



CURRENT AFFAIRS (NOVEMBER - 2018) :

National

- ⇒ President Ram Nath Kovind recently visited three East European countries Cyprus, Bulgaria and Czech Republic. India hopes to receive its strong political, economic and cultural partnership with the region that slowed down after 1991.
- ⇒ India and Nepal have signed an MoU to build strategic railway line connecting Raxaul city in Bihar to Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. It was signed after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks on all aspects of the bilateral ties with his Nepalese counterpart KP Sharma Oli on the sidelines of the 4th BIMSTEC Summit held in Nepal. Mr. Modi along with Nepal PM K P Sharma Oli inaugurated the 400-bed Nepal-Bharat Maitri Pashupati Dharamshala in Kathmandu.
- ⇒ India and Pakistan have agreed to undertake Indus Waters Treaty 1960 mandated tours by their water commissioners in the Indus basin on both sides to resolve issues on various hydroelectric projects in Jammu and Kashmir. It was signed by the then Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and the President of Pakistan Ayub Khan in Karachi on September 19, 1960. It is the most successful water treaty in the world as it has survived India-Pakistan wars of 1965, 1971 and the 1999 Kargil standoff besides Kashmir insurgency since 1990. As per the treaty, control over three eastern rivers Ravi, Beas and Sutlej are with India, while control over three western rivers Indus, Jhelum and Chenab was given to Pakistan. It allows India to use only 20% of the water of the Indus river.
- ⇒ The first edition of 2+2 dialogue between India-US was held in New Delhi. (*A 'two plus two dialogue' is a term adopted for beginning of a dialogue mechanism between two countries' defence and external affairs ministers. It is the second highest level dialogue*). In the inaugural meeting, Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman hosted US Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo and US Secretary of Defence James Mattis. It was agreed between both during the visit of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to US in June, 2017. India and United States have signed Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) that will lead to a new generation of bilateral military partnership.
- ⇒ The first field training military exercise MILEX-18, as part of the Bay of Bengal initiative for multi-sectoral technical and economic cooperation (BIMSTEC) commenced at Foreign Training Node at Aundh in Pune, Maharashtra. All member of BIMSTEC countries, except Thailand and Nepal took active part in this exercise. Thailand and Nepal sent groups of observers only.

- ⇒ Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Trombay has re-commissioned India's oldest nuclear research reactor named 'Apsara', which was shut down permanently in 2009 for repair. The refurbished version of this reactor has been named as 'Apsara-upgraded' (Apsara-U) and also has doubled its capacity compared to its earlier version.
- ⇒ Bangladesh Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has approved a draft agreement allowing India to use its Chittagong and Mongla ports to transport cargo to and from its north-eastern States.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina jointly launched the construction of India-Bangladesh Friendship Product Pipeline Project through video conferencing. It is the first such pipeline through which refined diesel will be supplied to Bangladesh from India. The project involves construction of 130-kilometre long pipeline that will connect Siliguri in West Bengal and Parbatipur in Dinajpur district of Bangladesh.

International

- ⇒ Pakistan has invited Saudi Arabia to join the \$50 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as the third strategic partner. Formal request in this regard was made after Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan visited Saudi Arabia during his first foreign trip after getting elected. Pakistan's main interest in inviting Saudi Arabia in CPEC is to ensure huge investment from the cash-rich gulf country.
- ⇒ Nepal depends heavily on India for supply of essential goods including fuel and also the use of Indian ports for trade with other countries. But recently the officials from Nepal and China finalised the protocol of 'Transit and Transport Agreement' giving Nepal the access to four Chinese ports.
- ⇒ China and the United States are locked in an ongoing trade war as each country has introduced tariffs on goods traded between each other. The USA blamed China of unfair trade practices and theft of intellectual property.

Economy

- ⇒ Under the money circulation and credit control policy of the RBI, the existing rates (as on 10.11.2018) are :
 - * Repo Rate (*Repo Rate is the rate at which commercial banks borrow money from the central bank, i.e., RBI*) : 6.50%.
 - * Reverse Repo Rate (*Reverse Repo Rate is the rate at which the commercial banks deposit their surplus money to the central bank*) : 6.25%
 - * Statutory Liquidity Ratio (*SLR is the percentage of deposits that commercial banks have to maintain with themselves*) : 19.5%
 - * CRR (*Cash Reserve Ratio is the proportion of deposits which the banks have to keep with the central bank*) : 4%



- * Bank Rate (*Bank rate is the rate at which central bank, i.e. RBI, rediscounts the bills of exchange of commercial banks*) : 6.75%
- * MSF (*Marginal Standing Facility is the loan banks are permitted to avail themselves from the RBI on overnight basis, using its SLR securities*) : 6.75%.
- * Base Rate (*Base Rate reflects the actual cost of banks that has to be covered through lending. Banks cannot lend money below the Base Rate, which varies from bank to bank*) : 8.85% - 9.45%.
- * Term Deposit (Fixed Deposit) Rate (more than 1 year): 6.25% - 7.25%.
- * Savings A/c.: 3.50% - 4.00%.
- * MCLR (Overnight) : 8.05% - 8.45%.
- (*MCLR, the Marginal Cost of Fund-based Lending Rate, is the new benchmark lending rate at which banks will now lend to new borrowers. Till 31 March 2016, banks used the Base rate as the benchmark lending rate. MCLR is built on four components – Marginal cost of funds, Negative carry on account of CRR, Operating costs and Tenor premium*).
- ⇒ SEBI constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of T.K. Viswanathan to review the existing legal framework to deal with market abuse to ensure fair market conduct in the securities market. The committee submitted its report on 'Fair Market Conduct', suggesting amendments in SEBI (Prevention of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015 and SEBI (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices Relating to Securities Market) Regulations, 2003.
- ⇒ The PM Narendra Modi launched the payments bank of the Indian Postal Department that would take banking to the door-step of every citizen through the network of post offices. India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) would be available through 650 branches and 3250 access points and would scale to all 1.55 lakh post offices by December 2018. IPPB can carry out most banking operations like accepting deposits but can't advance loans or issue credit cards.
- ⇒ According to WPP and Kantar Millward Brown's report, HDFC Bank has become India's most valuable brand for the fifth year in a row. The HDFC Bank's brand value has grown consistently over the past 5 years, from \$ 9.4 billion in 2014 to \$ 21.7 billion in 2018.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched his government's flagship the 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana' (PMJAY) – Ayushman Bharat from Ranchi. PMJAY – Ayushman Bharat aims to provide an annual health cover of Rs 5 lakh to 50 crore Indians who belong to poor and vulnerable families. It was simultaneously launched in 476 districts across 26 States.
- ⇒ According to the World Bank Global Logistics Performance Index for 2018, India ranked 44th among 160 nations. Germany topped the index followed by Sweden and Belgium.
- ⇒ The Union Cabinet decided to indefinitely extend Atal Pension Scheme, which had lapsed in August 2018. It also has broadened its scope by keeping it open-ended. The extension was given by taking into consideration of mass participation. To further incentivize people's participation in the scheme, age criterion for participation has been revised. Earlier, people of age 18 to 60 years were entitled to get enrolled in this scheme. But now it has been relaxed further to 65 years.
- ⇒ The merger of Idea Cellular and Vodafone India has been completed after it was cleared by National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). This merger has created India's biggest telecom service provider. The merged entity is named Vodafone Idea Ltd and dislodges current market leader Bharti Airtel from top position, by its sheer size and scale.
- ⇒ Union Ministry of Women and Child Development recently inaugurated widows' home 'Krishna Kutir' at Vrindavan in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh. Krishna Kutir is a special home for 1000 widows set under the Swadhar Grih scheme and is the largest ever facility of its kind created by a government organization.
- ⇒ According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, Mauritius was the top source of foreign direct investment (FDI) into India in 2017-18 followed by Singapore and the Netherlands. The total FDI in 2017-18 stood at \$37.36 billion. The FDI from Mauritius was \$13.41 billion in 2017-18 as against \$6.52 billion from Singapore.
- ⇒ Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry has launched National Mission on Government eMarketplace (GeM) for increasing awareness and accelerating the use of GeM by major central Ministries, State Governments and their agencies. The mission aims to promote inclusiveness, transparency and efficiency in public procurement and achieve cashless, contactless and paperless transaction. This will help to increase overall efficiency and lead to cost saving on government expenditure in procurement.
- ⇒ Union Finance Ministry has doubled pecuniary limit to Rs. 20 lakh from Rs. 10 lakh for filing loan recovery application in Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRT) by banks and financial institutions. It means that a bank or financial institution or consortium of banks or financial institutions cannot approach DRTs if the pecuniary limit amount due is less than Rs 20 lakh. Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) were first set up under Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act 1993, also known as DRT Act.



- ⇒ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved 100% electrification broad-gauge routes of Indian Railways (IR) by 2021-22. This will result in reduction of GHG emissions, thus, reduce environmental impact of Railways.
- ⇒ Union Finance Ministry announced a proposal for amalgamation of three public sector banks – Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank. The combined entity after consolidation will create India's third largest bank. Post this merger, the number of PSU banks will come down to 19 from 21.
- ⇒ The capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has allowed India's top two stock exchanges BSE Ltd and National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE) to launch commodity derivatives trading from 1 October, 2018.
- ⇒ National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) and London Stock Exchange (LSE) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on creating dual listing route for masala bonds and foreign currency bonds of Indian issuers. Masala bonds are rupee-denominated bonds through which Indian entities can raise money from foreign markets in rupee and not in foreign currency.
- ⇒ PM Narendra Modi launched the commencement of work for India's first Coal-gasification based fertilizer plant with pet coke blending in Talcher, Odisha. Coal-gasification based fertilizer plant will use gas produced from coal, thus reducing dependence on urea and gas imports. It will promote alternative use of domestic coal in environment friendly manner.
- ⇒ Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley launched portal www.psbloansin59minutes.com to enable micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to get in-principle approval of loans within an hour without need for branch visit.
- ⇒ The Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has constituted a High Level Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility under the Chairmanship of Injeti Srinivas. It will review the existing framework and also guide and formulate the roadmap for coherent policy on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is referred to as an initiative to assess and take responsibility for company's effects on environment and impact on social welfare and to promote positive social and environmental changes. Its basic philosophy is that income is earned only from the society and therefore it should be given back.
- ⇒ Maldives emerged champion of the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Cup by defeating India at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka.
- ⇒ Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) defeated Indian Railways to win the MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup Hockey in the final in Chennai.
- ⇒ India Blue has won the 2017-18 Duleep Trophy (Cricket) by defeating the defending champion India Red in the final match played at NPR College ground in Dindigul, Tamilnadu.
- ⇒ Novak Djokovic from Serbia won the 2018 US Open tennis title in men's singles category by defeating Argentina's Juan Martin del Porto. The 2018 US Open Women's singles title was won by Japan's Naomi Osaka who defeated Serena Williams of US.
- ⇒ Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy, given annually to the university/institutions for their all-round performance in Inter-University Tournaments. The award for 2017-18 has been given to Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar.

Awards

Sports

- ⇒ Defending champion India defeated Bangladesh in the final in Dubai to retain its Asia Cup Cricket title for 2018. Rohit Sharma was the captain of Indian team while Moshrafe Mortaza was that of Bangladeshi team. Liton Das of Bangladesh was adjudged the Man of the Match and Shikhar Dhawan was the Man of the Tournament.
- ⇒ Real Madrid footballer and Croatia captain Luka Modric was honoured with the FIFA Player of the year award 2018. He broke the decade-long domination of Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been given the Champions of the Earth Award for his extensive efforts to 'Beat Plastic Pollution', including an ambitious pledge to eliminate all single-use plastic in the country by 2022. PM Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron were jointly chosen in Policy Leadership category of the award for their pioneering work in championing International Solar Alliance (ISA) and promoting new areas of levels of cooperation on environmental action.
- ⇒ Mumbai-based eminent neurosurgeon Dr B.K. Misra was named for the prestigious Dr B.C. Roy National Award for the year 2018 as Eminent Medical Person of the Year. It is the highest medical honour of India and will be bestowed upon him by the President Ram Nath Kovind on July 1, 2019 on the occasion of National Doctors Day.
- ⇒ Union Territory of Puducherry has bagged top position in National Clean School Award. Out of 52 schools awarded with National Clean School Award, 7 belong to Puducherry. Tamil Nadu bagged the second position and the third position was shared by Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat.
- ⇒ Hyderabad International Airport (Rajiv Gandhi International Airport) was awarded Airports Council International Airport Service Quality World no.1 airport award in the 5-15 Million Passengers Per Annum category. This is for the second consecutive year that Hyderabad airport has won this award.
- ⇒ Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awards, India's highest sporting awards have been given jointly to S. Mirabai Chanu (Weightlifting) and Virat Kohli (Cricket).



Persons

- ⇒ Ariful Rehman has been elected the new President of Pakistan.
- ⇒ Ibrahim Mohammed Solih has been elected new President of Maldives.
- ⇒ Mousumi Khatua is the first Bengali woman to climb Asia's highest volcanic peak Damavand in Iran.
- ⇒ Sunil Mehta, the MD and CEO of Punjab National Bank, has been elected new Chairman of Indian Banks Association (IBA).
- ⇒ Justice Ranjan Gogoi has become the 46th Chief Justice of India succeeding incumbent Dipak Misra. He is the first CJI from north-eastern region.
- ⇒ Hima Das, India's ace sprinter has been appointed Sports Ambassador of Assam to inspire budding players of the north-eastern state to aim big and encourage young generation to take up sports seriously. She was the first Indian athlete to win gold medal in track event at the IAAF World U20 Championships held in Tampere, Finland. In 2018 Asian Games (Jakarta), she won silver medal in 400 m final.
- ⇒ Senior BJP leader L K Advani was re-nominated as Chairman of Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha.
- ⇒ Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas has been appointed Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). He succeeded Shekhar Basu.

Died

- ⇒ Jalaluddin Haqqani, the founder of the militant Haqqani network, one of the most powerful and feared groups in the Afghan insurgency passed away.
- ⇒ Jasdev Singh, the noted Hindi Sports Commentator passed away.

Miscellaneous

- ⇒ The Archaeological Survey of India has discovered 254 copper coins from Khirki Mosque near Delhi during the course of conservation of the monument. The mosque was built by Khan-i- Jahan Junan Shah, the Prime Minister of Firoz Shah Tughluq (1351-88).
- ⇒ India's first Global Mobility Summit MOVE (Mobility Operations via Education), organised by the NITI Aayog was held in New Delhi. Stakeholders from across the sector of mobility and transportation together with the government, industry, academia, civil society and media attended the summit to set the base for a transport system which is clean and safe.
- ⇒ A five-judge constitutional bench of the Supreme Court decriminalised section 377 of the IPC and legalised same-sex relations between consenting adults.
- ⇒ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister has approved the continuation of the Centrally Sponsored Umbrella Scheme of Integral Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS – IDWH) till 2019-20. The scheme consists of Project Tiger, Development of Wildlife Habitats and Project Elephant.

- ⇒ According to the Centre for Science and Environment Report 2018, Bhopal emerged on top with the best air quality in Indian cities followed by Chandigarh, Kochi and Kolkata.
- ⇒ The Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO's) workhorse, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-C42 (PSLV-C42) in its 44th flight put into orbit two UK earth observation satellites on September 16, 2018.
- ⇒ Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani recently visited India and held talks with the PM Narendra Modi.
- ⇒ The Supreme Court recently upheld Aadhar as a reasonable restriction on individual privacy. It also upheld the PAN-Aadhar linkage, but declared linking Aadhar with bank accounts and mobile SIM Cards unconstitutional.
- ⇒ Uttarakhand has declared cow as 'Rashtra Mata' (National Mother).
- ⇒ According to a report from BirdLife International, the Brazilian Spix's Macaw has become extinct in the wild. But 50 to 60 Spix's Macaw are still live in captivity.
- ⇒ India's first Dog Park is all set for inauguration at Kondapur in Hyderabad.
- ⇒ The Kolkata Municipal Corporation, with the support of the Asian Development Bank launched the country's first flood forecasting and early warning system. It will provide real-time data on inundation, rainfall intensity, temperature, air quality and other climate related data.
- ⇒ The Supreme Court constituted a three-member committee headed by Justice Amitava Roy on jail reforms across the country.
- ⇒ Germany launched the world's first hydrogen-powered train to give a big boost to eco-friendly technology.
- ⇒ Kerala Government has appointed KPMG of the Netherlands as project consultant partner for rebuilding the State ravaged by recent massive floods. The services of KPMG rendered for projects related to revamping to Kerala will be free of cost. KPMG is one of the largest professional service companies in the world and one of the Big Four auditors, along with Deloitte, Ernst & Young, and PricewaterhouseCoopers.
- ⇒ National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog flagged off cycle rally MOVE Cyclathon to spread message of clean mobility to the Indian public and promote cleaner and accessible modes of transport.
- ⇒ The 4th International Ayurveda Congress (IAvC) was held in Leiden, Netherlands. The Congress was jointly organized by International Maharishi Ayurveda Foundation, Netherlands; All India Ayurvedic Congress, New Delhi and International Academy of Ayurveda, Pune in association with Indian Embassy in Netherlands.
- ⇒ India and the United States conducted their annual combat exercise 'Yudh Abhyas' at Chaubatia in Uttarakhand.



- ⇒ India along with 23 other nations will be participating in a major Indian ocean-wide tsunami mock exercise known as IOWave18. The exercise is being organized by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO. It will involve evacuation of thousands of people from coastal areas in over half a dozen states.
- ⇒ The National Nutrition Month (Rashtriya Poshan Maah) was celebrated across the country in 'September 2018' to mark fight against malnutrition.
- ⇒ Search engine giant Google has launched 'Dataset Search', a new search engine for scientific community that will help them make sense of millions of datasets present online. It will also help scientists, data journalists and geeks to find data required for their work and their stories or simply to satisfy their intellectual curiosity.
- ⇒ Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has officially decided to participate in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) after a gap of nine years. It will send team of officers to Paris to negotiate India's terms of participation in PISA 2021. The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is the assessment test for 15-year-olds, organised every three years by Organisation for Economic Cooperation Development (OECD), Paris, France. India made its debut in PISA in 2009 and was placed at 72nd among 74 participating countries. In 2009, the Government blamed 'out of context' questions for India's poor results and decided not to participate in 2012 and 2015.
- ⇒ India and France have signed implementation agreement on Mobilise Your City (MYC) to support three pilot cities – Nagpur, Kochi and Ahmedabad for reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions related to urban transport.
- ⇒ The Odisha State Assembly has passed a resolution seeking creation of Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad). The resolution now will be sent to the Central Government (Union cabinet) for approval, following which it will be tabled in both houses of the Parliament. Thereafter, presidential assent is required to make it Act
- ⇒ The World Hindu Congress (WHC-2018) was held in Chicago, United States. It was organized to commemorate 125 years of Swami Vivekananda's historic Chicago address on September 11, 1893. The theme of the WHC-2018 was "Sumantrite Suvikrante" — think collectively, achieve valiantly".
- ⇒ Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru, the capital of Karnataka is set to become the first airport in Asia to introduce face recognition based passage system technology from 2019.
- ⇒ India - Mongolia joint exercise 'Nomadic Elephant', 2018 commenced at Mongolian Armed Forces (MAF) Five Hills Training Area in Ulaanbaatar (the capital of Mongolia). Nomadic Elephant is annual bilateral military exercise started in 2006. It is designed to strengthen partnership between Indian Army and Mongolian Armed Forces.
- ⇒ Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully carried out the first ever mid-air refuelling of indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas MK-1 over Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- ⇒ India was the focus country of the 87th Izmir International Trade Show held in Izmir, the third most populous city in Turkey, after Istanbul and Ankara
- ⇒ Election Commission of India (EC) removed NOTA (None of the Above) option from the ballot papers of Rajya Sabha and Legislative Council elections following the directive of the Supreme Court. The NOTA option, henceforth, will be available only in direct elections such as Lok Sabha and State assembly elections.
- ⇒ NITI Aayog, Intel, and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) are collaborating to set up Model International Centre for Transformative Artificial Intelligence (ICTAI) in Bengaluru, the capital of Karnataka
- ⇒ Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd (TCIL) have signed agreement for implementation of e-VidyaBharati and e-AarogyaBharati (e-VBAB) Network Project in Africa. The project is seen as digital bridge of knowledge and health between India and Africa. It is also considered as important milestone in India's development partnership with Africa.
- ⇒ The International Day for Preservation of Ozone Layer (or World Ozone Day) is observed every year on September 16 for the preservation of the Ozone Layer. This year, the theme for the Day is 'Keep Cool and Carry On'. (*Ozone layer is a layer of ozone 'O₃' molecules, which is found particularly in the stratosphere layer of atmosphere ranging between 20 to 40 km. Ozone layer is formed in the atmosphere when the ultraviolet rays from the sun break an oxygen molecule 'O₂' into two oxygen atoms 'O' and 'O'. The broken oxygen atom then merges with Oxygen molecule and thus forms the final ozone molecule. The problem that causes the depletion of this layer occurs as the harmful sun radiations can easily enter our atmosphere).*)
- ⇒ Rajasthan's first lion safari was inaugurated at Nahargarh Biological Park.
- ⇒ India's first underwater robotic drone EyeROV TUNA has been handed over to Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL) of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for research and development activities. EyeROV TUNA has been designed and developed indigenously by Kochi-based start-up IROV Technologies Pvt Ltd.



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- ⇒ Maharashtra Government is setting up new Cyber University dedicated to mitigating cyber threats. It will train 3,000 professionals to fight online space cyber-attacks, internet crimes and conduct cyber forensics.
- ⇒ India and Russia joint air exercise Aviaindra 18 was held in Lipetsk, Russia. The second session of Aviaindra 18 will be conducted in Jodhpur, Rajasthan (India) from December 10 to 22, 2018.
- ⇒ India's biggest cyclotron facility named Cyclone-30 became operational at Kolkata-based Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre (VECC), which comes under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). Cyclotron is used to produce radioisotopes for diagnostic and therapeutic use for cancer care. Radiations from these isotopes are used to destroy cancer cells.
- ⇒ India has contributed \$1 million to the United Nations (UN) Headquarters' Solar Project, under which solar panels will be installed on the roof of the world body's headquarters at New York. This contribution makes India the first responder to the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' call for climate action.
- ⇒ India's first indigenously developed 500-megawatt Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu is expected to achieve criticality in 2019. It was stated by Sekhar Basu, the ex-Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC).
- ⇒ International Day of Sign Languages is celebrated annually across the world on 23 September every year along with International Week of the Deaf. This year it was the first International Day of Sign Languages. Its theme was 'With Sign Language, Everyone is Included!'.
- ⇒ Assamese movie 'Village Rockstars' was selected as India's official entry to the Oscars 2019 under Foreign Language Film category. The film Village Rockstars is written, edited, co-produced, and directed by Rima Das, who is a self-taught filmmaker.
- ⇒ United States and India have formed 'USAID-India End TB Alliance comprising leading experts in public and private sectors to combat the menace of tuberculosis.
- ⇒ Union Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs had held two-day National Orientation Workshop on National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) in New Delhi. It aims to make all legislatures in the country paperless by making proceedings of houses digital. It also aims to provide information about functioning of House to common citizens at the click of a button.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Sikkim's first-ever airport at Pakyong. Prior to this airport, Sikkim was the only State in India remaining without functional airport. Pakyong airport is India's 100th functional airport and one of the country's five highest airports.
- ⇒ Andhra Pradesh has topped the Ease of Living Index rankings under AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation), followed by Odisha and Madhya Pradesh.
- ⇒ September, 25th was observed as Antyodaya Diwas across the country to mark the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, a noted philosopher, historian and political activist.
- ⇒ Indian Air Force (IAF) has successfully test fired indigenously developed Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) Astra from Su-30 fighter aircraft. The missile was tested at Kalaikunda Air Force Station, West Bengal.
- ⇒ Government has constituted an eight-member search committee headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, to recommend the names for the posts of Lokpal chairperson and members. Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 was passed in 2013 to constitute statutory body to inquire into the allegations of corruption against public functionaries.
- ⇒ Union Ministry of Tourism has inaugurated India's first tribal circuit project connecting 13 tourism sites in Chhattisgarh under Swadesh Darshan Scheme.

Books & Authors

- ⇒ India Moving : A History of Migration – Chinmay Tumble
- ⇒ The Night of Happiness – Tabish Khair
- ⇒ Nautanki Diaries – Dominic Franks
- ⇒ Peace Has Come – Parismita Singh
