

# CURRENT AFFAIRS OCTOBER 2019 PDF

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

Name	Title	Additional Information
Ram Nath Kovind	Vayoshreshtha Samman-2019	The awards will be conferred at a function organized by Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
Sachin Tendulkar	Swachhata ambassador award	The former Indian Cricketer utilized his fame and popularity to ensure India achieved its goal of Swachh Bharat.
Ben Stokes	Professional Cricketers' Association Players' Player of the Year award	Ben Stokes bagged the Professional Cricketers' Association Players' Player of the Year award after his splendid show in the ICC Cricket World Cup and the Ashes.
Britain's Peter Ratcliffe and William Kaelin and Gregg Semenza	2019 Nobel Prize: Medicine	Britain's Peter Ratcliffe and William Kaelin and Gregg Semenza of US shared the 2019 Nobel Medicine Prize for their work on how cells sense and adapt to oxygen availability.
Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz, James Peebles	Nobel Prize – Physics category for "New understanding of universe"	Swiss Scientists Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz and Canadian – American physicist James Peebles. One half of the prize was won by the American for his contribution towards "Theoretical discoveries in physical cosmology". The other half was shared between the Swiss scientists for their work on "Discovery of an exoplanet orbiting a star similar to sun".
John B Goodenough, M Stanley Whittingham and Akira Yoshino	Nobel Prize 2019: Chemistry	These three scientists created the right conditions for a wireless and fossil fuel-free society. Lithium ion batteries: The foundation of the lithium-ion batteries were laid by Stanley Whittingham in the 1970s, during the oil crisis.
Ramesh Pandey	Asia Environmental Enforcement Award by UNEP	The United Nations Environment Programme has selected Senior Indian Forest

## CURRENT AFFAIRS OCTOBER 2019 PDF

		Service officer Ramesh Pandey for the prestigious Asia Environmental Enforcement Award.
Olga Tokarczuk	Nobel Prize in Literature for the year 2018	Polish author
Peter Handke	Nobel Prize in Literature for the year 2019	Austrian author
Abhiy Ahmed Ali	Nobel Peace Prize – 2019	The prize was awarded in particular to honor his initiatives to resolve border conflict with Eritrea.
Chandi Prasad Bhatt	Indira Gandhi Award	Environmentalism Chandi Prasad Bhatt was awarded Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration for the years 2017 and 2018 for his services in promoting and preserving national integration in the country.
MS Ananth	Lifetime Achievement Award at TiECON Chennai 2019	Former Director of Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, MS Ananth was conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the TiECON Chennai 2019 event held here.
Priyadarshan	National Kishore Kumar Samman for 2018-19	Noted director and producer Priyadarshan, was conferred the Madhya Pradesh government's National Kishore Kumar Samman for 2018-19 at a function held in Khandwa, the birthplace of the legendary singer- actor, Kishore Kumar.
Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)	Most outstanding company in India's IT services sector in Asiamoney's 2019	siamoney's various investor surveys recognized TCS as the most awarded company of the decade in India
Margaret Atwood and Bernardine Evaristo	2019 Booker Prize	The 2019 Booker Prize was jointly won by Margaret Atwood and Bernardine Evaristo after judges defied the rules by declaring a tie.
Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer	2019 Nobel Prize in Economics	Their research will help the world community to understand, address and fight the formidable challenge of poverty.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS OCTOBER 2019 PDF

Elgi Equipments	2019 CII Design Excellence Award	The CII Design Excellence Awards is endorsed by the India Design Council.
Leonel Messi	6th Golden Shoe award	Barcelona FC captain Leonel Messi won the Golden Shoe for the 2018/19 season, for being the top scorer in the European leagues with 36 goals (in 34 games). This is his sixth Golden Shoe.
46 biomedical scientists	ICMR awards Scientists for Excellence in Biomedical Research	Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) awarded 46 biomedical scientists from different institutes across the country for excellence in biomedical research.
Dutee Chand	Vogue award for Sportsperson of the Year	Dutee Chand holds the national record in women's 100m. She has brought many laurels to the country and state. In October, she clocked 11.22 seconds in the semi-final of women's 100m event at the 59th National Open Athletics Championships 2019 in Ranchi.
K Parasaran	Most Eminent Senior Citizen Award	Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu presented Most Eminent Senior Citizen Award to legal luminary and former Attorney General K. Parasaran at a function in New Delhi.
Marg ERP	Udyog Rattan Award	The promoters of Marg ERP, which provides inventory and accounting software to over one million active users including to 2,50,000 MSMEs, has bagged Udyog Rattan Award from the Government.
Ilham Tohti	Sakharov Prize	The European Union (EU) Parliament awarded the 'Sakharov Prize for Human Rights' to Uighur intellectual Ilham Tohti (49), who has been jailed and sentenced to life imprisonment in China for "separatism".
Leeladhar Jagoori	2018 Vyas Samman	He was awarded for his collection of poems, Jitne Log Utne Prem, his 12th anthology of poetry. The 28th Vyas Samman was presented to

		Jagoori by the renowned author Govind Mishra. He presented a new world of experience, language, narrative, and art. Jagoori's poems are the ever-changing sounds of experiments and progress.
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## APPOINTMENTS

Name	Designation	Extra Information
KS Dhatwalia	Director General of the Press Information Bureau (PIB)	The Centre appointed senior Indian Information Service (IIS) official KS Dhatwalia as the new Director General of the Press Information Bureau (PIB). Dhatwalia will become the 28th DG of the PIB succeeding incumbent Sitanshu Ranjan Kar.
Punit Goenka	IAA India Chapter's president	Punit Goenka, managing director and chief executive officer, Zee Entertainment Enterprises, has been re-elected as the president of the India Chapter of the International Advertising Association (IAA).
Mallikarjuna Rao	MD and CEO of PNB	Ch S S Mallikarjuna Rao was appointed the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Punjab National Bank, an official order said.
Surjit S Bhalla	Executive Director for India at IMF	The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Economist Surjit S Bhalla as Executive Director for India on board of International Monetary Fund (IMF).
P K Gupta	Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of NBCC	Gupta is currently serving as the Executive Director of engineering services company RITES Limited.
Vinod Kumar Sharma	Punjab Lokpal	. The State government, however, failed to amend the Punjab Lokpal Act, 1996, hence leaving the Chief

## CURRENT AFFAIRS OCTOBER 2019 PDF

		Minister and the Cabinet ministers out of its ambit.
Lingappa Narayana Swamy	Himachal Chief Justice	Himachal Pradesh Governor Bandaru Dattatreya administered the oath of office to Justice Lingappa Narayana Swamy as the Chief Justice of High Court.
Yalitza Aparicio	UNESCO ambassador	The United Nations' cultural agency UNESCO has appointed Mexican actress Yalitza Aparicio as its goodwill ambassador for indigenous peoples.
Chris Silverwood	England head coach	After much speculation, England have appointed Chris Silverwood as their new head coach across all formats, replacing Trevor Bayliss
Anita Pai, Jasneet Bachal	Yes Bank	Yes Bank Ltd appointed Anita Pai as chief operating officer and Jasneet Bachal as chief marketing officer, the bank said in an exchange filing.
C K Venkataraman	Titan – MD	Private sector Titan Company announced that its Managing Director (MD) Bhaskar Bhat has retired after 33 years of service in the company.
Sourav Ganguly	President of the BCCI	Sourav Ganguly will take charge as President of the BCCI on October 23, while Jay Shah will get the Secretary's post and Arun Dhumal will be the Treasurer.
Kais Saied	President of Tunisia	Kais Saied is elected as the new President of Tunisia after a landslide victory in recently concluded Presidential runoff.
J. P. S. Chawla	new Controller General of Accounts	Central government appointed Shri J. P. S. Chawla as the new Controller General of Accounts (CGA) for the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. The appointment with effect from 15 October 2019 on a regular basis.
Sajjan Jindal	vice chairman- Global body World Steel Association (worldsteel)	Global body World Steel Association (worldsteel) on October 16 said it has elected JSW Steel Chairman and

## CURRENT AFFAIRS OCTOBER 2019 PDF

		Managing Director (CMD) Sajjan Jindal as its vice chairman.
Peter Babej	Asia-Pacific CEO	Mr Babej has been at Citi since 2010 when he joined as co-head of its financial institutions group. He later became the sole head of the group in 2017. Prior to Citi, he held senior banking positions at Deutsche Bank and Lazard.
Mr. Shrikant Madhav Vaidya	Director Refineries of IndianOil	Mr. Shrikant Madhav Vaidya has taken over as the Director (Refineries) of IndianOil . He is also a Director on the board of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
Shri Vivek Dube	Special Observer for Sikkim Bye-Elections	Election Commission of India appointed Shri Vivek Dube (IPS AP 1981 Retd) as Special Observer for the ensuing Bye Elections to the State Legislative Assemblies of Sikkim 2019
Ajit Kumar Saxena	RINL Director (Operations)	Ajit Kumar Saxena assumed charge as the new Director (Operations) of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant – Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd, according to a press release.
Raghavendra Singh	director of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML)	Former culture secretary Raghavendra Singh has been appointed as the director of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) for the next six months
Anil Kumar Gautam	Director (Finance) at NTPC	A company statement said that Gautam (aged 57 years) is a Certified Management Accountant & LLB with over 34 years of experience in the power sector.
Rajnish Kumar	Indian Banks Association – chairman	SBI's head Rajnish Kumar has been elected as the chairman of the banking industry lobby Indian Banks Association for fiscal 2019-20.
Christine Lagarde	head of the European Central Bank (ECB)	She was nominated to become the president of the European Central Bank by the European Union Council.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS OCTOBER 2019 PDF

Anup Kumar Singh	Director-General of the National Security Guard (NSG)	The appointment of Mr Singh, who is a 1985-batch IPS officer, was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. His appointment will be from the date of joining the post and up to 30th of September, 2020.
Joko Widodo	Indonesia's President	Indonesia's President Joko Widodo popularly known as Jokowi has been sworn into office for his second and final five-year term.
Deepika Padukone, P. V. Sindhu	ambassadors for 'Bharat Ki Laxmi'	The Bharat Ki Laxmi campaign underscores the cause of women empowerment as well as celebrates extraordinary achievements of extraordinary women of India. PM Modi also shared a video in this regard.
Sanjeev Nandan Sahai	new Power Secretary	The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of senior IAS officer Sanjeev Nandan Sahai as the new power secretary.
Braj Raj Sharma	SSC Chairman	The Central government has appointed Braj Raj Sharma as the Chairman of the Staff Selection Commission (SSC). He will replace Pankaj Kumar, who has been appointed as CEO of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).
Saied	Tunisia's president	Saied's win delivered a heavy blow to a governing elite accused of failing to improve living standards or end corruption since the 2011 revolution that introduced democracy after years of authoritarian rule.
Sukhbir Sandhu	NHAI Chairman	Sandhu is 1988 batch IAS officer from the Uttarakhand Cadre was the additional secretary at the department of education and will replace NN Sinha, who was appointed as the secretary, department for border management.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS OCTOBER 2019 PDF

Sailesh	secretary in Department of Public Enterprises	Sailesh assumed charge as secretary in the Department of Public Enterprises under the Union Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises here, an official statement said.
Manohar Lal Khattar	Haryana CM	Manohar Lal Khattar took oath as Haryana chief minister for the second term and will lead the BJP-JJP coalition government in the state. Haryana governor Satyadeo Narain Arya administered the oath at a ceremony held at the Raj Bhawan here on the occasion of Diwali.
Sophie Wilmes	first woman prime minister of Belgium	The 44-year-old still has to be sworn in by King Philippe, who is expected to announce the nomination formally on Sunday at the earliest.
Arvind Singh	Chief of Airport Authority of India	Singh is at present working in his cadre-state Maharashtra. He has been appointed as the chief of AAI in the rank and pay of additional secretary, an order issued by the personnel ministry said.
Manoj Jain	Chairman and Managing Director of GAIL	Manoj Jain, currently the Director (Business Development) at GAIL (India) Ltd, was selected by government headhunter PESB to helm India's biggest natural gas company.
Pranav Mistry	President and CEO of STAR Labs	Mistry has been working with Samsung in various roles when he joined it in 2012 and was the global vice president at Samsung Electronics since May 2017.
Sharad Arvind Bobde	Chief Justice of India (CJI)	President Ram Nath Kovind appointed Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde as the next Chief Justice of India (CJI). Justice Bobde would become the 47th CJI and will take oath on November 18.



## CURRENT AFFAIRS OCTOBER 2019 PDF

Rafael Grossi	New Director General of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	The Argentine diplomat will succeed late Yukiya Amano as the new chief of IAEA.
G C Murmu	first Lt Governor of UT JK	G C Murmu, 59, is a 1985 batch IAS officer from the Gujarat cadre. He served as the principal secretary to Narendra Modi during his tenure as Chief Minister of Gujarat. He gained his Master of Arts from Utkal University. He also holds an MBA degree from the University of Birmingham.
Radha Krishna Mathur	first Lt. Governor of Ladakh	Radha Krishna Mathur is a retired 1977-batch IAS officer, from the Tripura cadre. While retiring he served as the Chief Information Commissioner of India in 2018. Mr. Mathur, 65, served as a Defence Secretary at the centre before his appointment as Lieutenant Governor.
Alberto Fernandez	Argentinas president	Alberto Fernandez and his running mate, former president Cristina Kirchner, won Argentina's presidential elections 2019. They defeated President Mauricio Macri. Fernandez secured 48% of the vote, and the center-right incumbent Mauricio Macri secured around 40%.

### BANKING AND FINANCE

#### **SBI becomes first Indian bank to have office in Australia's Victoria**

- The State Bank of India opened its Melbourne office, becoming the first Indian bankNSE 1.60 % to have a branch in the Australian state of Victoria.
- The Melbourne office will assist the growing trade and investment relations between Victoria and India and is the outcome of the state's 10-year India Strategy – our shared future, according to a press release.

#### **GeM partnered with Federal Bank for payment related services**

- The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Federal Bank for payment-related services. The MOU was signed by

S. Suresh Kumar, Addl. CEO, GeM and R. Vardharajan, Country Head – Government Business, Federal Bank.

### **RBI imposes Rs 35 lakh penalty on TMB**

- The Reserve Bank has imposed a penalty of Rs 35 lakh on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for violating norms on frauds classification and notification. The RBI said in a release that it imposed the fine via an order dated October 24, 2019.
- It stated that the bank has been penalised for non-compliance with certain provisions of directions issued by RBI on frauds classification and reporting by commercial banks and select FIs directions 2016.

### **World Bank to fund USD 6 bn annual lending support to India**

- World Bank, the multi-lateral funding agency, has announced that it is to continue providing a \$6 billion annual lending target for India to support infrastructure development and alleviate poverty.
- The announcement was made by President of World Bank David Malpass during his visit in the backdrop of the recently released World Bank report on Ease of Doing Business 2020.
- As of now, around 97 projects are being currently executed in India with loan assistance from the World Bank. For the 97 projects, it has provided \$24 billion. It is expected that the program will continue and reflect on the projects and reforms that were going on in India.

### **Axis Bank launches Express FD**

- Private sector lender Axis Bank, announced the launch of a digital fixed-deposit product. Called 'Express FD', a customer can open an Express FD account in three minutes through the digital mode without opening a savings account with the bank.

### **Bank of Baroda signs MoU with Indian Army for new, customised banking experience**

- Bank of Baroda, the country's second largest public sector bank, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Army.
- Through this MoU, the bank has assured a new and customised banking experience for both serving and retired personnel of Indian Army.

### **RBI slaps Rs 1 cr penalty on Bandhan Bank over promoter holding norms**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed Rs 1 crore penalty on Bandhan Bank for non-compliance with promoter holding norms.
- The RBI said that the bank was required to bring down the shareholding of its "non-operative financial holding company" to 40 per cent of its paid-up equity capital within a period of three years from the date of commencement of business of the bank.

### **New India Assurance Company signs Inter Creditor Agreements (ICAs) with Reliance HF, Dewan HF**

- For its exposure to debt instruments of Reliance Home Finance and Dewan Housing Finance. New India Assurance Company has signed the Deed of Accession for entering into the Inter Creditor Agreements for the Company's exposure to the Debt instruments of Reliance Home Finance and Dewan Housing Finance.

### **RBI cuts repo rate by 25 bps to 5.15%, maintains accommodative stance**

- The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India slashed the short-term lending rate, repo rate, by 25 basis points in its fourth bimonthly policy review.
- This was the fifth consecutive rate cut effected by the Shaktikanta Das-led panel, and it was in addition to a cumulative 110 basis points rate cut that RBI has announced so far this year. The repo rate now stands at 5.15 per cent, the lowest since March 2010.

### **ICICI Bank partners CSC e-Governance Services India to expand rural reach**

- ICICI Bank signed a pact with CSC e-Governance Services India to extend its banking and other services to the country's rural regions. "As per the MoU (memorandum of understanding), ICICI Bank will engage more than 3 lakh CSCs (common service centres) working at the last mile as banking correspondents," CSC e-Governance Services India and ICICI said in a joint statement.

### **Uco Bank announces launch of 3 new digital products**

Uco Bank, which recently became the regional bank for the east, launched three new digital products in Kolkata.

- UCash-enables customers to withdraw money from ATMs through mobile banking without using debit card, a statement issued by the bank said.
- Digilocker-aims to eliminate the use of physical documents and enables sharing of verified electronic documents.
- Mobile app-integrates four existing apps of the bank – UCO Mbanking, UCO UPI, UCO Mpassbook and UCO Secure- in a single interface, the statement added.

### **World Bank: Integrated Irrigation Project for Climate resilient Agriculture in Odisha**

- The Government of Odisha and the World Bank have signed 165 million USD loan agreement to strengthen smallholder farmers. The aim of the loan is to implement "Integrated Irrigation Project for Climate Resilient Agriculture".
- The loan will help strengthen the resilience of the farmer production and to improve the marketing of their produce.

### **IOB in pact with Magicbricks to e-auction over 500 properties in 14 cities**

- Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has entered into an agreement with Magicbricks, an online property marketplace, for the e-auction of more than 500 re-possessioned properties worth

more than ₹800 crore. The e-auction will be carried out in two phases – on October 21 and October 30.

### **Bajaj Allianz Life launches video calling service ‘i-SERV’ to enhance customer service experience**

- Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance has taken yet another step towards digital disruption by launching i-SERV, a first-of-its-kind video calling service within the life insurance industry.

### **PayPal is launching a Venmo credit card to help monetize the payment app**

- PayPal is partnering with Synchrony Financial to launch a credit card for Venmo users. The popular peer-to-peer mobile payments app has attracted 40 million users but hasn't been able to turn a profit for its parent company.
- Venmo launched a debit card last year. “The next natural extension was to have a Venmo credit card,” says PayPal’s Darrell Esch.

### **India, ADB sign 190 million dollar loan agreement for improving road connectivity in Rajasthan**

- India and Asian Development Bank, ADB have signed 190 million dollar loan agreement for improving road connectivity in Rajasthan.
- Finance Ministry said, the agreement was signed to upgrade 754 kilometres of state highways which will benefit about 26 million people in 14 districts of Rajasthan.

### **Credit growth slows to 8.74% in HI**

- According to the Reserve Bank of India’s scheduled banks’ statement of position in India, credit growth in the first half slowed to 8.74 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) up to September 27, 2019, (vis-a-vis September 28, 2018) against 12.38 per cent year-on-year growth up to September 28, 2018.

### **ADB Grants \$37 Million for a 47.5 MW Floating Solar Project in Vietnam**

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a \$37 million loan agreement that would finance the installation of a 47.5 MW floating solar project in Vietnam.
- The global lender has signed the agreement with Da Nhim–Ham Thuan–Da Mi Hydro Power Joint Stock Company (DHD) to facilitate the floating solar installation on the man-made reservoir of DHD’s existing 175 MW Da Mi hydropower project.

### **BoB, BNP Paribas arms to merge mutual fund biz**

- Baroda Asset Management India, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda and BNP Paribas Asset Management India, a subsidiary of BNP Paribas Asset Management Asia (BNPP AM), will merge their mutual fund business, subject to regulatory approvals.

- Both Bank of Baroda and BNP Paribas Asset Management Asia have entered into a binding agreement to merge their business which involves no cash consideration, said BoB in a statement.

### **SBI launches debit card EMI on POS**

- The State Bank of India (SBI) has launched an EMI (equated monthly instalment) facility for its existing debit card customers. According to a press release issued by the bank, under the scheme, card holders will be able to avail the loans via point-of-sale (POS) machines across India.
- They can buy the products at 40,000+ merchants and stores in 1,500+ cities having Pine Labs branded POS machines totaling.

### **State Bank of India cuts interest rates on savings accounts, fixed deposits**

- SBI announced revision in interest rate on savings accounts with balances up to Rs 1 lakh from 3.50% to 3.25% . Bank also slashed its retail and bulk term deposit rates by 10 bps and 30 bps respectively for 1 year to less than 2 years tenor. The interest rates on savings account deposits above Rs 1 lakh has been kept unchanged

### **RBI rejects Indiabulls Housing, Lakshmi Vilas Bank's proposed merger**

- The Reserve Bank of India has rejected the proposed merger between Lakshmi Vilas BankNSE and Indiabulls Housing FinanceNSE, the lender said. The bank didn't reveal the reason cited for the central bank's decision.

### **GeM signs MoU with Union Bank of India**

- Government e-Marketplace (GeM) signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Union Bank of India (UBI). Through this partnership, UBI will be able to offer array of services including transfer of funds through GeM Pool Accounts (GPA), advising of Performance Bank Guarantees (e-PBG) and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) to the registered users on the GeM portal.
- It will also facilitate cashless, paperless and transparent payment system on GeM portal and will create an efficient procurement system for government entities.

### **World Bank forecasts Indias GDP forecast to 6 percent**

- World Bank said that India's growth rate is projected to fall to 6% in 2019-20 following the deceleration in the initial quarters of this fiscal.
- World Bank said that India is expected to gradually recover to 6.9% in FY21 and 7.2% in FY22 in its latest edition of the South Asia Economic Focus. In April 2019, World Bank projected India's growth rate as 7.5%.

### **ICICI Bank sells entire stake in GST Network to 13 state governments**

- Private sector ICICI Bank said it has exited the GST Network, the company facilitating collection of the indirect tax, by selling its entire 10 per cent stake to as many as 13 state governments.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS OCTOBER 2019 PDF

- The stake sale is for aggregate cash consideration of ₹1 crore, ICICI Bank said in a regulatory filing.

### **Indian Overseas Bank unveils health insurance policy with Universal Somp**

- Public sector Indian Overseas Bank unveiled an healthcare insurance policy through online platform in association with Universal Somp General Insurance Company Ltd. The policy offered on real time basis to customers at the branches of Indian Overseas Bank through integration of technology of the two institutions.

### **Kotak Mahindra Bank launches first overseas branch at Dubai**

- Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd has launched its first overseas branch at Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), the lender said. This is in addition to the banking unit at the International Financial Centre at GIFT City in Gujarat.
- With this branch licence, Kotak can now accept offshore deposits from professional clients based outside the UAE; provide, arrange and advise on offshore credit and offer investment advisory services.

### **Team Cashless India: Mastercards' campaign to promote digital payments in India**

- Payment technology major Mastercard along with its brand ambassador MS Dhoni launch a nationwide campaign dubbed as 'Team Cashless India' to accelerate the acceptance and adoption of digital payments in India.
- The Team Cashless India' is in line with government's 'Digital India' vision and is an important step towards Mastercard's goal to equip 10 million merchants in India with digital payments acceptance capabilities by 2020.

## INDIAN AFFAIRS

### **MNRE to organise Global Student Solar Assembly on Oct 2**

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) in association with IIT Bombay is organizing the Global Student Solar Assembly on October 2, 2019.
- The day-long event scheduled at Indira Gandhi Stadium Complex, New Delhi will see participation of over 10,000 students from across the institutions from National Capital Region and Delhi, an official statement said.

### **Sports Ministry inks MoU with NBCC to develop National Sports University at Imphal**

- State-owned construction firm NBCC (India) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Department of Sports under Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS) to provide Project Management Consultancy for development of National Sports University at Imphal, Manipur. The approximate cost of project would be Rs.400 crore.

### **Arogya Manthan' event being organised in New Delhi**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will preside over the valedictory function of Arogya Manthan in New Delhi on 1 October 2019. At the event PM Modi will launch a new mobile application of Ayushman Bharat and 'Ayushman Bharat Start-Up Grand Challenge'. He will interact with select beneficiaries of Ayushman Bharat or PM-JAY and will also release a commemorative stamp on the occasion.

### **Trade apprentices to get minimum monthly stipend: Govt**

- Union Ministry for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has notified changes in Apprenticeship Rules (1992) as Apprenticeship (Amendment) Rules, 2019 with an aim to increase skilled manpower in the country, and raise minimum stipend payable to trade apprentices.

### **National Nutrition Survey**

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare organized first National Nutrition Survey. The ministry took help from UNICEF to complete the survey. The survey was conducted between 2016 and 2018. In India, for the first time the ministry measured malnutrition that included micro nutrient deficiencies.
- It was done by collecting urine samples and blood samples. Apart from this, details of non – communicable diseases like hypertension, diabetes, cholesterol, kidney function in children were also collected during the survey.

### **India calls for increased cooperation between FATF and UN**

- To deal with the nexus of terrorist groups India called for increased cooperation between the United Nations (UN) and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Speaking at the General Assembly the first Secretary to India's Permanent Mission said that the activities of terror groups Boko Haram, ISIL, AI Shabab has increased in recent days. In these situations, UN should cooperate with other bodies like FATF to prevent terrorism.

### **Ahead of Diwali, govt launches eco-friendly crackers to fight air pollution**

- As concerns over air-pollution loom ahead of Diwali, Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan launched eco-friendly green firecrackers, which have been manufactured in India and are available in markets for sellers and consumers.

### **Government launches eDant Seva October 8, 2019**

- The eDant Seva was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family welfare. It is an initiative under the National Oral Health Program.
- The initiative aims to sensitize the importance of maintaining oral health. It provides information about nearest oral health service facility. It also provides oral health information collected from authentic scientific sources.



### **3-day India International Cooperative Trade Fair to be held in New Delhi**

- Briefing media in New Delhi, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said representatives from over 150 cooperative societies and 35 countries including, Australia, Japan, China, Brazil, US, UK, Germany and Iran are going to participate in the fair.
- He said, the event will offer a huge opportunity for the industry and business houses from India and abroad to build an alliance, business networking, product sourcing and interact with primary producers of a wide range of products and service providers.

### **First-ever Ladakh Literature Festival**

- Ladakh administration is organizing the first-ever Ladakh Literature festival. The three day Literature Festival is being organized from 29 to 31 October 2019. At venues like historic Leh palace and Central Asian Museum the Ladakh Literature Festival will now be held annually.

### **Prakash Javadekar launches first national protocol to enumerate snow leopard population in India**

- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched the first national protocol to enumerate the snow leopard population in the country on the occasion of International Snow Leopard Day. The Day is celebrated on October 23 every year to protect and conserve the snow leopards and preserve the beautiful wildlife of the Himalayas.

### **New Delhi to Host First “Global Bio-India 2019” Summit from 21st – 23rd November**

- The Global Bio-India 2019, one of the largest biotechnology stakeholders conglomerate will be held for the first time in India at New Delhi from 21st to 23rd November, 2019.
- Announcing this at a Curtain Raiser in Delhi, the Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan said “India for the first time is hosting a mega event for the biotech community to attract investments, showcase our indigenous strengths and more importantly fuel the hopes and aspirations of the indigenous talent pool”.

### **IMF sees Indian economic growth rebounding to 7% next fiscal**

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) sees Indian economic growth rebounding to around 7 per cent in the next financial year, supported by measures like monetary policy stimulus and corporate income tax cuts.

### **Govt accords ‘Maharatna’ status to Hindustan Petroleum, Power Grid Corp**

- The government accorded ‘Maharatna’ status to state-owned Hindustan Petroleum and Power Grid Corporation, thus giving them greater operational and financial autonomy.
- Two separate orders to this effect were issued by the Department of Public Enterprises, under the Ministry of Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises.



### **The 5th International Conference on ROADTECH was held**

- The 5th International Conference on ROADTECH (Sustainable Roads and Highways-Smart Use of Available Resources for Green and Sustainable Roads) was held in New Delhi on 30 October. Union Minister of State for Road Transport V.K. Singh addressed the meeting.

### **DPIIT to introduce exercise to ease FDI norms**

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) launched a new exercise to relax India's foreign direct investment (FDI) norms. The decision was made in an inter-ministerial meeting held at DPIIT to discuss further opening up in sectors, especially where 100% FDI is not allowed on the automatic route.

### **India First Training Squadron at Mombasa, Kenya**

- As part of Indian Navy's Overseas Deployment, four indigenously built ships of Indian Navy's First Training Squadron, Indian Naval Ships Tir, Sujata and Shardul and Indian Coast Guard Ship Sarathi, arrived at Mombasa Kenya, on 07 Oct 19 for a three day visit.
- The Senior Officer of First Training Squadron is Captain Varun Singh, who is also Commanding Officer of INS Tir.

### **Mithali Raj becomes first woman cricketer to complete 20 years in ODI**

- Indian cricketer and the former captain of the Indian women's national cricket team Mithali Raj completed 20 years in international cricket on 8 October 2019. She became the first-ever woman cricketer to achieve the milestone.
- She achieved this feat in the first One-day International (ODI) against South Africa at the Reliance Stadium in Vadodara, Gujarat.

### **Cabinet approved relaxation of Aadhaar seeding of data under PM Kisan**

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the PM Narendra Modi approved the relaxation of the mandatory requirement of Aadhaar Seeded data as a pre-condition for release of funds to the beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri KisanSamman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme.

### **Cabinet approved the inclusion of 5300 DP families**

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the inclusion of the 5,300 Displaced Persons (DP) Families of Jammu & Kashmir-1947. These 5,300 families initially opted to move outside the State of J&K but later on, returned and settled in the State of J&K. They were not included in the Rehabilitation Package.

### **Dr. Harsh Vardhan launches WHO India Country Cooperation Strategy 2019–2023**

- Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan as he launched ‘The WHO India Country Cooperation Strategy 2019–2023: A Time of Transition’, here. The Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) provides a strategic roadmap for WHO to work with the Government of India towards achieving its health sector goals, in improving the health of its population and bringing in transformative changes in the health sector.

### **MSDE launches Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship Programme with IIM Bangalore**

- Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signed a contract with Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore for introducing a two-year fellowship programme called ‘Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) programme’. The step is taken to boost skill development at the district level.

### **Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan launched**

- SUMAN scheme – Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan scheme was launched by the Union Minister Dr Harsha Vardhan at the conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare.
- The scheme provides free medicines for pregnant women. It focuses to bring down the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in the country.

### **Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme “DHRUV” Launched**

- Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme- ‘DHRUV’, a 14 day learning programme, has been launched from Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Headquarters at Bengaluru. Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ has launched the programme
- The aim is to identify and encourage talented children to enrich their skills and knowledge,” said the HRD Minister before the launch event. “The programme is called DHRUV (after the Pole Star) and every student to be called ‘DHRUV TARA’.

### **Union Cabinet Approves Cadre Review Of Indo-Tibetan Border Police**

- The Union Cabinet approved the cadre review of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), an exercise that was pending for almost 18 years. The decision for the cadre review of Group 'A' General Duty (Executive) cadre and Non-General Duty cadre of ITBP taken by the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The last cadre review of ITBP took place in 2001 when the strength of the force was 32,000.
- The current power of the ITBP is approximately 90,000. The cadre review creates new posts and will help to improve the efficiency and working of the personnel of ITBP, which is mandated to guard the 3,488 km India-China border.

### **Centre plans to run Ladakh completely on renewable energy**

- The Union government plans to make Ladakh the first Indian union territory (UT) to run entirely on renewable energy. The newly carved out union territory has already about 30 megawatts (MW) of small hydro projects, and the government wants to install solar generation units to meet all its power demand from renewable energy sources.
- Ladakh was made an independent union territory after the government recently revoked Article 370.

### **ASI finds 2,000-year-old trade center in Andhra Pradesh**

- The ASI (Archaeological Survey of India) recently discovered that the present-day state of Andhra Pradesh had a maritime center near the banks of Swarnamukhi river around 2,000 years ago.

### **World Guinness Record for lighting 4 lakh diyas**

- On October 26, 2019, in the city of Ayodhya 4 lakh earthen lamps were lit along the banks of Sarayu river. The event was organized by the Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath. It was the third and largest Deepotsav in Ayodhya after he came to power.
- Last year around 3 lakh lamps were lit. The lamp lighting festival comes ahead of SC judgement on Ram Jan Bhoomi.

### **India approaches ICAO**

- India has approached the world body ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) after Pakistan denied permission for PM Modi to use its air space. The overflight clearances are granted by other countries according to ICAO guidelines.

### **UPI to be launched globally after hitting One Billion transactions in October**

- The Government of India in its major boost towards cash less digital economy launched the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) channel. The transactions through the channel has reached One Billion in the month of October.

### **UPI**

- The UPI was launched before demonetization in 2016. It enables the users to send money from their account to any account without entering bank details. The transactions in UPI are made using email ids and QR codes. The main objective behind the launch of UPI was to promote digital payments.

### **Indian Railway launches one touch ATVM**

- On October 24, 2019, the Indian Railways launched the “one touch ATVM” at 42 suburban stations. The purpose of the service is to render fast ticketing to millions of commuters, especially in the Mumbai Suburban Network.

### **CBSE, NCERT to launch 'Tamanna' aptitude test for Class 9, 10 students**

- Under the aegis of Union Ministry of Human Resource Development, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) have launched an online aptitude test dubbed as 'Tamanna' (Try And Measure Aptitude And Natural Abilities) in a bid to help students make right career choices.

### **The 13th CCHFW was held in New Delhi**

- The 13th Conference of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFW) was held in New Delhi on 10 October 2019. The conference was inaugurated by the Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Harsh Vardhan. The Minister also released the National Diabetes and Diabetic Retinopathy Survey India 2015-19 at the conference.

### **Govt launches SUMAN, an initiative for quality health care at no cost**

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan along with several State Health Ministers launched Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan, SUMAN, initiative in New Delhi. The initiative was launched during the 13th Conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare.
- The initiative aims at assuring dignified, respectful and quality health care at no cost and zero tolerance for denial of services for every woman and newborn visiting the public health facility in order to end all preventable maternal and newborn deaths. It also provides a positive birth experience to both mother and infant.

### **SARAS Aajeevika Mela launched**

- SARAS Aajeevika Mela is an initiative under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY – NRLM). The objective of the initiative is to bring the rural women SHGs – Self Help Groups under one platform.
- This is to help them show – case their skills, sell their products and build linkages with buyers. Through the initiative the women will get exposure to understand the demand of urban customers.

### **First National Hindi Science writers conference starts in Lucknow**

- The first National Hindi Science writers conference started in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh with an aim to promote use of Hindi and other Vernacular languages in science writing.
- The conference being organised at Dr. Shakuntala Mishra National rehabilitation university was inaugurated by speaker of the state assembly Hriday Narayain dixit.

### **After 214 births, government to boost 'Jiyo Parsi' scheme**

- A government scheme that offers cash assistance to encourage Parsi couples to have children has resulted in 214 births over the last five years through assisted reproductive techniques (ART), according to officials aware of the development.

### **Hunar Haat to be held in November**

- Ministry of Minority Affairs is to organize Hunar Haat from 1 November to 10 November 2019 at North Central Zone Cultural Centre in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. It will be inaugurated by Union Minority Affairs Minister Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi.

#### **Aim:**

- The Government aims to provide employment and employment opportunities to lakhs of craftsmen, artisans, and traditional culinary experts through Hunar Haat in the next five years.

### **India's highest bridge inaugurated**

- Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the highest bridge in India. The bridge was named after the "Lion of Ladakh" Col Chewang Rinchen. It stands at 14,650 feet across the Shyok river.

#### **Features of the bridge**

- It is located at 45km from India's border from China.
- It connects Leh's Darbuk with Daulat Beg Oldi. The bridge is said to reduce the travel time by half-an-hour.
- The bridge is an all-weather permanent bridge. Some bridges in the Ladakh, Siachen regions become inaccessible in winter.
- It is located in the Sub-Sector North

### **FSSAI guidelines to sweet manufacturers**

- Ahead of Diwali, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India issued guidelines to the sweet manufacturers. The team interacted with sweet manufacturers and tested food samples. They also gave them a 10-point guidelines.

#### **FSSAI**

- The FSSAI is an autonomous body under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It was established under Foods Safety and Standards Act, 2006. It is responsible to protect and promote public health through regulation and supervision of food safety.
- The headquarters of FSSAI is located in Delhi and the regional offices are located in Kolkata, Guwahati, Delhi, Mumbai, Cochin and Chennai.

### **India to host Interpol's General Assembly in 2022**

- India will be hosting the 91st Interpol General Assembly in 2022. The announcement comes after a proposal in this regard received the overwhelming support of member countries at 2019's congregation held at Santiago in Chile on 19 October 2019.
- The proposal was given to Interpol Secretary General Jürgen Stock by Union Home Minister Amit Shah when the two met in New Delhi during Stock's official visit (August 2019).

### **Detention centre for illegal foreigners near Bengaluru soon**

- A detention centre to keep illegal foreigners till they are deported is coming up at Nelamangala in Karnataka's Bengaluru Rural district, a police official said.
- "A state-run hostel is being converted into a detention centre to keep illegal foreign nationals for deportation to their respective countries," Bengaluru Rural Deputy Superintendent of Police Mohan Kumar told IANS on phone.

### **Food Safety Mitra scheme launched on the World Food Day**

- On the occasion of World Food Day, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan launched Food Safety Mitra Scheme, Eat Right Jacket and Eat Right Jhola.
- Addressing a gathering in New Delhi, he said, Eat Right India and Fit India Campaign can prove to be a big success with the right strategy and implementation. The Minister urged people to reduce ghee, salt and ghee in food.

### **Van Dhan Internship Programme to help Tribals**

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched the Van Dhan Internship Programme on October 17, 2019. Under the ministry, the program will be organized by the TRIFED (Tribal cooperative marketing Development Federation of India).
- The program will train the interns and the interns will help the tribal population in becoming self reliant and entrepreneurs.

### **Indian Railways launched 9 Sewa Service Trains**

- Indian Railways launched 09 Sewa Service Trains on 15 October. The service aims to connect smaller towns around major cities.
- Union Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, along with Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan and Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched these services from New Delhi.
- The Delhi-Shamli passenger train was inaugurated. Other Sewa Service Trains were flagged off through video-conferencing.

### **Cabinet approved the revival of BSNL and MTNL**

- Centre has decided to merge the PSUs Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) in order to revive loss-making telecom firms.
- Under the merger, the emerging MTNL will act as a subsidiary of BSNL. MTNL is listed but has its net worth already eroded. BSNL is unlisted.

### **Yogi Adityanath launched Mukhya Mantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana**

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the Mukhya Mantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana in Uttar Pradesh on 25 October. He launched by transferring the

amount to the account of beneficiaries. He also launched the Kanya Sumangala web portal and gave away certificates and symbolic cheques to some beneficiaries.

### **Centre released guidelines for evaluation of nano drugs**

- Centre released guidelines for evaluation of nano drugs, which are emerging as more potent tools for treating various diseases, on 24 October 2019. The guidelines were released by the Minister for Science and Technology, Earth Sciences and Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harsha Vardhan.

### **Kiran Uniyal sets Guinness World record**

- Kiran Uniyal, the wife of a serving Colonel of Indian Army, has created Individual Guinness World Records for The most full contact knee strikes in three minutes (one leg) (female) with 263 strikes and The most full contact knee strikes alternate legs in one minute (female) with 120 strikes.
- The previous records were of 177 strikes and 102 in the female category, respectively.

### **Program GOAL: Young Tribal Women to Receive Digital Training**

- The GOAL (Going Online As Leaders) program aims to inspire, guide and encourage tribal girls across India to become village level digital leaders for their community. The program was launched by Facebook to empower women by providing digital literacy, leadership, life skills and entrepreneurship skills.
- In order to become a beneficiary of the program the girls should be above 18 years of age and should have dropped out of school. Also, it is important that the girl is of tribal origin.

### **CBIC launches programme to strengthen Make in India**

- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), India's nodal national agency responsible for administering Central Excise, Service Tax, Customs, GST, & Narcotics has launched a revamped and streamlined programme to attract investments into India and strengthen Make in India through manufacture and other operations.
- The programme is launched under bond scheme of Customs Act, 1962 as this section enables conduct of manufacture and other operations in a customs bonded warehouse.

### **IMF: World Economic Outlook, 2019**

- The World Economic Outlook is a biennial report that is released in April and October. According to the report released recently on October 15, 2019, the global economy is at its slowest pace of growth at 3%. This is a serious climb down from 3.8% in 2017.

### **IMF lowers growth estimate to 6.1%**

- The International Monetary Fund cut its estimate for India's growth this year to 6.1% from 7% projected in July, calling on the country to use monetary policy and broad-based structural reforms to address cyclical weakness and strengthen confidence.



### **Air India becomes first airline to use Taxibot on A320 aircraft**

- Air India became the first airline in the world to use a Taxibot on a A320 aircraft with passengers onboard. Taxibot is a robot-used aircraft tractor for taxiing an aircraft from parking bay to runway and vice versa.

### **Conference on 'One Nation One Tag – FASTag' held in New Delhi**

- Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated a conference on 'One Nation One Tag – FASTag' in New Delhi, to roll out the process for having a unified electronic system across the country. MoS Road Transport and Highways, Gen. (Retd.) V.K Singh and ministers and senior officials from several states were also present on the occasion.

### **3rd India Energy Forum by CERAWEEK held in New Delhi**

- The third India Energy Forum by CERAWEEK was held in New Delhi from 13-15 October 2019. At the forum the Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel Dharmendra Pradhan called for the inclusion of petroleum products under GST regime and urged Union finance minister to at least begin by including natural gas and ATF (aviation turbine fuel) in GST.

### **Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav October 14, 2019**

- The flagship and premier festival of Ministry of Culture, the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav is to be conducted in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh on 14th October, 2019.
- It is a part of the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative that is being organized between 14th October, 2019 and 21st October 2019. The festival began in 2015. It showcases rich cultural heritage of India.
- It includes classical and contemporary handicrafts, painting, arts-folk, sculpture, etc. It covers the fusion of folk art forms from 22 states and will offer the best chance to experience the emerging virtuosity.

### **IHMCL signed MoU with GSTN to integrate Fastag with GST EWay Bill System**

- The Indian Highways Management Company Ltd (IHMCL) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) on 14 October 2019. The GST Council gave in-principle approval for this integration.

#### **Aim:**

- The agreement aimed for the integration of FASTag with the GST e-way bill system. The MOU was signed at the One Nation, One FASTag conference.



### **IIT Guwahati has partnered with KIT to organize ASP symposium**

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Guwahati has partnered with Japan's Kyoto Institute of Technology (KIT). The partnership aims to organize an international symposium on Advances in Sustainable Polymers (ASP-19) from 14 October to 18 October at the KIT, Matsugasaki, Kyoto, Japan.

### **Indian Railways to provide WiFi service inside trains**

- The central government is planning to provide WiFi service inside trains in the next four to four-and-a-half years. The announcement was made by the Union Minister for Railways Piyush Goyal. The WiFi service is available at around 5150 railway stations in India. It plans to provide WiFi services at all 6,500 stations by the end of next year.

### **Panchayati Raj Minister to confer National Panchayat Awards 2019**

- Minister of Panchayati Raj Narendra Singh Tomar will confer the national Panchayat Awards 2019 at a function in New Delhi.
- As many as 246 Awards will be given to awardee Panchayats and States in various categories. 195 awards will be conferred under Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar category, 20 Gram Panchayats will be given in Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar category, 3 Gram Panchayats will be awarded in Gram Panchayat Development Plan Award category, 22 Gram Panchayats will be awarded in Child Friendly Gram Panchayats Award and six states will be awarded under e-Panchayat Puraskar category.

### **Regional labour conference held in Bhubaneswar**

- Minister of State for Labour and Employment Santosh Kumar Gangwar said both the Central and state governments are making coordinated efforts for the welfare of labourers. He was addressing the Regional Labour Conference in Bhubaneswar.
- Labour Ministers and senior officials of six states Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Andaman & Nikobar along with senior officials of the Labour Ministry participated in the conference.

### **Prahlad Singh Patel to inaugurate CCRT e-portal and YouTube Channel**

- Union Minister of state for Culture and Tourism Prahlad Singh Patel will inaugurate e-portal of Centre for Cultural Resources and Training and YouTube Channel in New Delhi with an aim to take India to a newer digital pinnacle and to promote Indian culture.
- He will attend the "Digital Bharat – Digital Sanskriti" program organised by Rashtriya Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, CCRT of the Ministry of Culture.

### **PM Modi releases book titled 'Bridgital Nation'**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that positivity, creativity and constructive mind-set is essential for fast growing aspirational India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi

has said that positivity, creativity and constructive mindset can lead to solutions of the problems.

- Releasing a book titled 'Bridgital Nation' in New Delhi, Mr Modi said that positivity, optimism and faith in talent and resources is the thought of New India.

### **Col. Chewang Rinchen Setu inaugurated in Ladakh**

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated Col. Chewang Rinchen Setu (Bridge) in Ladakh. It is named in honor of Colonel Chewang Rinchan who was one of the highly decorated officers in Indian Army from Ladakh. He was also a Maha Vir Chakara awardee (1952).
- **About Col. Chewang Rinchen Setu**
- The bridge has been constructed at an altitude of 14,650 feet in forward area of Ladakh region. It has been built on strategically important road Durbuk Shyok Daulat Beg Oldie in sub sector north in eastern Ladakh. It is 45 km east of Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China.

### **'The Gandhian Challenge': launched by AIM, Atal Tinkering Labs and UNICEF India**

- On the occasion of 150th birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog's Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) and UNICEF India, including Generation Unlimited, launched 'The Gandhian Challenge' for school children.
- This innovation challenge provides a platform for every child across India to ideate innovative solutions for a sustainable India of their dreams, using Gandhi's principles.

### **Government launched the DIN system of CBDT**

- Ministry of Finance has launched the Documentation Identification Number (DIN) system of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on 1 October 2019. On the day of launching, about 17,500 communications with DIN were generated.
- DIN system has been created as per the direction of Finance Minister Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman. The introduction of DIN will make every CBDT communication to have a documentation identification number.

### **Paryatan Parv 2019 launched**

- Center has launched the nationwide Paryatan Parv 2019 on 2 October. It was inaugurated by the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Minister of Steel, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan in New Delhi.
- Paryatan Parv 2019 was organized by the Ministry of Tourism.

#### **Aim:**

- Paryatan Parv aims to propagate the message of Dekho Apna Desh with the objective to encourage Indians to visit various tourist destinations of the country. It also spread the message of Tourism for All.

### **New Commemorative Rs.150 coin launched on Mahatma Gandhi's 150th anniversary**

- On the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the commemorative coins of Rs.150 denomination. PM Modi released the coins at an event held at Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on 2 October 2019. Sabarmati Ashram is the seat from where father of nation launched most of his freedom fight related movement.

### **Single use plastics to be banned inside monuments: Govt**

- Single-use plastic will be banned inside and within a 100 metre periphery of all Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) protected monuments across the country.
- The announcement in this regard was made by Union Tourism Minister Prahlad Patel on the sidelines of the launch of the tourism ministry's annual 'Paryatan Parv' in New Delhi. The Paryatan Parv showcases traditional cuisines and handicrafts from across Indian states and is an attempt by tourism ministry to promote tourism in India.

### **Government launches Prakash portal to improve coal supply to power plants**

- The government launched a web portal, Prakash, with a view to improving coordination between the power, coal and railway ministries to ensure coal supplies to power plants. The portal was jointly launched by power minister RK Singh and coal minister Pralhad Joshi.

### **Ministry of Tourism launches 'Audio Odigos' for 12 sites of India**

- Yogendra Tripathi, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism in the presence of Usha Sharma, DG, ASI launched the Audio Guide facility Audio Odigos for 12 sites of India(including Iconic Sites).
- An MoU for Gol Gumbad, Delhi with Government of Delhi and Resbird Technologies was also exchanged for the development of Tourism Amenities during the programme ParyatanParv New Delhi.

### **India's first private train Tejas Express flagged off from Lucknow**

- India's first private train Tejas Express was flagged off by UP CM Yogi Adityanath on Lucknow-Delhi route. The train is being operated entirely by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), a subsidiary of Indian Railways. The train's commercial operation would start from Saturday. The train will cover distance between Delhi and Lucknow in six hours and 15 minutes.

### **AIM NITI Aayog, UNDP India Jointly Launch Youth Co:Lab**

- In a latest initiative to recognize young people as critical drivers of sustainable development, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India launched Youth Co:Lab which aims at accelerating social entrepreneurship and innovation in young India.

### India's first e-waste clinic to be set up in Bhopal

- The Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) have joined hands to set up the country's first e-waste clinic here, that would enable segregation, processing and disposal of waste from both household and commercial units.

### Cabinet approves new strategic disinvestment process

- On 4th October, 2019, Cabinet approved new process of strategic disinvestment to privatize selected PSUs – Public Sector Units. The process was approved by PM Modi under which DIPAM – Department of Investment and Public Asset Management operating under Ministry of Finance will be the nodal agency to implement the process.

### NHA and Google tie up for Ayushman Bharat Implementation

- The National Health Authority (NHA) has joined hands with international giant Google to collaborate as well as strengthen the implementation of government's flagship health insurance scheme, Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY).

### India gets first tranche of Swiss bank account details

- India has received the first tranche of details about financial accounts of its residents in Swiss banks under a new automatic exchange of information framework between the two countries. It marks a significant milestone in the fight against black money suspected to be stashed abroad.

### GMC 2019 was held at Goa

- The Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC) 2019 was held at Goa from 3 October to 4 October 2019. The conclave was inaugurated by the National Security Advisor, Shri Ajit Kumar Doval. The conclave was conducted by the Naval War College, the National Security Agency (NSA). During the occasion, the 31st edition of the Naval War College Journal was also released by the NSA.

### Biswa Bangla Sharad Samman 2019

- On the occasion of Durga Puja, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee presented Biswa Bangla Sharad Samman 2019 to 79 community Durga Pujas that received awards in different categories.
- The Durga Puja festival helps in community development, building relations among people to people besides generating income. From past your years the state government of West Bengal is organizing Durga Puja Carnival that has created a good impact among people.

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### **CII: Asia Health Conference, 2019**

- The National Health Authority and CII (Confederation of Indian Industry) are together organizing the Asia Health Conference, 2019. It includes CII National Biotechnology Conclave, CII 12th Medical Technology Summit, CII Ayurveda Conclave, CII 16th Health Summit, CII Health Tech, CII Public Health Conference, CII 13th Health Insurance Summit and CII National Pharmaceuticals Conclave.

### **National CSR awards on October 29**

- The government is set to host the first national corporate social responsibility awards on October 29. President Ram Nath Kovind, finance and corporate affairs minister Nirmala Sitharaman and minister of state for finance and corporate affairs Anurag Singh Thakur will be present at the function.

### **Finance Minister led the Indian delegation at G20 Finance Ministers**

- Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman led the Indian delegation at G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors as well as the BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meetings held in Washington, D.C

#### **Aim:**

- The focus of discussions in the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting was on the current challenges to the global economy and possible responses to mitigate them.

### **Ghaziabad's Loni town emerges as country's most polluted**

- Ghaziabad's Loni (rural) emerged as the most polluted in the country, a day after stringent measures under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) was implemented in the city to tackle air pollution.
- Ghaziabad's Loni town topped the list of 108 most polluted cities as per Central Pollution Control Board's AQI figures.

### **Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurates 11th Nuclear Energy Conclave**

- The Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (I/C), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said that we have been able to fulfil the vision of Homi Bhabha.
- He added that Homi Bhabha had then said that India's nuclear power will be for peaceful purposes. The Government has diversified the applications of nuclear energy in various social fields. He was speaking at the inauguration of 11th Nuclear Energy Conclave, being held here.

### **Indian Railways installs most advanced Electronic Interlocking System**

- Indian Railways has installed the most advanced Electronic Interlocking System on the Grand Chord route, one of the busiest section of railways. This most advanced and safer Electronic Interlocking System was installed at Tundla Junction in Uttar Pradesh by railways as part of upgradation process.

### **Dr. Harsh Vardhan releases the 14th National Health Profile, 2019**

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare released the 14th National Health Profile (NHP) 2019 & its e-book (digital version) here. The NHP is prepared by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI) and covers comprehensive information on demographic, socio-economic health status, health finance indicators, health infrastructure and health of human resources in the country. This 14th edition of NHP is the continuation of the publication since 2005.

### **3rd edition of Guwahati Intl Film Festival to be inaugurated**

In Assam, the third edition of the Guwahati International Film Festival will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal in the presence of noted filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar in Guwahati.

The week-long festival is being organised by Assam government-owned Jyoti Chitraban in association with the Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Regional Government Film and Television Institute. AIR correspondent reports that 100 films from 65 countries will be screened during the 3rd edition of the Festival. The inaugural ceremony will have renowned Polish filmmaker Krzysztof Zanussi as the Chief Guest.

## **STATE RELATED AFFAIRS**

### **Odisha State launched Mo Sarkar initiative**

- The Odisha government has launched Mo Sarkar (or My Government) initiative on 3 October 2019. It was launched by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. He also released the official logo and charter of the programme

### **Mo Sarkar:**

- Mo Sarkar aimed at making governance people-centric. It is an initiative under the 5T model of governance to herald a transformation in government office

### **Uttarakhand CM launches awareness campaign to stop power theft**

- Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat launched an awareness campaign — Urjagiri — which aims at stopping power theft and saving. Speaking on the occasion here, the Chief Minister emphasised on the need to speed up the process for wider awareness to avoid power loss in Uttarakhand.

### **AP will set up 25 skill development centres: CM**

- The Andhra Pradesh government will set up 25 skill development centres in all the 25 Lok Sabha constituencies in the State, according to Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.
- He was speaking at Surampalem village near Gannavaram in Krishna district after jointly inaugurating the new building of the Central Institute of Plastics and Engineering Technology along with Union Minister Sadananda Gowda.

### **Nagaland govt launches Ex-gratia Scheme for Students**

- The state government of Nagaland has launched an ex-gratia scheme for students studying outside Nagaland, called ‘Nagaland Government Ex-gratia Scheme for Students Studying outside Nagaland’ (NGESSO). The scheme is the initiative of Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio.

### **West Bengal to abolish the no detention policy**

- The West Bengal government has decided to re-introduce the pass-fail system in classes five and eight to abolishing the no-detention policy. The announcement was made by the State Education Minister Partha Chatterjee.

### **YSR Vahana Mitra scheme: launched in Andhra Pradesh**

- Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched YSR Vahana Mitra scheme which provides Rs.10,000 allowance to self-employed drivers of the state. This latest scheme which is available only in Andhra Pradesh is the fulfilment of an election promise made by YS Jagan Mohan Reddy during his 3,648 km padayatra.

### **Tripura gets its first-ever SEZ**

- The Centre has given in-principle approval for setting up of Tripura’s first-ever SEZ at Sabroom,. The estimated investment in the project will be around Rs 1550 Crore. “Rubber based Industries – Tyres, Threads etc, Textile and Apparel Industries, Bamboo Industries and Agri-Food Processing Industries are the industries which will be set up.”



### **Exercise Nomadic Elephant XIV commenced on 6th October in Bakloh**

- The Exercise Nomadic Elephant XIV, 14th edition of Indo–Mongolian joint military training has commenced from 6 October 2019. The exercise is conducted over a period of 14 days from 6 October to 18 October 2019 at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.

### **MP Tourism Board to organise ‘City Walk Festival’ from Oct 12**

- Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board will organise a ‘City Walk Festival’ for local, national and international tourists of all age groups in 11 cities from October 12 to November 10. The City Walk Festival will be organised in Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Gwalior, Panna, Vidisha, Khajuraho, Chanderi, Jabalpur, Burhanpur and Orchha. In this the tourists will be acquainted with the rich heritage, natural beauty, glorious history, traditions and ancient heritage

### **Chhattisgarh launched the first Garbage Cafe in Ambikapur**

- Chhattisgarh State government has launched India’s first-of-its-kind Garbage Cafe in Ambikapur, North Chhattisgarh. The cafe was inaugurated by State Health Minister T S Singh Deo. The Cafe was set up by the Ambikapur municipal corporation of Chhattisgarh.
- **Aim:**  
The initiative aims to make the state plastic-free. With this initiative the poor people and rag pickers will be fed.

### **West Bengal govt. to set up Kanyashree University in Nadia district to empower girls**

- The state government of West Bengal is setting up Kanyashree University in Nadia district and Kanyashree colleges across the state so as to empower girls. The Kanyashree university would be only for women.
- Earlier in January 2019, the West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee laid the foundation stone of new Kanyashree university at Krishnagar in Nadia district.

### **Assam: No Govt. jobs for people with more than 2 children**

- On October 21, 2019, the Assam Cabinet decided that no Government jobs will be provided to persons with more than 2 children after 1 January 2021. In September 2017, the Assam government had passed the “Population and Women Empowerment Policy of Assam”.
- Under the policy, job candidates with two children alone would be eligible for government employment and the existing government staff were to strictly follow the two children family norms.

### **Kamal Nath inaugurates 2-day Magnificent Madhya Pradesh Conference**

- Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Kamal Nath formally inaugurated the two-day Magnificent Madhya Pradesh Conference started.



## CURRENT AFFAIRS OCTOBER 2019 PDF

- Many well-known industrialists are attending this conference held in Indore. Chief Minister Kamal Nath also inaugurated the Global Trade Exhibition at the Brilliant Convention Centre, Indore.

### **National Highway in Punjab named after Guru Nanak Dev**

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has announced the road starting from Kapurthala, connecting Gobindwal Sahib and terminating near Taran Tarana in the State of Punjab as new National Highway, NH- 703AA and named it as 'Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji Marg', after the first Sikh guru.
- This decision has been taken to mark 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.

### **Karnataka tops NITI Aayog's India Innovation Index**

- As per the India Innovation Index (III) 2019 released by NITI Aayog, Karnataka emerged as the Most Innovative State among Major States. The index was released by NITI Aayog's vice chairman Rajiv Kumar and CEO Amitabh Kant.
- The India Innovation Index (III) 2019 was released by NITI Aayog along with Institute for Competitiveness as its knowledge partner.

### **Odisha's biggest trade fair to begin on Nov 12**

- Baliyatra, one of the biggest trade fairs of Odisha, is scheduled to begin on November 12. The trade fair will continue for eight days.
- This year's Baliyatra will be jointly organized by the Cuttack District Administration, District Cultural Council, and the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC).

### **AP to launch a statewide water grid project**

- The Andhra Pradesh State government has launched a statewide water grid project to provide a drinking water connection to every household in the State by 2022.
- The announcement was made by Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Minister P Ramachandra Reddy.

### **Shirui Lily Festival inaugurated in Manipur**

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism and Culture Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated Shirui Lily Festival, 2019 at Shirui Vangayan Ground of Ukhrul in Manipur.
- Mr Patel along with State Chief Minister N. Biren Singh inaugurated the Strength of Unity Statue as a mark of opening the third edition of the four-day state festival.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### **Singapore imposed a ban ads for unhealthy sugary drinks**

- Singapore imposed a ban ads for the most unhealthy sugary drinks in its latest move to combat rising diabetes rates. It became the first country in the world to ban such ads. The ban was announced by the health ministry of Singapore.

### Basic ministerial meet on climate change

- The 29th ministerial meet of BASIC countries was held at Beijing between October 25-26, 2019. The BASIC countries include Brazil, South Africa, India and China.
- **BASIC countries**
- The BASIC countries are the block of Brazil, India, China and South Africa formed based on an agreement in 2009. They committed to act jointly at the Copenhagen Climate Summit. The countries announced plans and targets accordingly. The grouping also agreed to provide technical aid to G77 countries.

### US to host 2020 G7 summit at a Donald Trump golf resort

- The G7 Summit in 2020 would be held at President Donald Trump's golf resort in Florida and would cost half the amount than hosting the event at another place, the White House has claimed, rejecting criticism that he "used" his public office to secure big contract for himself.

### World Bank President David Malpass to visit India, Pakistan later this month

- World Bank President David Malpass said that he would travel to India and Pakistan later this month where he will discuss the challenges in the financial sector.
- "In India, I hope to discuss the challenges in the financial sector, where progress can be made and help India grow even faster than it is," Malpass said at a news conference at the start of the annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank here.

### IMF Members agree to double pool of money to aid distressed countries

- Global Finance Ministers agreed to double a key pool of money that the International Monetary Fund can use to aid distressed countries but again put off giving more votes to major emerging economies.
- The IMF has been working to restructure its voting shares to give more weight to growing economies like China, India and Brazil but some traditional powers have resisted since they stand to lose influence in the institution.

### 7th Military World Games being held in China

- The 2019 Military World Games (also known as Olympic Games for military) is being held from 18–27 October 2019 in the capital of Hubei Province, Wuhan, China. Its opening ceremony was held on 18 October 2019 and the event was officially inaugurated by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

### BRICS Culture Ministers' meeting held in Brazil October 14, 2019

- Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (Independent charge) Prahlad Singh Patel participated in BRICS Culture Ministers' meeting held in Curitiba, Brazil. At the meet the minister reaffirmed India's commitment to contribute towards strengthening bonds between member countries.

### **Women's World Boxing Championships 2019: event that begins in Russia**

- The 11th edition of AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships starts in Russia's Ulan-Ude on 3 October. The event, a premier fixture in the boxing calendar, will draw participation from the best women boxers across the globe.
- Besides the pedigree, what lends added significance to the event is the fact that it will serve as a qualification tournament for next year's Asia/Oceania Olympic Qualifiers to be held in Wuhan, China from 3-14 February, 2020.

### **Festival of Fulpati being celebrated in Nepal**

- In Nepal, the festival of Fulpati is being celebrated with gaiety and religious fervour. Fulpati is observed on the seventh day of Dashain festival. In Nepali, "Ful" means flower and "Pati" means leaves and plants.
- There is a tradition in Nepal to bring nine types of Fulpati into homes on the seventh day of Navaratri. It is believed that Fulpati represents nine Goddess and they brings health, wealth and prosperity to the homes.

### **MOSAIC Expedition in Arctic**

- Among 300 scientists from the world, a 32 – year polar researcher from Kerala will be the only person to join MOSAIC expedition MOSAIC expedition MOSAIC is Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate.
- It is the largest Arctic expedition in the history. It is being conducted Alfred Wegner Institute of Germany. It helps researchers understand the impact of climate change. The expedition intends to parameterize geophysical, atmospheric and oceanographic variables of Arctic.

### **C40 cities climate summit**

- The C40 Summit is to take place in Copenhagen between 9th October and 12th October, 2019. The aim of the summit is to show how cities are delivering their strong commitments for healthier, sustainable, resilient and inclusive future.
- The 2019 summit in specific aims to build global coalition of cities, citizens and businesses that rallies around ambitious climate action that the earth needs right now.

### **Dubai to host 2019 First Global DXB Challenge**

- Dubai will be hosting the 2019 First Global DXB Challenge, a large gathering for creative young minds in the fields of robotics and artificial intelligence. It will be held for the first time in the region from 24 to 27 October 2019 at the Festival Arena in Dubai, UAE.

### **Abu Dhabi archaeologists discovered the oldest known natural pearl in the world**

- Abu Dhabi archaeologists discovered the oldest known natural pearl in the world while working at a Neolithic site on Marawah Island, the coast of Abu Dhabi. The Pearl is dubbed as the Abu Dhabi Pearl.

### **Abu Dhabi Pearl-**

- The Pearl was found below layers that have been radiocarbon dated to 5,800-5,600 BCE, during the Neolithic period. The discovery of the oldest pearl is proof that pearls and oysters were being used in the UAE nearly 8,000 years ago. It also represents the earliest known evidence for pearling yet discovered anywhere in the world.

### **G20 Health Ministers Meeting**

- The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare attended the G20 Okayama Health Minister Meeting that was held between October 19 and October 20, 2019. It was held under the Presidency of Japan.

### **Qantas sets record with nearly 20-hour commercial flight from New York to Sydney**

- Australia's Qantas on Sunday completed the first non-stop commercial flight from New York to Sydney, which was used to run a series of tests to assess the effects of ultra long-haul flights on crew fatigue and passenger jetlag.
- The Boeing 787 Dreamliner touched down in Sydney early Sunday morning after a flight of 19 hours and 16 minutes — the world's longest.

### **NAM Summit, 2019**

- The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit is to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan. The summit is to be held between October 25 and October 26, 2019. The 18th NAM summit will be preceded by Ministerial meetings and senior official meetings.
- NAM The Non-Alignment Movement was founded in 1961. It was based on Bandung principles that was adopted at the Belgrade Summit (an Afro-Asian Conference) in 1955.
- It was founded during the collapse of colonial system and independence struggles of Asia, Africa and Latin American countries. The movement worked towards the attainment of independence for many countries. India is a founding member of the NAM summit.

### **Sri Lanka removed from FATF's Grey List**

- Sri Lanka has been removed from 'Grey List' of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) following the new measures taken by the country on financial security. The word 'Grey List' identified by FATF refers to a jurisdiction with strategic Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) deficiencies.

### **Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party wins Canada's general election**

- Election results show Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party will return to power, but as a minority government after Monday's general election, according to CBC News and CTV News.
- The victory ensures that Trudeau will serve as Prime Minister for a second term. Trudeau spoke to a cheering crowd in Montreal about his victory.

### **Fifa under fire after announcing China will host 24-team Club World Cup**

- World football's governing body has confirmed that an expanded version of its showpiece event, featuring 24 teams, will take place there in June and July 2021. The decision was made despite China's suppression of pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong, and the internment of more than one million Uighur Muslims in the state of Xinjiang.

### **Twitter to ban all political advertising**

Twitter is to ban all political advertising worldwide, saying that the reach of such messages "should be earned, not bought". "While internet advertising is incredibly powerful and very effective for commercial advertisers, that power brings significant risks to politics," company CEO Jack Dorsey tweeted.

## **FOREIGN RELATION**

### **Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina is on a 4 day official visit to India**

- Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is on her 4-day official visit to India from 3rd October to 6 October. During her visit, she would hold talks with her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi. This would be Ms.Hasina's first visit to New Delhi since parliamentary elections were held in India and Bangladesh.

### **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan is on a 3 day visit to Mongolia**

- Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel Shri Dharmendra Pradhan is on a 3-day visit to Mongolia from 7 October to 9 October 2019. He is accompanied by an official and business delegation. The visit is a follow up of the State visit the President of Mongolia to India in the month of September 2019.

### **India to set up coastal radar system in Bangladesh**

- India and Bangladesh have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to set up a coastal surveillance radar system in Bangladesh to harness bilateral defence cooperation and to build a closer maritime security partnership between the two countries.

### **Narendra Modi-Xi Jinping 'informal summit' in Chennai from October 11**

- Chinese President Xi Jinping will arrive in Chennai on October 11 for the second "informal summit" with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, New Delhi and Beijing announced on October 9.
- The meeting between the two leaders, that follows the Wuhan summit last April that reset ties, is expected to enhance bilateral cooperation.

### **India-Saudi Arabia sign MoUs during PM Modi visit**

- PM Modi visited Saudi Arabia to attend the Future Investment Initiative. During his visit, the two sides held bilateral talks during which they reviewed historical and close relations between the countries.

### **India signs MoU with Saudi Arabia to launch RuPay card in Gulf Kingdom**

- India signed an agreement with Saudi Arabia to launch the RuPay card in the country, making it the third nation in the West Asia to initiate India's digital payment system which will benefit not only the 2.6 million Indians in the Gulf Kingdom but also Haj and Umrah pilgrims.

### **Rajnath Singh to represent India at SCO heads of state meeting**

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will represent India at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) heads of state meeting, which is to be held in Uzbekistan on 2 November. Mr. Singh is to embark on a three-day visit to Uzbekistan from 1-3 November.
- He will also hold a meeting with Uzbekistan's defence minister. Both Ministers will discuss military cooperation. It is expected that they will conclude discussions on two pacts on military education and cooperation and military medicine.

### **Members of EU meet PM Modi; visit Kashmir**

- A 28-member delegation from European Union met PM Modi on October 28, 2019. The delegation will visit Kashmir on October 29, 2019. The delegation is to check on the reality of the situation in Kashmir.
- This is the first trip to the region by a foreign delegation after India revoked Article 370 and integrated Kashmir with the rest of the country. India rejected US 's plea to visit the region earlier in October.

### **India, Saudi Arabia to sign Strategic Partnership Council pact**

- India and Saudi Arabia are set to sign an agreement for creating a bilateral strategic partnership council during the official visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Riyadh. The council will include multiple sections involving the External Affairs Ministry and NITI Aayog and counterpart organisations from Saudi Arabia.

### **Dharmendra Pradhan to visit Russia, Japan from October 22-26**

- Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan will visit Russia and Japan between October 22 and 26 to boost energy ties with the two nations. The visit is a follow-up to the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Vladivostok, Russia, for the Eastern Economic Forum last month, an official statement said here.

### **India, Bhutan, Nepal: Trans Border Conservation Park**

- A Memorandum of Understanding has been drafted by India, Nepal and Bhutan to create a trans-boundary wildlife conservation park. The park will include bio-diversity rich landscapes

### **India and Germany sign MoUs**

The All India Institute of Ayurveda under Ministry of AYUSH and FiZ-Frankfurter Innovationzentrum Biotechnologie Gmbh signed MoU in the event “German/Indian knowledge exchange regarding current developments in the health care sector”

### **M. Venkaiah Naidu to lead Indian delegation at 18th NAM Summit**

- Vice President, M. Venkaiah Naidu will lead the Indian delegation at 18th Summit of Heads of State and Government of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). The summit will be held at Baku, Azerbaijan on 25 to 26 October 2019 and will be preceded by Senior Officials Meeting and Ministerial Meeting.

### **India US to sign deal on Science and Technology**

- The Union Cabinet on October 24, 2019 approved the proposal for Agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation between India and USA.
- **India-US**
- Both India and US have good cooperation in terms of science. The space organizations of the countries ISRO and NASA have several information exchanging programs. Similarly, the defence sector of the countries are also cooperative in terms of technology transfer and in safeguarding the Indo-Pacific region.

### **India-Bangladesh Stakeholders Meet begins in Guwahati**

- The two-day India-Bangladesh Stakeholders Meet has begun in Guwahati. Assam and Tripura Chief Ministers, Commerce Minister of Bangladesh Tipu Munshi, Road Transport and Highway Minister of State V K Singh took part in the inaugural ceremony among others.

### **President Kovind attended the enthronement ceremony of Emperor Naruhito**

- The enthronement ceremony of Emperor Naruhito was held on 22 October 2019. The President Ram Nath Kovind attended the Ceremony in Tokyo, Japan. This visit by President Kovind is the first presidential visit to Japan after a gap of 19 years.
- The last visit was in 1990 by the then president, Ramaswamy Venkatraman. He attended the enthronement ceremonies of Emperor Emeritus Akihito, who stepped down in 2018.



### **Bharat Mumbai Container Terminals becomes fastest to reach one million container handling milestone**

- Bharat Mumbai Container Terminals (BMCT), the facility run by Singapore's PSA International Pte Ltd at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) near Mumbai, handled its one millionth twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) last week, becoming the fastest to reach the feat for a terminal in India.

### **India and Philippines sign agreements**

- President Ram Nath Kovind is on his official tour to Philippines and Japan. In the first leg of his visit he reached Manila, Philippines on October 17, 2019. He met his Philippines counter part and signed four agreements on science and technology, culture, tourism and maritime.
- The agreement includes sharing of white shipping data. White shipping includes information about identification and movement of commercial and non-military vessels.

### **3. Pepe: India-UK collaborated hand-washing robot**

- A team of researchers from India and United Kingdom collaborated to create a new robot named Pepe which encourages children to wash their hands. The research project outcomes were presented at 28TH IEEE International Conference on Robot and Human Interactive Communication (held in New Delhi) on Global Handwashing Day 2019 (marked on 15 October every year).

### **India trains Nepali officers in AML and CFT**

- Government of India is training officers of Government of Nepal on 'Anti Money Laundering (AML) and Countering Financing of Terrorism (CFT)' in India at the Regional Centre of National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics (NACIN) in Bengaluru.
- The course is divided into three batches. This is the second group of 18 Nepali officers that are undergoing training. Initially, the 1st group of 20 Nepali officers had successfully completed their 6-days training module on 24 August 2019 and the third batch of 21 officers will undergo training in December 2019.

### **India and Switzerland decide to carry forward working together in the area of Rail Transport**

- The two sides at meetings that concluded last evening have followed upon the 1st meeting of Joint Working Group (JWG) held between two sides after the MoU for cooperation in rail sector was signed in 2017.
- The Indian side was led by the Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal at these high-level delegation level meetings.



### **President of India Addresses India-Philippines Business Conclave and 4th Asean-India Business Summit**

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, addressed the India-Philippines Business Conclave and the 4th ASEAN-India Business Summit in Manila, Philippines today (October 19, 2019).

### **India and France explore 3rd country projects in Western Indian Ocean region**

- India and France have taken concrete steps to firm up their strategic partnership in the western Indian Ocean part of their Indo-Pacific strategies, within two months of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's trip to Paris.
- They consisting of Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, and Seychelles in the western Indian Ocean currently meeting for the first time in the Reunion Islands (French territory) for exploring economic and development partnership.

### **India and Netherlands launched the second phase of LOTUS HR**

- India and Netherlands launched the second phase of the Local Treatment of Urban Sewage Streams for Healthy Reuseplant (LOTUS-HR) as a part of a joint collaboration on 14 October. LOTUS-HR was launched during the visit of His Majesty King Willem-Alexander and Her Majesty, Queen Maxima of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

### **India and Ecuador ink Protocol to start trade negotiations**

- India and South American nation Ecuador inked the Protocol for Completion of the Joint Feasibility Study (JFS) between the two countries, in line with the government's efforts to expand its trade presence in the region.
- The Protocol inked in New Delhi by Shyamal Misra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and Héctor Cueva, ambassador of Ecuador in India.

### **Dharmendra Pradhan addresses GFSEC Ministerial Meeting in Tokyo**

- Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel, Dharmendra Pradhan addressed the Ministerial Meeting of Global Forum on Steel Excess Capacity in Tokyo.
- India is committed to spending about USD 1.4 trillion on infrastructure development in the next five years. India's demand for steel shall be a driver of its capacity expansion.

### **India, Pakistan sign agreement to operationalise Kartarpur corridor**

- India and Pakistan signed a landmark agreement to operationalise the historic Kartarpur corridor to allow Indian Sikh pilgrims to visit the holy Darbar Sahib in this country.
- The corridor will connect the Dera Baba Nanak shrine in India's Punjab with Darbar Sahib at Kartarpur, just about four km from the international border, located at Narowal district of Pakistan's Punjab province.

### **India, Sierra Leone sign six agreements for rice cultivation**

- India and Sierra Leone signed six agreements to achieve self-sufficiency in rice production. The agreements include extending a credit line of \$30 million for rice cultivation. The agreement was signed by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu during his 5-day visit to the West African countries.

## **RANK**

### **Kerala, Chandigarh top govt think tank NITI's school education quality index**

- Kerala and Chandigarh emerged as the top performers in the school education quality index (SEQI) of all states and Union territories, government think tank NITI Aayog said.
- Performance was judged on the basis of several parameters, such as education outcome, governance, enrolment rate, language and mathematics skills, transition rate, and drop-out rate, among others.
- Among large states, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Punjab and Assam were the top performers. Jharkhand, Bihar, Telengana and Uttar Pradesh were the laggards.

### **India can become the world's largest EV market: WEF report**

- India has the potential to become the world's largest electric vehicle (EV) market, as per a report by the World Economic Forum and Ola Mobility Institute. However, it found the adoption of EVs was slow in the country due to high upfront costs and range anxiety. It suggested long-term investments in research and development in the field for sustained growth.

### **PMJAY – First Year with 90,000 Cancer claims; Tamil Nadu tops the list**

- The Union Health Ministry released its data on PMJAY – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. The scheme aimed at helping economically vulnerable persons. It aimed to cover more than 10 crore families.
- There are around 22.5 lakh Indians living with cancer at a given point of time. Tamil Nadu tops the list with 40,056 cases followed by Kerala (22,000), Madhya Pradesh (19,455), Chattisgarh (15,997) and Gujarat (14,380)

### **Forbes India Rich List Mukesh Ambani retains top position for 12th straight year**

- Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) Chairman Mukesh Ambani bagged the number one spot with \$51.4 billion net worth on Forbes list of richest Indians for the year 2019. Gautam Adani came a close second as he jumped 8 spots on the list with a net worth of \$15.7 billion.

### **India jumps to 63rd position in World Bank's Ease of Doing Business 2020 report**

- India has moved 14 places to be 63rd among 190 nations in the World Bank's ease of doing business ranking released on the back of multiple economic reforms by the

Narendra Modi government. However, it failed to achieve government's target of being at 50th place.

- The country was 77th among 190 countries in the previous ranking last year, an improvement by 23 places. The report assess improvement in ease of doing business environment in Delhi and Mumbai.

### **Cleanliness survey: Jaipur, Jodhpur, Durgapura emerge top three ranking railway stations**

- Three railway stations in Rajasthan bagged top honours in the railways' cleanliness survey unveiled by Railway Minister Piyush Goyal. Jaipur, Jodhpur and Durgapura were the top three ranking railway stations among 720 stations. Andheri, Virar and Naigaon railway stations were the top three among 109 suburban stations.

### **India's rank slips on global competitiveness index to 68th place**

- India has slipped 10 spots to rank 68th out of 141 surveyed countries in the annual global competitiveness index as several other economies in the world climbed up on the list due to improvements in economic and business activities.
- The development suggests that the slowdown in the Indian economy is having a negative effect on the country's global rankings.

### **Telangana tops in capex on irrigation during 2015-19: Study**

- Telangana stands seventh among the top 10 States in terms of expenditure incurred on capital outlay/asset creation (capex) by State governments during 2015-2019.
- However, in total capex on irrigation it is ahead of all other States in the country.

### **India emerges 3rd largest ecosystems for successful startups**

- With 21 unicorns, India has emerged as third largest ecosystems for more successful start ups right behind China and US but ahead of Britain and Israel, according to Hurun Global Unicorn List 2019.
- Leading the pack from the country are payments solutions platform One97 Communications (USD 10 billion), cab aggregator Ola Cabs (USD 6 billion), online educator Byjus (USD 6 billion), and travel-stay finder OYO Rooms (USD 5 billion).

### **Modi is the most followed political leader on Instagram**

- Indian prime minister Narendra Modi has beaten yet another social media record. With over 30 million followers, the 64-year-old has become the world's most followed political leader on photosharing app Instagram, way ahead of former US president Barack Obama (24.8 million) and the current US president Donald Trump (14.9 million).

### **Uttar Pradesh most unsafe for women: NCRB 2017 data**

- In a grim reminder of how unsafe Indian cities are for women and children, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) ranks Uttar Pradesh as most unsafe for women, while listing Madhya Pradesh as the rape capital.
- The statistics highlight the poor law and order situation in the country with 3.59 lakh cases of crime reported against women in 2017. Uttar Pradesh recorded the maximum number of crimes against women with 56,011 cases in 2017, while Madhya Pradesh registered the highest number of rape cases at 5562.

### **Three Indian-origin CEOs featured in HBR's top 10 best-performing CEOs**

- Three Indian-origin chief executive officers (CEOs) have been featured in 'The Best-Performing CEOs in World, 2019' list of world's top 10 best-performing chief executives.
- The list is compiled by the Harvard Business Review (HBR) and features 100 CEOs. The list has been topped by American technology company NVIDIA's CEO Jensen Huang.
- Indian CEO's: Among the world's top 10 best-performing chief executives on list, three spots have been occupied by Indian-origin CEOs. The 6th spot is held by Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen, followed by MasterCard CEO Ajay Banga, ranked 7th and Microsoft chief Satya Nadella on 9th spot. The list also features India-born CEO of DBS Bank Piyush Gupta on 89th spot.

### **IIM-Calcutta is best B-school in India, 17th in world: Financial Times Masters in Management Rankings 2019**

- Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta has ranked 17 globally in the latest Financial Times' Masters in Management Rankings 2019. Its two-year Masters in Business Administration (earlier Post Graduate Programme in Management) has advanced by six ranks this year. The institute has ranked first among the five Indian B-Schools listed in the FT rankings.

### **India ranked ahead of Bangladesh, Pak on fixed broadband speed**

- A report by Ookla that India ranked ahead of Bangladesh and Pakistan with mean fixed broadband speed rising by 16.5% and 4G availability is rising to 87.9% during Q2-Q3 2019.
- Atria Convergence Technologies (ACT) Fibernet has topped the chart on download speeds. It is then followed by Jio in the second to the third quarter for the financial year 2019.

### **IIT-Bombay again tops this year's QS India University Rankings, IISc-Bengaluru second**

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, has emerged as the best higher education institute in India for the second consecutive year, according to the QS India University Rankings 2020 released. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, is at number two and IIT-Delhi at number three.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS OCTOBER 2019 PDF

- IIT-Bombay also emerged as the topmost institute in another QS ranking, released last month, in terms of employability of its students.

### **Global Hunger Index, 2019 October 16,**

- The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is jointly published by Concern worldwide and Welthungerhilfe. The score of the index is calculated by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). It measures and tracks hunger at regional, national and global levels.
- The 2019 Global Hunger Index measures hunger of 117 countries. India was ranked 102nd and was the lowest ranked among South Asian countries. The rest were ranked 66, 94, etc. Especially, India was far behind as compared to the BRICS nations.

## **BUSINESS**

### **KSUM signs MoUs with Oppo, Wadhvani Foundation to support SMEs, startups**

- The Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) signed Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with Oppo Mobiles India Private Limited and the Wadhvani Foundation at the second edition of Huddle Kerala 2019.
- The MoUs were signed between M Sivasankar IAS, Secretary, Electronics and IT, Government of Kerala, Tasleem Arif, Vice President, and R&D Head, India, Oppo, and Abhinav Khera, Senior Vice President, Wadhvani Foundation in the presence of Chief Minister Shri Pinarayi Vijayan during the event.

### **Novartis and Microsoft join forces to develop drugs using AI**

- Novartis and Microsoft are joining forces to apply artificial intelligence to some of the most intractable problems in healthcare, in one of the most expansive tie-ups so far between big pharma and big tech.

### **ITC ties up with AP govt to improve quality, sales of chilli output**

- ITC has joined hands with the Andhra Pradesh Government to develop a chilli value chain.
- The Agri Business Division of ITC and the Department of Horticulture have conceptualised an integrated Agri Extension Platform for chilli farmers under the public-private partnership model.

### **Microsoft set to invest \$200 mn in Ola, boost connected car tie-up**

- Ride-hailing company Ola is set to unveil a connected car project in partnership with Microsoft Corp., which will also invest around \$200 million in Ola's parent, ANI Technologies Pvt. Ltd, two people aware of the deal said.
- Microsoft will acquire around 4.5% in ANI Technologies as part of the deal, one of the two people said on condition of anonymity. News agency PTI first reported the fundraise.

### **RIL becomes the world's sixth largest energy entity with high m cap**

- Mukesh Ambani led-Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has become the world's sixth-largest energy entity with high market capitalization. RIL overtook British oil major BP Plc in terms of market capitalization to become the world's sixth-largest energy entity.
- RIL hit a market cap (m-cap) of \$130.76 billion on 30 October compared with BP Plc's \$128 billion. The shares of RIL traded at Rs.1,466 on the BSE. It has gained over 31% so far in 2019.
- Saudi Aramco, the world's largest energy entity, that pumps about 10% of the world's crude. It has emerged as the most profitable company in 2018.

### **Mahindra to acquire 100% stake in Peugeot Motorcycles to explore new markets**

- Mahindra Two Wheelers Europe, a subsidiary of Mahindra & Mahindra, will acquire 100 per cent ownership of Peugeot Motorcycles (PMTIC) to drive future growth in core European markets and expand into new geographies, including select Asian markets.

### **Tata Sons board okays 6,500 cr equity infusion in Tata Motors**

- Tata Motors Ltd its board approved an equity infusion of ₹16,500 crores from its promoter Tata Sons Pvt. Ltd. Tata Motors will allot ordinary shares and warrants to the developer in return, subject to shareholder approval.
- The board approved raising ₹13,500 crores via external commercial borrowing, which will be used to refinance its existing debt. The total debt stands at around ₹150,000 crores, of which ₹120,000 crore is in its stand-alone business.

### **Adani Group ties up with US-based Digital Realty for foray into data centre domain**

- The Adani Group announced a partnership with Digital Realty, a San Francisco-based player in data centre, co-location and interconnection solutions. The move will accelerate Adani Group's foray into the data centre domain.
- According to the terms of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between flagship company Adani Enterprises Ltd and Digital Realty, the two entities will jointly evaluate development and operation of data centres and data centre parks, besides cultivating undersea cable provider communities of interest across India.

### **Toyota plans to launch compact EV in India in partnership with Suzuki**

- Japanese auto major Toyota Motor Corporation said it plans to introduce a compact battery electric vehicle (BEV) in India in association with compatriot Suzuki Motor Corporation. The two firms are looking to introduce the BEV at an early stage, Toyota said without disclosing a timeframe.

### **Microsoft, Reliance Jio Partnership Empowering SMEs In India: Satya Nadella**

- Microsoft is empowering small businesses in India in their Cloud journey with Reliance Jio, the company's CEO Satya Nadella has said.

- Reliance Industries (RIL) in August announced partnership of its subsidiary Reliance Jio Infocomm with Microsoft in the technology space, including creation on cloud solutions.

### **Amazon launches Storyboxes to bring its sellers closer to customers**

- Amazon India launched Storyboxes on Monday to bring its 5.5 lakh sellers closer to its customers. An India-first innovation, Amazon Storyboxes is a packaging initiative that aims at showcasing inspiring stories of its sellers to millions of people who shop on the Amazon.in marketplace.
- With every delivery, Amazon brings these stories, narrated by the sellers themselves to the customers' doorstep, giving sellers an opportunity to interact with customers and share their success stories on Amazon.

### **Bharti Airtel to acquire 26 per cent stake in AMPSolar for Rs 8.4 crore**

- Telecom operator Bharti Airtel has signed a pact with AMPSolar Evolution to acquire 26 per cent stake in the solar power firm for Rs 8.4 crore.
- The Sunil Bharti Mittal-led firm has signed an agreement with the renewable energy company to meet the green energy needs and optimise energy costs, as well as to comply with the regulatory requirement around consumption of electricity.

### **Fujifilm India signs pact with Max Healthcare**

- Imaging solutions company Fujifilm India has inked a partnership with Max Healthcare to train doctors in early detection of breast cancer and advance diagnostics at its super-specialty hospital in Saket, New Delhi.
- Under this partnership, Fujifilm will be sponsoring an advanced fellowship in breast imaging with Max Healthcare.

### **RIL becomes first Indian company to hit Rs. 9 lakh crore m-cap**

- Mukesh Ambani-led Oil-to-telecom major Reliance Industries (RIL) has become the first company in India to hit the market capitalisation (m-cap) of Rs.9 lakh crore. RIL was also the first company to reach Rs.8 lakh crore mark in August 2018. IT giant Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) was at a distant second with a m-cap of Rs.7.66 lakh crore. It was the also second company to reach Rs.8 lakh crore mark.

### **BEL inks MoU with TEL for growth in the Ammunition Business**

- Navaratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics (BEL) has signed an MoU with Tamil Nadu Industrial Explosives Limited (TEL), a state-government undertaking of the Government of Tamil Nadu, for co-operation in the explosives segment where BEL is eyeing business growth, keeping in view its ongoing and upcoming ammunition programs.



### **SoftBank and Oyo in \$100m plus deal for Japan apartment operator**

- SoftBank Group and Indian hotel startup Oyo have jointly acquired an 80% stake in Japanese rental apartment operator MDI.
- The acquisition cost over \$100 million, according to a person familiar with the deal. Oyo confirmed the transaction but declined to comment on either the price or its stake in the joint venture set up to acquire MDI. SoftBank and MDI also declined to comment.

### **Nippon Life invests Rs 6,000 cr to emerge largest shareholder in Reliance MF**

- Japan's Nippon Life Insurance has completed an investment of Rs 6,000 crore in the erstwhile Reliance Mutual Fund to emerge as the single largest shareholder, with 75 per cent stake.
- Following this, the Japanese company has renamed Reliance Mutual Fund as Nippon India Mutual Fund and has started the integration of operations with its Global Unified Asset Management business.

## **DEFENCE NEWS**

### **Exercise Nomadic Elephant XIV commenced on 6th October in Bakloh**

- The Exercise Nomadic Elephant XIV, 14th edition of Indo–Mongolian joint military training has commenced from 6 October 2019. The exercise is conducted over a period of 14 days from 6 October to 18 October 2019 at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.

### **India- Bangladesh Navies to participate in maiden bilateral drill at Visakhapatnam**

- Navies of India and Bangladesh will participate for the first time in a IN-BN Bilateral Exercise at Visakhapatnam from 12 to 16 October 2019. This exercise which takes place a week after Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India, will entail development of mutual communication and sharing of best practices, thus adding a new dimension to India- Bangladesh maritime relations.

### **Indian Army inducts US made precision-guided Excalibur artillery ammunition**

- To boost to its firepower, the Indian army has inducted US made precision-guided Excalibur artillery ammunition and indigenous Dhanush howitzer in its inventory. The announcement regarding ammunition's induction was made in an Army Commander's Conference.

### **Indian Army launches "OASIS"**

- The Indian Army has begun to digitize its official records under its new programme called "OASIS"-Officers Automated Structures Information System. Under the programme, the records of the army officers are to be digitized. The software is to be hosted in the Army's intranet.

### **DRDO signs 30 agreements on Technology Transfer**

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) signed 30 licensing agreements for Transfer of Technology (ToT) with 16 Indian companies. The company includes three start-ups, at Vibrant Goa Global Expo and Summit 2019.
- The conference is held at Goa University, Taleigao, Goa, between October 17-19, 2019. The DRDO develops technologies for the Armed Forces to the defense industry for the end-users of the Armed Forces.

### **DRDOs AIP system is boosted with the operation of land based prototype**

- Indian military's research and development agency, Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) programme to build a fuel cell-based Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system for Indian Naval Submarines, was conducted at the Naval Materials Research Laboratory in Ambernath, Maharashtra.
- The programme provides great value to the nation and the Indian Navy in particular. The Operation of the land-based prototype engineered to the form-and-fit of a submarine was witnessed by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh.

### **Ekuverin 2019: Indo Maldives joint Exercise**

- Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force participated in a Joint Military Exercise called 'Ekuverin' at Aundh Military Station in Pune, Maharashtra. This year was the tenth edition of the joint military exercise which was organised from 7 to 20 October 2019

### **Exercise KAZIND 2019 is being held at Pithoragarh**

- Exercise KAZIND-2019, a joint military exercise, between India and Kazakhstan is being held in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand. The 12-day exercise was inaugurated by Brig SK Mandal, Commander of the III Independent Infantry Brigade. It will conclude on 15 October 2019.

### **Indian Army begins its first mountain combat exercise 'Him Vijay' in Arunachal Pradesh**

- The Indian army will begin its first ever mountain combat on October 7. The exercise is to test the mobility, coordination and communication of the troops in difficult terrain. The exercise is to be conducted in two phases.

#### **Highlights of the exercise**

- The first phase will be held between October 7 and October 10, 2019. The second phase will be held between October 20 and October 24, 2019.
- The exercise will include three battle groups, each comprising of 4,000 soldiers. This is the largest military exercise in the history of Indian defense. The exercise includes mountain assault and air assault as well.

### **Indo-Japan Joint Military Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN 2019**

- Joint Military Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN-2019 between India and Japan will be conducted at counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School, Vairengte from 19 Oct 2019 to 02 Nov 2019. Indian Army and Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces (JGSDF) comprising 25 soldiers each will participate in the exercise with an aim to share experience gained during various Counter-Terrorism Operations in respective Countries.

### **Vajra Prahar: India-US Joint Military Exercise, 2019**

- A joint military training exercise “Vajra Prahar” is conducted in Seattle between October 13, 2019 and October 28, 2019. The exercise is conducted alternately in India and US. The Special Forces and the Southern Command of Indian Armed Forces will participate in the exercise

### **India celebrated its 87th Air Force Day on 8th October**

- India celebrated its 87th Air Force Day on 8th October 2019. The year 2019 is special because the Indian Air force received the first of 36 long-awaited Rafale fighter jets. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who is on a visit to France will receive the fighter jets.

### **Indian Army organizes Veer Kutumb Rally in Jammu and Kashmir**

- Jammu and Kashmir, Crossed Swords Division organized a VEER KUTUMB RALLY at Tanda, Akhnoor.

#### **Aim**

- To reach out to veterans, veer naris, widows and their families. The Rally was organised by the Indian Army as part of its activities to observe 2019 as the ‘Year of the Next of Kin’.

### **IAF test fires 300 km range BrahMos surface-to-surface missiles**

- Indian Air Force (IAF) has carried out successful firing of two BrahMos surface-to-surface missiles from a mobile platform at Trak Island in Andaman Nicobar group of islands.
- The drill was conducted to check IAF’s capability to hit targets with ‘pin-point’ accuracy at designated mock targets close to 300 km and a direct hit on the target was achieved in both the cases.

### **Army Commanders Conference**

- The October 2019, iteration of the Army Commander Conference was conducted between October 14 and October 18, 2019. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addressed the conference.

- All important issues such as operational readiness of the field formation, issues related to higher defence management, aspects of organizational restructuring and reforms were debated in the conference

### **Defence of Andaman and Nicobar Islands exercise 2019 (Danx-19) 14 Oct to 18 oct 19**

- Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) has conducted the second edition of Defence of Andaman & Nicobar Islands 2019 (DANX-19), a large scale joint services exercise from 14 Oct to 18 Oct 19.
- Spanning over a period of five days, components of the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard carried out mobilisation and field manoeuvres to validate defensive plans of Headquarters ANC towards pursuance of the Command's responsibility, namely ensuring territorial integrity of the A&N Islands.

### **Shinyuu Maitri-2019: Indo-Japan Joint Air Force Exercise October 16, 2019**

- The Indian Air Force will be carrying out a joint military exercise called 'Shinyuu Maitri' with Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) from 17 to 23 October 2019. The joint exercise will be held at Air Force Station, Arjan Singh in Panagarh town, West Bengal.

### **AYUSH, Defence ministry inks MoU to provide traditional medicine**

- Union Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa and Homoeopathy) and Ministry of Defence signed a MoU for integration of AYUSH under health establishments of Directorate General of Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS) i.e. to provide traditional medicine services at the armed forces' hospitals and dispensaries.

### **India's Nex-Gen Hypersonic Missiles: DRDO begins manufacturing**

- The DRDO begins manufacturing of hypersonic missiles. These missiles are five times faster than the speed of sound. DRDO is set to operate a wind tunnel to test and fine tune the technology

### **IAF to sign with HAL for 83 Tejas LCA**

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is to sign a deal with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) for acquiring 83 Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA). The negotiations over the price of the fighter jets are almost done.
- In December 2017, the IAF issued a single-vendor tender to the HAL for procuring 83 LCA. The deal is yet to be signed. The delay is because negotiations that were held between IAF and HAL over the price of the aircraft.

### **Sindhu Sudarshan: Indian Army's exercise in deserts of Rajasthan**

- Indian Army to conduct exercise codenamed as 'Sindhu Sudarshan' in the deserts of Rajasthan from 29 November to 4 December 2019. More than 40,000 troops will be participating in an all-arms battle array of Divisions and Brigades carrying out offensive

operations in deserts. The exercise will showcase a high degree of synergy between the Indian Army and Indian Air Force.

### **Exercise Shakti to be held from 31 October to 13 November**

- Exercise Shakti-2019, a bilateral exercise between the Indian Army and French Army, is to be held at the Foreign Training Node at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan from 31 October to 13 November.
- **Aim:**
- The Exercise Shakti aimed at counter-terrorism operations in the backdrop of semi-desert terrain under the United Nations mandate.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### **Researchers see individual virus formation for the first time**

- The researchers of USA captured images of formation of viruses from particles. The research provided a detailed view of mechanism with which the particles self – assembled to form a parasite. The study was performed on single stranded RNA virus. The researchers believe that this new advancement will help to find new treatment approaches for viral diseases.

### **20 new moons of Saturn discovered**

- 20 new moons of Saturn were discovered. With this Saturn has a total of 82 moons today. It is the highest of any planet in solar system. Till date Jupiter had the highest number of moons. It has 79 moons. The newly discovered moons belong to Norse group. The Saturn's Norse group of moons are retrograde irregular satellites.

### **Indian scientists discovered Plastic eating Bacteria**

- Researchers at Shiv Nadar University have discovered two strains of plastic-eating bacteria from the wetlands of Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. It is believed that this eco-friendly alternative might be used as a clean-up method for plastic waste worldwide.

### **MEV-1: 1st Satellite Servicing Spacecraft launched**

- The robotic Mission Extension Vehicle-1 (MEV-1) was successfully launched atop of Russian Proton rocket from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. It is first of its kind commercial satellite-servicing spacecraft. It is designed to dock with aging spacecraft more than 22,000 miles above Earth, then extend its life with aid of solar-electric thrusters. Its successful launch marks beginning of era of commercial satellite servicing in the space.

### **IIIT Hyderabad researchers create first ever Indian Brain atlas**

- Researchers at the IIIT Hyderabad said that the first ever Indian Brain Atlas (IBA) has been created. They stated that the next step is to prepare atlases for different age groups to study age related affects on brain anatomy.

- The average brain size of an Indian was smaller in height, width and volume in comparison to people of the Caucasian and eastern races.

### What is Cosmic Yeti?

- Scientists have accidentally discovered 'the footprints a monstrous galaxy' being called as 'Cosmic Yeti' in early universe that has never been seen before. The discovery provides new insights into the first growing steps of some of biggest galaxies in universe. The astronomical findings were published in Astrophysical Journal.

### Scientists discovered a new and stable form of plutonium

- A team of scientists from Helmholtz Zentrum Dresden-Rossendorf (HZDR) has accidentally discovered a new and stable form of plutonium. The famously unstable element is difficult to transport, store, and dispose of. The scientist is finding new ways to tackle the problems.

### A new Catalyst: To Convert Carbon Dioxide into Natural Gas

- The Engineers at the Stanford University have developed a new catalyst that helps to turn carbon dioxide from cars into fuels like propane or natural gas.

### About the Research

- Catalysts induce chemical reactions without being used up in the reaction. In this new research scientists have combined ruthenium and iron oxide nano particles to form the new catalyst.
- The ruthenium nuggets sit in the core of the catalyst surrounded by an outer sheath of iron. This arrangement activates the hydrocarbon formation from Carbon-Dioxide.

### Stable form of Plutonium discovered accidentally

- Scientists led by Helmholtz Zentrum Dresden Rossendorf have found new compound of Plutonium unexpectedly in France. The team was actually trying to create plutonium dioxide nano particles using different precursors.
- In the process, the plutonium at its pentavalent state showed a peculiar behavior. The scientists then learnt that the strange behavior of Plutonium at its pentavalent state was because it was stable! The team confirmed its stability using Pu M4 edge technology.

### ISRO to develop Reusable Launch Vehicles

- The Indian Space Agency, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), is currently developing a space program for Reusable Launch Vehicles (RLV). The Indian space agency has been testing the RLV since 2016.

### Aim:

- The RLV program aims to reduce the launch costs by, well, reusing the spacecraft. Currently, ISRO's project is using a hybrid design type launch vehicle.

## White bellbird is the worlds loudest bird

- Researchers from the University of Massachusetts in the U.S. have found that the White Bellbirds are the loudest bird in the world. They also found that the mating songs by the white male bellbird cause sound of thrice the decibels (dB) than the Screaming Piha during the mating period.
- The screaming Piha held the record by making the loudest call of around 125 dB.
- **White bellbird:**
- The white bellbird or Procnia albus is a bird species in the family Cotingidae. The bird is found in Guianas forest, Venezeula, Pará of Brazil. The male bird is white in colour, and the female is olive with yellowish streaks in colour.

## SPORTS

Name	Title	Extra Information
Kaushal Dharmamer	Maldives International Challenge	Indian shuttler Kaushal Dharmamer clinched the men's singles title at the Maldives International Challenge with a straight-games win over Siril Verma.
Rohit first	became the first Indian opener to smash two hundreds in a Test	Rohit Sharma became the first Indian opener to smash two hundreds in a Test since Sunil Gavaskar in 1978/79.
Sifan Hassan	completes unique double	she dominated the race to win the 1,500 metres at the world athletics championship, adding to the 10,000 metres title she won earlier in the competition.
Surender Singh	gold medal in 110 kg category, Classic Raw and the Best Lifter Award in Classic Raw and Single Ply - World Powerlifting C' ship	Surender Singh of India created three world records at the ongoing World Powerlifting Championship in Berlin, Germany
Novak Djokovic	Japan open title	World number one Novak Djokovic beat John Millman to mark his return from injury by winning the Japan Open.
Marc Marquez	MotoGP world title	Marc Marquez wrapped up the 2019 title with four races to spare, as he clinched his eighth overall championships across all classes he has won.
Annu Rani	gold at the 59th National Open Athletics Championships	Javelin thrower Annu Rani won a gold medal in the women's javelin throw event at the 59th National Open Athletics Championships on 10 October in Ranchi, Jharkhand. She



## CURRENT AFFAIRS OCTOBER 2019 PDF

		defeated Sharmila Kumari to win the title.
Dutee Chand	100m Record at National Open Athletics Championships	Dutee Chand won the 100-meter national record with a time of 11.22 seconds during the semi-finals at the National Open Athletics Championships in Ranchi.
Eliud Kipchoge	First In World To Run A Marathon In Under 2 Hours	Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge made history busting the mythical two-hour barrier marathon on a specially prepared course in a huge Vienna park.
Mary Kom	bronze in World Championships	Mary Kom got third and defeated 1-4 to second seed Cakiroglu, who is the reigning European Championships and European Games gold-medallist. Mary Kom counter-attacks Cakiroglu struggled to make her victory.
.Lakshya Sen	Maiden BWF World Tour Title	Rising Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen clinched his maiden BWF World Tour title by winning the Dutch Open men's singles title after beating Yusuke Onodera of Japan in the summit clash in Almere.
Simone Biles	Becomes World Championships' Most Decorated Gymnast	Simone Biles became the most decorated gymnast in world championship history, winning gold medals in the balance beam and the floor exercise to increase her career medal total in the championships to 25.
Manju Rani	silver medal - World Boxing Championships	Indian boxer Manju Rani's stupendous debut run at the Women's World Championships ended with a silver medal after she lost the light flyweight (48kg) final to Russia's Ekaterina Paltceva here.
Daniil Medvedev	Shanghai Masters	The world number four won 6-4 6-1 in 73 minutes for his first victory over the German in five attempts
Priyanshu, Juhi-Venkat	Bahrain International Series	Indian shuttler Priyanshu Rajawat overcame top-seed Jason Anthony Ho-Shue from

## CURRENT AFFAIRS OCTOBER 2019 PDF

		Canada in the final to claim the men's singles title at the Bahrain International Series <a href="#">here</a> .
Raunak Sadhwani	India's 65th Grand Master	On October 18, 2019, Sadhwani with a rating of 2479 has already gained 23 points to cross the stipulated mark of 2500 in live ratings.
Indians bag 21 medals	Asian Junior C'ships	Indian boxers packed quite a heavy punch at the Asian Junior Championships, clinching 21 medals — including six gold and nine silver — to end with the best medal
Great Britain	Sultan of Johor Cup 2019	The Indian junior men's hockey team suffered defeat as Great Britain score 20 seconds before full-time. Great Britain was this years' defending country after they were crowned champions in 2018.
Kuhoo Garg-Dhruv Rawat	Egypt International mixed doubles title	Kuhoo Garg and Dhruv Rawat put up a brilliant effort to win the mixed doubles title at the Egypt International 2019 in Cairo.
Praveen Kumar	Gold in Wushu World Championship	It is a Chinese martial art which combines full-contact kickboxing, including close-range punches and kicks, with wrestling, throws, takedowns, kick catch and sweeps.
Rohit Sharma	becomes third Indian to reach top 10 in all three formats	Rohit Sharma has become the third India batsman to reach the top 10 in all three formats after a memorable series against South Africa in which he donned the new role of Test opener.
Roger Federer	10th Swiss Open Crown	As a 12-year-old in 1993, Federer received a medal from Basel champion Michael Stich when he served as a ball boy.
Tiger Woods	Zozo Championship – Golf	Tiger Woods won the Zozo Championship by three strokes, matching Sam Snead's record of 82 PGA Tour victories.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS OCTOBER 2019 PDF

Ravinder	silver at U-23 world wrestling championship	Indian grappler Ravinder settled for a silver medal after going down to Kyrgyzstan's Ulukbek for a 3-5 loss in the final in 61-kg . Ulukbek is the current Asian u-23 champion.
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### OBITUARY

Name	Extra Information
Jessye Norman	Grammy-winning star of opera
Tenor Marcello Giordani	star at the world's top opera houses
Colathur Gopalan	Colathur Gopalan, the doyen of nutrition research in India
Kadri Gopalnath	Noted saxophone exponent
Sara Danius	first female head of Nobel's literature award body
Kalidas Karmakar	Renowned painter
N Venkatachala	Former judge of the Supreme Court

### IMPORTANT DAYS

Day	Date	Theme
International Day of Older Persons	October 01	The Journey to Age Equality
Gandhi Jayanthi	October 02	
International Day of Non Violence	October 02	
World Space Week	October 04 - 10	
World Animal Day	October 04	
International Day of No Prostitution	October 05	
World Teachers Day	October 05	Young Teachers: The Future of the Profession.
Wildlife Week India	2nd October and 8th October	Life Below Water: For people and planet
World Habitat Day	October 07	Frontier Technologies as an innovative tool to transform waste to wealth
World Cotton Day	October 07	
Breast Cancer Awareness Month	October month	
World Post Day	October 09	
World Mental Health Day	October 10	Suicide Prevention
International Day of the Girl Child	October 11	GirlForce: Unscripted and Unstoppable
National Postal Week	October 09 - 15	
World Migratory Bird Day	October 12	Protect Birds

## CURRENT AFFAIRS OCTOBER 2019 PDF

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction	October 13	Reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services
World Standards Day	October 14	
US - White Cane Safety Day	October 15	
World Students' Day`	October 15	
International Day of Rural Women	October 15	Rural Women and Girls Building Climate Resilience
World white cane day	October 16	
World Food Day	October 16	Our Actions Are Our Future, Healthy Diets for A #ZeroHunger World
World Anaesthesia Day	October 16	
International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	October 17	Acting together to empower children, their families & communities to end poverty.
World Osteoporosis Day	October 20	
World Statistics Day	October 20	
World Iodine Deficiency Day	October 21	
National Police Day	October 21	
International Day of Mole Day to foster interest in chemistry	October 23	DespicaMOLE Me!
UN Day	October 24	Our Planet. Our Future.
World Polio Day	October 24	
Ayurveda Day	October 25	
World Day for Audiovisual Heritage	October 27	Engage the past through sound and Images
Odisha Disaster Preparedness Day	October 29	Empowering Community for Disaster Resilience
Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day)	October 31	
World Cities day	October 31	Changing the world: innovations and better life for future generations
World Thrift day	October 31	