Delhi and four other National Capital Region (NCR) cities – Faridabad, Gurgaon, Ghaziabad and Noida.

This decision was taken in a meeting held in Delhi under the Chairmanship of Union Environment Secretary CK Mishra to discuss the urgent steps for air pollution reduction and regulating fire crackers in the light of the Supreme Court's Order. On October 23, 2018, the Supreme Court had allowed the sale of "green firecrackers." On Diwali, citizens would be allowed to burst crackers only between 8 pm to 10 pm.

Cabinet clears MoU between India, S Korea for tourism

The Cabinet has cleared the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and South Korea for strengthening cooperation in the field of tourism. The MoU is aimed at expanding cooperation in data related to tourism and between tourism stakeholders, including hotels and tour operators. It will also seek to establish exchange programmes for cooperation in human resource development.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Second India-UAE strategic conclave held in Abu Dhabi

The two day Second edition of India-UAE Strategic Conclave organized by Economic Times, India was held in the Capital of United Arab Emirates (UAE), Abu Dhabi. Indian Ambassador to the UAE, Mr. Navdeep Suri inaugurated the conclave where Key Business leaders and senior government officials lay down the blueprint to improve Economic cooperation between the two countries and explore the opportunities to enhance trade.

India, UK naval exercise Konkan 18 held in Goa

The Royal Navy of UK will be represented by HMS Dragon, a Type 45 Class Destroyer equipped with an integral Wildcat helicopter. The Indian Navy will field INS Kolkata, the first ship of latest Kolkata class destroyers, equipped with integral Seaking and an IN submarine during the sea phase between December 2 to 6. In addition, Indian Navy's maritime patrol aircraft Dornier will also participate in the exercise.

India, US and Japan to hold trilateral meet at G20 summit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe and US President Donald Trump will participate in a trilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Argentina later this week. This will be the first trilateral meeting between India, Japan and the US at the leaders' level. The G20 summit will be held from November 30-December 1.

India, China to hold joint military exercises from Dec 10

The militaries of China and India would hold a joint 14-day drill from December 10 in southwest China's Chengdu city to improve their capabilities in fighting terrorism and promote mutual understanding. Each side will send 100 troops to take part in the 7th India and China joint military exercises – 'Hand in Hand' – which will focus on counter-terrorism operations.

Monaco to host 2019 Laureus Awards on February 18 2019

The 'Oscars of sports', the Laureus World Sports Awards 2019 will be held in Monaco on February 18 next year. Sport's premier global awards ceremony will celebrate the best of 2018 across eight individual and team categories, with the winners collecting a prized Laureus Statuette.

Swami Vigyananda launches Hindu Economic Forum in New Zealand

Hindu Economic Forum New Zealand (HEFNZ) was officially launched by Swami Vigyananand on Sunday, 18 November 2018 in Auckland, with the vision "Grow Together; Share Together". Hardik Desai and Raj Tyagi will be taking the lead in organizing the HEF New Zealand. Swami

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Vigyananda also announced that the first New Zealand Hindu Economic Conference to be organized by Hindu Economic Forum New Zealand in 2019.

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.

India, Russia sign \$500-mn deal to build 2 warships in Goa

India and Russia signed a \$500-million deal to build two warships in Goa for the Indian Navy, officials said. The Goa Shipyard Limited and Russia's Rosoboronexport signed the agreement for the Grigorovich-class 'Project 11356' frigates with technology transfer from Russia. The construction of the warships will begin in 2020 and the first one will be delivered in 2026.

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 inter-operability of the two armed forces and further the military to military co-operation.

India-Maldives agree on renewing ties, peace in Indian Ocean

PM Narendra Modi and Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih expressed confidence in renewal of bilateral ties and maintaining security and peace in the Indian Ocean, a joint statement after Solih's swearing-in ceremony read. PM Modi assured Solih of India's firm commitment in helping Maldives achieve sustainable economic development. This was PM Modi's first Maldives visit since assuming office.

Maldives cabinet approves to rejoin Commonwealth.

Maldives cabinet has approved to rejoin the Commonwealth, two years after withdrawing from the 53-nation grouping. President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih has pledged to rejoin the Commonwealth after taking over on Saturday and the proposal will be sent to parliament for ratification.

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.

India and UK signed pact to collaborate on 5 year cancer research

The MOU was signed between Department of Biotechnology Ministry of Science & Technology, India and Cancer Research UK. It is a collaborative 5-year bilateral research initiative that focuses on affordable approaches to cancer.

India and Morocco signed Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters

The main aim of the MOU is to strengthen bilateral cooperation, provide a broad legal framework for prevention, investigation and prosecution of crimes. It will also help in tracing, restraint and confiscation of funds meant to finance terrorist acts.

Third ‘Quadrilateral’ meeting to be held in Singapore on November 14th

Officials from 4 countries (Quad) – Australia, India, Japan and the United States will hold the third “Quadrilateral” or Quad meeting in Singapore on November 14th.

The meeting will be held on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend this meeting, and is expected to focus on infrastructure projects, maritime security cooperation and discuss regional challenges including development.

SIMBEX begins the drills

SIMBEX, the 25th edition of the India-Singapore bilateral naval exercise has begun at the tri-services command on November 10, 2018. The exercise is being held in Port Blair, Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal. It will conclude on November 21.

Vice President inaugurates 1st India-built war memorial in France

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the Indian Armed Forces Memorial 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. “India contributed immensely to the war effort...Her soldiers served with credit and honour in numerous battlefields around the globe”, Vice President Naidu said.

Indian-American elected Mayor of US' Anaheim city

Indian-American Sikh businessman Harry Singh Sidhu has been elected as the Mayor of the Anaheim city in California, US. Sidhu moved to the US along with his parents in 1974 and has previously served as a member of the Anaheim City Council. He will be the first Sikh Mayor of Anaheim.

India and Malawi Sign MoUs in Extradition Treaty, Atomic Energy and VISA Waiver

India and Malawi signed three MoUs on Extradition Treaty, cooperation in the field of Atomic Energy for peaceful purposes and VISA Waiver for Diplomatic and Official Passports. The MoU was signed during Vice President Venkaiah Naidu visit in Malawi.

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).

U.K. unveiled sculpture to honour Indian soldiers

A sculpture in honour of Indian soldiers who fought during World War I was unveiled in the town of Smethwick in the West Midlands region of England. Guru Nanak Gurdwara Smethwick had commissioned the Lions of the Great War monument, which depicts a turbaned Sikh soldier, to honour the sacrifices made by millions of South Asian service personnel of all faiths who fought for Britain in the world wars and other conflicts as part of the British Indian Army.

India to extend \$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.

Larsen and Toubro to get USD 200 bn solar power project in Saudi Arabia

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) plans to bid for an Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract for a section of the \$200 billion solar projects in Saudi Arabia to be built with the backing of Japan's SoftBank. Earlier this year, Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund and SoftBank signed a MoU to invest in building the world's biggest solar power project in Saudi

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Arabia. This project is expected to have the capacity to produce up to 200 gigawatts (GW) by 2030.

India-Japan first joint military exercise 'Dharma Guardian-2018' began in Mizoram

Being first of its kind, the 14 days long joint exercise is being conducted from 01 Nov 2018 to 14 Nov 2018. The Japanese contingent is being represented by 32nd Infantry Battalion while the Indian side is being represented by Gorkha Rifles.

India and South Korea signed a MoU for strengthening cooperation in the field of Tourism

Cabinet approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and South Korea for strengthening cooperation in the field of Tourism.

US grants India waiver from its Iran oil sanctions

India's Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced that India and seven other nations have been granted a temporary waiver from US sanctions against buyers of Iranian crude oil. The US will reimpose sanctions on Iran on November 5, with crude oil being Iran's largest source of income. India currently imports nearly 80% of its crude oil consumption.

India and Russia inked a \$950 million deal for inducting two new warships equipped with Brahmos missiles in the India Navy

The two frigates of the Project 11356 class will be bought directly from Russia and 2 more will be built in an Indian Shipyard. The two ships to be brought from Russia are expected to be delivered by 2022 and have been designed to work with Ukraine-made gas turbines. These are under a '2+2' scheme which was under the works since 2015.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Slovenia becomes only NATO country with female Army Chief

Slovenia became the first North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Country with the female Army Chief after the appointment of Major General Alenka Ermenc to the post of Head of its Army. The 55 years Old former Army Commander, Alenka Ermenc started her military career in 1991 when Slovenia won independence from former Yugoslavia.

Global temperatures to rise by 3-5°C by 2100: United Nations

The UN World Meteorological Organization on Thursday said that global temperatures are on track to rise by 3-5°C by 2100, exceeding the global target of limiting the increase to 2°C or less. "Greenhouse gas concentrations are once again at record levels," Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said. He added that economic and technological means to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C already exist.

Australia 1st to recognise ‘orphanage trafficking’ as slavery

Australia has become the first country in the world to recognise ‘orphanage trafficking’ as a form of modern slavery. Children from smaller countries are recruited in orphanages in the West for the purpose of profit through foreign aid. As per estimates, 80% of children living in the world’s orphanages have at least one living parent.

US, Mexico and Canada sign new trade deal to replace NAFTA

US President Donald Trump, Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto and Canadian PM Justin Trudeau signed the new US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) which will replace the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). USMCA will govern over a trillion dollars worth of trade between the three countries. The deal requires ratification by all three countries’ legislatures before taking effect.

Alphabet working to end mosquito-borne diseases worldwide

Researchers of Google-parent Alphabet’s life sciences’ unit Verily in an interview revealed a trial aimed at eliminating mosquito-borne diseases worldwide. Scientists said they released a large number of male mosquitoes of a certain breed infected with a bacteria that affects their ability to reproduce. The mosquito’s population was claimed to be down by 95% in a trial city.

Germany asks France to give its UN Security Council seat to EU

Germany’s Vice-Chancellor Olaf Scholz has called for France to give up its permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council and turn it into a seat for the European Union (EU). This would allow the EU to speak “with one voice” at the world body, he said. France could instead become the permanent EU ambassador to the UN, he added.

Ukraine warns of threat of ‘full-scale war’ with Russia

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has warned of the threat of “full-scale war” with Russia amid the tensions between the two countries. The number of Russian units deployed along the Ukraine-Russian border has “grown dramatically”, he said.

Nariman Light House to be inaugurated

A rooftop memorial at Nariman House, the Jewish centre in Colaba, is to be formally inaugurated on Monday, the tenth anniversary of the Mumbai terror attacks. The memorial will be called the Nariman Light House.

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. Businesses can pay 23 different taxes with Bitcoin, from employee withholding tax to fuel and sales tax, through an online cryptocurrency portal. Businesses that operate and pay taxes in the state will be eligible to register on the portal.

China developing its own \$9 bn system to rival US-run GPS

China is developing a \$9 billion global navigation system to rival and eventually replace the US-run GPS in the country. The alternative system, called BeiDou, is set to be implemented in a wide variety of systems including smartphones, autonomous cars, planes and ships. BeiDou, which is currently operational in China and neighbouring regions, will be globally available by 2020.

European Union leaders approve Brexit deal with the UK

The UK's withdrawal agreement from the European Union (EU) has been approved by the bloc's 27 heads of state, the President of the European Council Donald Tusk announced. The deal now needs to be approved by the UK Parliament, which is expected to vote in early December. Britain is scheduled to leave the EU in March 2019.

Beijing's population falls for the first time in 20 years

The population of China's capital Beijing fell for the first time in 20 years in 2017, the Chinese state media reported citing official data. The number of permanent residents in Beijing in 2017 was 21.7 million, 22,000 fewer than the previous year. Beijing aims to cap its population at 23 million by the end of the decade.

Saudi Arabia, UAE to give \$500-million aid to war-torn Yemen

Saudi Arabia and the UAE have pledged \$500 million in aid to war-torn Yemen as millions of people in the country face starvation. According to the United Nations, Yemen is facing the world's worst humanitarian crisis, where over 22 million people rely on humanitarian assistance. Ten thousand people are estimated to have been killed in Yemen's civil war since 2015.

UN General Assembly adopts 1st resolution on sexual harassment

The Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on Monday adopted the world body's first resolution to combat sexual harassment. The resolution urges countries to address the discrimination faced by women that makes them vulnerable to exploitation, violence and abuse. It also encourages states to adopt measures to eliminate violence and sexual harassment in digital contexts.

Iraq launches air strikes against ISIS in Syria

Iraq launched air strikes against the Islamic State in Syria, the Iraqi military said. Ten militants were killed in the strikes which targeted two buildings housing the terrorists and their weapons. Iraq has been carrying out air strikes against ISIS in Syria with the approval of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and the US-led coalition fighting the militant group.

China unveils the world's first underground hotel

Shanghai unveiled the world's first underground hotel, the InterContinental Shanghai Wonderland, buried 90 metres deep in an old quarry. Built in the Sheshan Mountain Range, on the hem of Shanghai, the ritzy hotel costs \$287.9 million. The property was built by British firm Atkins, also behind the Burj Al Arab in Dubai and skyscraper Landmark 81 in Ho Chi Minh City.

China builds an 'Artificial Sun' 6 times hotter than Sun's core

Scientists at a Chinese institute announced that their nuclear fusion reactor dubbed 'artificial sun' reached 100 million°C, the temperature required to carry out fusion on Earth.

The record-high temperature is six times the temperature of Sun's core of 15 million°C. The reactor is designed to mimic processes occurring at the Sun to turn hydrogen into cost-effective clean energy.

Tajikistan inaugurated US\$ 3.9 billion 'Rogun hydro-electric project'

Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon inaugurated a USD 3.9 billion hydro-electric power plant, a mega project that will enable the impoverished country to eliminate domestic energy shortages and export electricity to Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Built on the Vakhsh River in southern Tajikistan, the plant is expected to reach a height of 335 metres (1,099 feet) in a decade, becoming the world's tallest hydro-electric dam.

'Toxic' named 'Word of the Year 2018' by Oxford Dictionaries

'Toxic' has been chosen as the 'Word of the Year 2018' by Oxford Dictionaries. Defining the word as "poisonous", Oxford Dictionaries said it had become a "descriptor for the year's most talked about topics". First appearing in English in the mid-17th century, from the medieval Latin toxicus, the word has been used to describe workplaces, schools, relationships, cultures and stress.

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UK and the European Union agree on Brexit agreement draft

The British Cabinet is set to have an important meeting as the U.K. and EU negotiators agreed on the text of a draft withdrawal agreement in Brussels.

The Cabinet meeting is due to take place to decide the next steps, following discussions in Brussels. The development will put the spotlight firmly on the internal battles within the U.K. government over the terms under which Britain will leave the EU.

China builds ‘artificial sun’ 6 times hotter than Sun’s core..

Scientists at a Chinese institute announced that their nuclear fusion reactor dubbed ‘artificial sun’ reached 100 million°C, the temperature required to carry out fusion on Earth. The record-high temperature is six times the temperature of Sun’s core of 15 million°C. The reactor is designed to mimic processes occurring at the Sun to turn hydrogen into cost-effective clean energy.

Thirty third ASEAN Summit begins in Singapore

The 33rd edition of the ASEAN Summit begun in Singapore. Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Hsien Loong is the Chairman of the Summit, which will continue till 15th November along with other related summits like East Asia Summit (EAS), Regional Comprehensive Economic Summit, (RCEP) and ASEAN plus summits.

Fintech Conference which is a part of Fintech festival will also take place alongside.

Amnesty Int’l strips Myanmar’s Suu Kyi of human rights award

Human rights group Amnesty International has stripped Aung San Suu Kyi of its highest honour over the Myanmar leader’s “indifference” to the atrocities committed by the Myanmar military against Rohingya Muslims. The group said that Aung San Suu Kyi was no longer a symbol of hope. She had received the Ambassador of Conscience Award in 2009, while under house arrest.

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.

Saudi bans Israeli Muslims from Hajj pilgrimage

New Saudi passport rules have barred Israeli Muslims from visiting Mecca for Hajj pilgrimage. Since Israel and Saudi don’t have diplomatic ties, Israeli Muslims visited Mecca by going to

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Jordan where they got temporary Jordanian passports that allowed them to travel to the kingdom. Saudi will no longer accept temporary Jordanian passport.

China, Myanmar sign deal to build port along Bay of Bengal

China and Myanmar have signed an agreement to build a port in Myanmar's Kyaukpyu town along the Bay of Bengal. China will fund 70% of the project, while the remaining 30% will be funded by Myanmar. A joint venture will be set up to construct and operate the port, which is being built under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

World's first AI news anchor unveiled in China

Chinese press agency Xinhua unveiled AI-based anchor that can read the news in English and Chinese, as naturally as a professional news anchor. The system, developed with Beijing-based search engine operator Sogou, produces realistic-looking speech, lip movements and facial expressions.

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.

Bangladesh to use EVMs for 1st time in general polls next month

Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) will be used for the first time on a limited scale in Bangladesh's general elections to be held on December 23. The traditional system of vote casting will also be used. Nearly 10.4 crore people, including more than 5.1 crore women, are registered as voters in Bangladesh.

Ozone layer will be completely healed by 2060s: UN study

A United Nations' study has revealed that the Ozone layer, which shields the Earth against cancer-causing solar rays, will be completely healed by 2060s. The hole above the Antarctic is healing at a rate of 1-3% a year, the study further revealed. The study was a four-yearly review of the Montreal Protocol which banned man-made gases damaging the Ozone layer.

Japan wins WTO ruling against India's safeguard duty on steel

A World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute settlement panel upheld Japan's complaint against safeguard duty imposed by India on imports of hot-rolled flat steel products for two-and-a-half years. The ruling said India had violated core global trade rules and urged India to take corrective action. The dispute panel's ruling should be adopted within 60 days, unless a party decides to appeal.

US elects its first openly gay Governor

Democratic Congressman Jared Polis has become the first openly gay person to be elected as a Governor in the US. The 43-year-old defeated Republican candidate Walker Stapleton in the mid-term elections to secure the governorship of the state of Colorado. The millionaire politician is a five-term Congressman from the city of Boulder in Colorado.

Singapore is Asia most sustainable city: Arcadis

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.

World's largest supercomputer 'SpiNNaker' 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.

Little India Gate inaugurated in Indonesia's Medan city

'Little India Gate', the first-of-its-kind structure in Indonesia recognises the contribution of Indian community in the development of Medan city. Kampung Madras area is one of the city's significant ethnic enclaves comprising a large population of people of Indian descent whose ancestors had settled down in Medan in mid-nineteenth century.

Chola MS renewed its partnership with IndusInd Bank

Chola MS General Insurance has renewed its bancassurance partnership with IndusInd Bank for a further period of five years. Chola MS General Insurance a joint venture between Murugappa group and Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Company of Japan. The partnership is to roll out more digital innovative insurance solutions, especially in claims servicing that will ensure the adoption of more products per customer.

Shillong to host Indian Cherry Blossom Festival from Nov 14

Shillong is set to host the second edition of the India International Cherry Blossom Festival between November 14 and 17. This is the world's only autumn cherry blossom festival. This festival attracted more than one lakh visitors last year, boosting the local economy by 300 per cent. Meghalaya Chief Minister – Conrad K Sangma.

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Qatar to host World Corporate Games in 2019

Qatar will host the 23rd edition of the World Corporate Games between 6 and 9 November 2019. This is the first time the World Corporate Games will be held in the Middle East. Nearly 8,000 international and local participants will take part.

Netherlands 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.

New Zealand tops ‘Ease of Doing Business’ index for 3rd straight year

New Zealand has retained the top position in the World Bank’s ‘Ease of Doing Business’ ranking for the third consecutive year. Singapore and Denmark secured the second and third ranks respectively in the list of 190 nations. The index takes into account a country’s trading regulations, property rights and investment laws among other factors.

Science & Technology

ISRO launched HysIS into orbit

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.

ISRO launches India’s HySIS with 30 satellites of 8 countries

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched India’s Hyperspectral Imaging Satellite (HySIS) along with 30 micro and nanosatellites of eight other countries after a 16-hour countdown. HySIS will help in monitoring pollution from industries, according to ISRO. It will also have other applications in agriculture, forestry, geology, coastal zone study and inland water studies.

NASA spacecraft landed on Mars with names of over 1L Indians

NASA’s InSight spacecraft which landed on Mars, carried the names of around 1.38 lakh Indians on a silicon chip, according to the space agency. India ranks third in the list, the first being the US with 6,76,773 names, followed by China with 2,62,752 names. The names were written with lines smaller than one one-thousandth the diameter of a human hair.

NASA InSight lands on Mars 7 months after launch

NASA's InSight spacecraft landed on Mars after nearly a seven-month, 458-million-kilometre journey, and a 6.5-minute parachuted descent through the Red Planet's atmosphere. The 360-kg lander also shared its first photo from Mars, showing an area called Elysium Planitia, where it will dig five metres below the surface. The \$993-million mission will measure the Mars' internal heat and study quakes.

NASA satellites Wall-E, EVE to track robotic Mars landing

NASA's experimental mini-satellites (CubeSats), nicknamed 'Wall-E' and 'EVE' after Disney-Pixar characters, will broadcast status of InSight Mars lander. Both use a compressed gas found in fire extinguishers to push themselves through space, same way Wall-E did in the 2008 film. InSight, the first mission to study deep interior of Mars, is on track for landing on the planet.

NASA announces landing site for its 2020 Mars rover

NASA has announced a 3.6 billion-year-old crater called Jezero Crater as the landing site for its 2020 rover mission to Mars. "Getting samples from this unique area will revolutionise how we think about Mars and its ability to harbour life," researchers said. The crater was chosen after a five-year search that examined some 60 other sites on Mars.

NASA to put people in Mars within 25 years

NASA officials said that it is planning to send people to Mars within 25 years. The deadly radiation from the cosmos, atrophying bones, and potential vision loss are just some of the challenges, the scientists need to overcome.

India's heaviest rocket launches GSAT-29 satellite into orbit

India's heaviest and most powerful rocket GSLV Mk-III successfully launched ISRO's latest communication satellite GSAT-29. Expected to function for 10 years, the 3,423-kg satellite was placed into a geostationary orbit at 35,786 km from the Earth. The rocket is expected to carry Indian astronauts for the 2022 mission and also India's second Moon mission Chandrayaan-2 in January 2019.

ISRO invites international payloads for 2023 Venus mission

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has invited international proposals for scientific payloads for its second interplanetary mission to Venus in mid-2023. India will send 12 scientific payloads aboard the satellite, including a thermal camera, mass spectrometer and cloud monitoring camera. The final spacecraft is likely to have a payload capacity of close to 100 kg, according to ISRO.

NASA's Ralph to explore Jupiter's Trojan asteroids in 2021

Ralph – a space instrument that has travelled as far as Pluto — was first launched aboard the New Horizons spacecraft in 2006 and obtained stunning flyby images of Jupiter and its moons.

In 2021, Ralph is set to journey with the Lucy mission to Jupiter's Trojan asteroids. The instrument will fly by another Kuiper Belt object called 2014 MU69 — nicknamed Ultima Thule – in January 2019.

GSAT 11 returned to Guiana space centre for December launch

GSAT-11, the heaviest Indian communication satellite built to date is back at the Guiana Space Centre for an early December launch. The satellite is for faster Internet connectivity. It returns to the South American port for the second time in six months after it was taken back to Bengaluru in April for inspections.

India is nuclear capable at sea, land, air with INS Arihant test

India's first nuclear-powered submarine INS Arihant has completed its first deterrence patrol. The submarine completes India's nuclear triad by adding sea-based strike capability to land and air-based delivery platforms. "INS Arihant will protect the 130 crore Indians... and its success gives a fitting response to those who indulge in nuclear blackmail," PM added.

HAL to open Light Combat Aircraft unit in Nashik

R. Madhavan, Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., said that HAL plans to manufacture Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) fighters at a new unit in its Nashik complex after completing the deliveries of Sukhoi-30. The licence production of the last 24 Sukhoi-30 MkIs is due to end there in March 2020.

INS Viraat to be converted into a floating maritime museum soon

INS Viraat will be India's first decommissioned aircraft carrier that will be turned into an adventure and maritime tourism. It will host activities like scuba diving, luxury hotel, cafeteria and other adventure sports. At present, Viraat is at Mumbai's Naval dockyard after its decommissioning in 2017. As per the Maharashtra government's Rs 852-crore plan for Viraat, the ship's conversion will be on public- private- partnership (PPP) basis.

INS Tarangini returned after 205-day world tour

The sail training ship of Indian Navy, INS Tarangini based at Kochi, returned after a seven-month sail across the world. The ship sailed over 22000 nautical miles across 15 ports in 13 countries in 205 days.

SPORTS

Brazil lost forests equal to 1 mn football pitches due to deforestation.

In Brazil, the deforestation has reached its height that an area equivalent to one million football pitches was lost in just one year. According to the governmental institution of special investigations said that between August 2017 and July 2018, deforestation increased by almost 14%, with an area of 7, 900 sq km, it's more or less one million football fields, of forest cleared.

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.

Sonia wins silver in her first world championship

Playing in her first AIBA Women's World Boxing Championship, India's 21-year-old boxer Sonia Chahal won silver medal after losing to Germany's OG Wahner in the 57-kg category.

Mary Kom becomes 1st woman boxer to win 6 world championship titles

India's Mary Kom has become the first ever boxer to win six AIBA Women's World Boxing Championship titles. The 35-year-old boxer achieved the feat by defeating 22-year-old Hanna Okhota of Ukraine in the final of the 48-kg category in Delhi on Saturday. Kom had previously won world championship gold medals in 2002, 2005, 2006, 2008 and 2010.

Sameer Verma wins his 2nd straight Syed Modi International title

World number 16 Sameer Verma defeated world number 36 Lu Guangzu of China in the men's singles final to win his second straight Syed Modi International Badminton Championship title. The 24-year-old Indian shuttler won the match with a scoreline of 16-21, 21-19, 21-14. Sameer is the second Indian male shuttler after Kashyap Parupalli to win the tournament twice.

Saina Nehwal wins silver at Syed Modi International 2018

World number nine Saina Nehwal bagged silver at Syed Modi International Badminton Championships 2018 on Sunday after losing to world number 27 Han Yue. The 19-year-old Chinese shuttler defeated the 28-year-old Indian 18-21, 8-21 in 34 minutes. Saina, who had previously won the tournament in 2009, 2014 and 2015, was competing in her fourth final of the year.

Dipa grabs bronze in vault event at Artistic Gymnastics WC

Dipa Karmakar won bronze in the vault event on the third day of the Artistic Gymnastics World Cup in Cottbus, Germany. "It was overwhelming to compete against some of the best athletes in the world!! Aaj ye bronze bhi gold lag raha hai," Karmakar tweeted after her win. Dipa further thanked her coach, her parents, and her physio.

Australia beat England to win Women's World T20 for fourth time

Australia defeated England by 8 wickets in Antigua to win the Women's World T20 for the fourth time. This was the third time after the 2012 and 2014 editions that Australia defeated England in the final to clinch Women's World T20 title. The match witnessed Australia all-rounder Ellyse Perry become only the second cricketer to reach 100 T20I wickets.

Hockey captain Manpreet signed up with Adidas

Indian men's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh signed up with global sports giant, Adidas ahead of the season-ending World Cup to be played in Bhubaneswar from November 28 to December 16.

SER won the 41st All India Railway bridge championship

South Eastern Railway (SER) emerged champion in the team event of the 41st all-India Railway bridge championship at Garden Reach, Kolkata. South Eastern, Eastern, Metro and Central entered the super league before the former won the title with 43.79 VPs. Eastern finished runner-up. South Eastern was represented by Hasibul Hasan, Pranab Roy, Sandip Dutta, Prasanta Bera, Subhasish Sarkar and Wrik Chakraborty who have also represented the country in many international tournaments

ICC teams up with Google

The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced its partnership with Google. The partnership is to offer the fans a great viewing experience of the upcoming semifinals and final of the ICC Women's World T20. This partnership includes enabling the casting of video content from the ICC mobile app on cast-enabled devices, like Chromecast and Google Home Hub.

Wasim Jaffer becomes first Indian to touch 11,000-run milestone in Ranji Trophy

Veteran first-class cricketer Wasim Jaffer became the first Indian batsman to touch the 11,000-run figure in the Ranji Trophy. The Vidharbha batsman achieved the milestone during the third-round match against Baroda here at the Vidarbha Cricket Association (VCA). The cricketer, who had made his first-class debut in 1996-97, emerged as one of the legends of the Indian domestic cricket.

Alexander Zverev beats world no. 1 Djokovic to win ATP Finals title

Alexander Zverev of Germany defeated world number one Novak Djokovic to win his maiden ATP World Tour Finals title on Sunday. The 21-year-old won with a scoreline of 6-4, 6-3 and became the youngest player to win the tournament since Djokovic himself in 2008.

Ankita, Karman win their maiden WTA title in Taipei

Ankita Raina and Karman Kaur Thandi, India's top two women's tennis players, won their first doubles title together as they lifted the OEC Open trophy in Taipei on Sunday. This was also the first WTA title, singles or doubles, for both the Indian players. The all-Indian pair's opponents Olga Doroshina and Natela Dzalamidze were forced to retire in the final.

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.

Australia's John Hastings retires from International Cricket

Australia all-rounder John Hastings announced retirement from all forms of cricket due to a lung disease. Hastings had already retired from ODI and Test cricket last year but continued to play T20 cricket.

Asab won gold in the 62nd National Shotgun championship

Mohd. Asab and Ahvar Rizvi defeated Ankur Mittal, the reigning World champion, and won the double trap gold and silver in the 62nd National Shotgun championship held at Jaipur, Rajasthan. Asab shot 134 to beat Ahvar by one point and Ankur shot 128.

Lewis Hamilton Won Brazilian Grand Prix

Lewis defeated Red Bull's Max Verstappen in a collision with backmarker Esteban Ocon (Force India). The incident dropped the Dutchman back to second place and although he came back at Hamilton, he could not quite catch him.

Lionel Messi wins sixth La Liga Player of the Year award

Barcelona forward Lionel Messi was declared the Spanish football league's best player of the 2017-18 campaign by Marca at an awards ceremony in Barcelona. Messi also won the Pichichi Trophy at the ceremony, an award given to the top scorer in La Liga each year. Atletico Madrid's goalkeeper Jan Oblak was named the goalkeeper of the year.

Kento Momota won badminton's Fuzhou China Open

World champion Kento Momota won badminton's Fuzhou China Open to add another title to his already spectacular season. Japan's world number one survived a spirited challenge from Taiwan's Chou Tien-chen, defeating the fourth seed 21-13, 11-21, 21-16 in 66 minutes.

Bajrang Punia becomes world no. 1 wrestler in 65-kg category

Asian Games and Commonwealth Games gold medallist Bajrang Punia has become the world number one wrestler in the 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.

Harmanpreet Kaur 1st Indian woman to slam a ton 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.

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.

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.

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India clinched bronze in SAFF U 15 at Nepal

India clinched the bronze medal in the SAFF U-15 Championship at Nepal. India beat Nepal, the host, and registered a 1-0 win in a third-place playoff. Thlacheu Vanlalruatfela's goal eventually proved to be enough. The goal came in the 18th minute after Vanlalruatfela scored following nice build-up by his teammates.

Nitten, Vlada duo won silver in the ITF World championship

Nitten Kirrtane, former National champion, and Vlada Kirlovska of Latvia won the mixed doubles silver in the International Tennis Federation (ITF) World championship for over-40. The top seeds Stefanie Kolar and Marcus Hilpert beat the Indo-Latvian pair 7-6(13), 6-2 in the final.

India enters final in the FIBA U 18 womens Asian championship

India marched into the Division B final of the FIBA U-18 women's Asian championship held at Bengaluru, India. India won an 83-38 victory over Hong Kong at the Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium, Bengaluru. India is to face Kazakhstan for its promotion to Division A.

Tata Steel named as official partner of men's Hockey World Cup

Men's hockey World Cup 2018 to be held at Bhubaneswar, Odisha from November 28 to December 16. Tata Steel is the 10th-largest steel producer in the world. Tata Steel is the first private sector company in India to start a hockey academy. Hockey India CEO – Elena Norman.

Djokovic to become rank 1 after Nadal exits Paris Masters

Serbian tennis player Novak Djokovic will again reach the world number one rank after his Spanish rival Rafael Nadal withdrew from the Paris Masters tournament. Nadal, who cited abdominal injury behind his withdrawal, will abdicate the top ranking when the rankings get refreshed on Monday. Notably, Djokovic has won two Grand Slam titles this year.

OBITUARY

Name of the Person Died	Associated Field
Mohammed Aziz	'My Name is Lakhan' singer
Devadas Mallya	InterGlobe Aviation Chairman
MH Ambareesh	Kannada actor, former minister
CK Jaffer Sharief	Senior Congress leader
MP Baishnab Parida	Former MP and writer
Sandeep Michael	Former Indian hockey player

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Brigadier Kuldip Singh Chandpuri	Hero of Longewala battle,
Alyque Padamsee	Padma Shri awardee ad filmmaker
Stan Lee	co-creator of Spider-Man
Ananth Kumar	Senior BJP leader and Union Minister
Lalan Sarang	Veteran Marathi actress

Important Days

Date	Day	Theme
5 November	National Ayurveda Day	Ayurveda for Public health
5 November	World Tsunami Awareness Day	
7 November	National Cancer Awareness Day	
8 November	International Day Of Radiology	Cardiac Imaging
9 November	National Legal Services Day	
10 November	World Science Day for Peace and Development	“Science, a Human Right”
11 November	National Education Day	
12 November	World Pneumonia Day:	
12 November	Public Service Broadcasting Day	
13 November	World Kindness Day	
14 November	Rosogolla Day in West Bengal	
14 November	World Diabetes Day	The Family and Diabetes”
16 November	National Press Day	
16 November	International Day for Tolerance	
17 November	International Students Day	
19 November	World Toilet Day	‘When Nature Calls’
20 November	Africa Industrialization Day	
20 November	Universal Children’s Day	

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21 November	World Hello day	
21 November	World Television Day	
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	
26 November	Indian Constitution Day	
26 November	National Milk Day	
27 November	Formation Day of NDMA	