



CURRENT AFFAIRS (DECEMBER - 2018) :

National

- ⇒ The 19th India-Russia Annual Bilateral Summit was held between the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi. The two countries signed an agreement, by which Russia will supply India S-400 Triumf long range surface-to-air missile system despite the possibility that such an agreement could trigger US sanctions against India. The deal will cost India \$ 5.4 billion (Rs. 40,000 crore).
- ⇒ After Switzerland, Liechtenstein (capital - Vaduz) has also signed an agreement with India for Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information. Prince Aois of Liechtenstein recently visited India and met President Ram Nath Kovind. The two countries are currently celebrating the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Japan recently in connection with the 13th India-Japan Annual Summit and met his Japanese counterpart Shinjo Abe. India and Japan signed six agreements including a high speed rail project and naval cooperation. They agreed to hold a 2 + 2 dialogue between the foreign ministers and defence ministers of the two countries. A \$ 75 billion bilateral currency swap agreement was signed, a move that will help in bringing greater stability in foreign exchange and capital markets in the country.
Prior to the Summit, Shinzo Abe said he will be a 'friend of India for life'.
- ⇒ President Ram Nath Kovind has given assent to Karnataka Good Samaritan and Medical Professional (Protection and Regulation during Emergency Situations) Bill, 2016. With this, Karnataka became the first State to give legal protection to good Samaritans who help accident victims with emergency medical care within golden hour (The first hour after a traumatic injury, when emergency treatment is most likely to be successful). This law will ensure that good Samaritans are not harassed in any manner and not face any criminal or civil liability.
- ⇒ India is setting up 3 new agencies – the Defence Cyber Agency, the Defence Space Agency and the Special Operation Division. All these three will be tri-service agencies, which means they will draw information from each service and serve under the command of the Chairman of the Staff Committee.
- ⇒ India has floated a road-map to establish a global coalition on Disaster Risk Reduction (DDR) and has already allocated some seed funding for it. DDR aims to reduce the damage caused by natural hazards like earthquake, floods, draughts and cyclone.

- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA) in New Delhi. The same event also marked inauguration of second Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting and second Global RE-Invest (Renewable Energy Investors' Meet and Expo). United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres was present on the occasion. International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an alliance dedicated to the promotion of solar energy among its member countries. The main objective of ISA is to include global deployment of over 1,000 GW of solar generation capacity and mobilisation of investment of over \$ 1000 billion into solar energy by 2030.
- ⇒ The second Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo (REINVEST – 2018) was organised by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in Noida. It was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the presence of the Secretary General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres. The second Global REINVEST also hosted the First Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA) and Meeting of the Energy Ministers of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) countries. 21 countries in Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) adopted Delhi Declaration on Renewable Energy in Indian Ocean Region.
- ⇒ Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) in collaboration with Assam Government has launched new Roll-on / Roll-off (Ro-Ro) facility connecting Neamati to Majuli Islands in Assam. The Ro-Ro ships are vessels that are used to carry wheeled cargo. This river-route will cut down the circuitous road-route of 423 km to only 12.7 km. Majuli is the world's largest riverine islands located on the Brahmaputra River. It has 144 villages with a population of over 1,50,000.
- ⇒ The 75th anniversary of the establishment of Azad Hind government was observed on October 21, 2018. Azad Hind Government was founded in Singapore on October 21, 1943. It was India's first independent government established by Indian nationalists-in-exile during the latter part of WW-II in Singapore with monetary, military and political assistance from Imperial Japan. It was inspired by the ideas of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, who was the leader of the Azad Hind Government and also Head of the State of this Government-in-exile.
- ⇒ President Ram Nath Kovind visited the Central Asian nation Tajikistan (capital – Dushanbe) recently. He met their Prime Minister Kohir Rasulzoda and President Inanobo Rehmon.

International

- ⇒ Canada became the first G7 nation to legalise the sale and recreational use of marijuana. Canada is the second country in the world to do so after Uganda.



- ⇒ Sri Lanka is facing a political turmoil. Its President Maithripala Sirisena pulled his faction out of Sri Lanka's ruling coalition and suspended the Parliament and sacked the Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe. Not only that, within hours, former President Mahinda Rajapakse was sworn in as the new Prime Minister of the island nation.
- ⇒ The Sri Lankan Parliament passed a legislation to pay compensation to victims of the island's brutal civil war. Nearly one lakh persons, mostly Tamils of LTTE were killed during the war which ended in 2009. The then President Mahinda Rajapakse's followers voted against the Bill. The long-delayed legislation had been a key demand of international observers who urged for reconciliation.
- ⇒ The world's biggest review report on climate change has been released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The implication of the report will be discussed at the Katowice climate change conference in Poland in December this year. The report warns that the average global temperature could reach the 1.5 degree Celsius (above the pre-industrial level) as early as 2030 if it continues to increase at the present rate.

Economy

- ⇒ Under the money circulation and credit control policy of the RBI, the existing rates (as on 10.12.2018) 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*) : 8.95% - 9.45%.
 - * Term Deposit (Fixed Deposit) Rate (more than 1 year): 6.25% - 7.50%.
 - * Savings A/c.: 3.50% - 4.00%.
 - * MCLR (Overnight) : 8.15% - 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).

- ⇒ The RBI barred Bandhan Bank from opening new branches without its approval and ordered the bank to freeze the salary of its Chief Executive Chandra Shekhar Ghosh over its failure to meet shareholding rules.
- ⇒ The IMF has agreed to increase the crisis loan package aimed at restoring confidence in Argentina's struggling economy by \$ 7 billion to \$ 57 billion.
- ⇒ SBI has signed an MoU with Kathmandu based National Banking Institute for the development of human resources of the latter.
- ⇒ According to the global brand consultancy Interbrands's 'Best 100 Global Brands 2018', Apple dislodged Google to become the top brand in the world on 2018. Amazon is the third-top brand while Facebook mired in data breach controversies fell to the ninth place.
- ⇒ Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has launched Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT). The initiative was launched with PSU Oil Marketing Companies (i.e., IOC, BPCL and HPCL). Under it, Expressions of Interest (Eoi) have been invited from potential entrepreneurs to set up Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) production plants and make available biogas in market for use in automotive fuels to reduce pollution.
- ⇒ Forbes has published the list of 100 richest Indians. The list is topped by the Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani for the 11th consecutive year with a networth of \$ 43.7 billion. He is followed by the Wipro Chairman Azim Premji (\$ 21 billion) and the Arcelor Mittal Chairman and CEO Lakshmi Mittal (\$ 18.3 billion).
- ⇒ According to a report by the Credit Suisse, India created a whopping 7,300 more millionaires (in dollar terms) taking the number of millionaires to 3.4 lakh. They are collectively worth around \$ 6 trillion. By 2023, there will be estimated 5.26 lakh millionaires in the country. That is good, but income inequality has made India the house of the highest number of poor people. India's top 1% of the population now holds 73% of the wealth while the bottom 50% citizens hold nearly 2% of the wealth.
- ⇒ Three Gulf nations Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE have deposited \$ 1 billion in Jordan's central bank as part of a \$ 2.2 billion package to shore up the kingdom's struggling economy.
- ⇒ The International Day of Rural Women was observed on October 15 to recognize the crucial role and contribution of rural women.



- ⇒ India was ranked 28th among 73 countries in 2018 Government e-Payments Adoption Ranking (GEAR), which reinforces country's progress towards digital transformation. Norway has topped 2018 GEAR list scoring 89.7 points in seven categories.
- ⇒ According to the 2018 Henley Passport Index, a global ranking based on the number of destinations that holders can access without a prior visa, Japan topped the index followed by Singapore. India was ranked 81 as it gives visa-on-arrival to only 60 countries.
- ⇒ The World Bank published the 16th edition of 'Doing Business 2019 : Training For Reform' report. India ranked 77th among 190 countries. New Zealand topped the 'Ease of Doing Business' index followed by Singapore and Denmark.
- ⇒ The World Economic Forum released the Global Competitiveness Report, 2018. India has been placed at the 58th position. The USA topped the list followed by Singapore and Germany.
- ⇒ According to the 'Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index 2018', India ranked very poorly at the 147th position out of 157 countries. Denmark topped the list followed by Germany and Finland.
- ⇒ India has been ranked at the 115th place among 157 countries in the first ever 'Human Capital Index'. The index took into account parameters like child mortality, health and education.
- ⇒ Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has launched Closing the Skills Gap Task Force in India in collaboration with World Economic Forum (WEF). The goal of Task Force is to develop action plan to address skills gaps in India and make Indian workforce ready for jobs of future.
- ⇒ According to the United Nations report titled 'Economic Losses, Poverty and Disasters 1998-2017', India has suffered a whopping \$79.5 billion economic loss due to climate-related disasters in last 20 years.
- ⇒ The World Economic Forum (WEF) has announced its new Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution in India, which will be based in Maharashtra. The fourth Industrial Revolution describes the huge ongoing changes in our lives due to the internet and the resulting smart technologies. The centre in India is the fourth in the chain along with San Francisco (US), Tokyo (Japan) and Beijing (China) that are already functioning.
- ⇒ The 2018 global hunger index, prepared jointly by Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide, ranked India at the 103rd position among 119 countries. India is among the 45 countries that have 'serious levels of hunger'. Around 124 million people suffer from acute hunger in the world which is a striking increase from 80 million two years ago.
- ⇒ The first joint military exercise named 'Dharma Guardian' between India and Japan was held at the Army's Counter-Insurgency Warfare School at Vairengte (Mizoram).
- ⇒ UN-backed fund Green Climate Fund (GCF) has approved US \$43.4 million for enhancing climate resilience for millions of people living in India's coastal communities as part of its efforts to combat extreme impacts of climate change. The grant is a part of more than \$1 billion approved by the 21st meeting of GCF Board held in Bahrain's capital Manama for 19 new projects to help developing countries tackle climate change.

Sports

- ⇒ Virat Kohli became the fastest batsman in the world to reach the 10,000 runs milestone in the One-day International career during the 2nd India-West Indies Bilateral ODI Series in Visakhapatnam. He took 205 ODI innings to reach the milestone.
- ⇒ Mumbai defeated Delhi to emerge the champion of the Vijay Hazare Trophy (cricket).
- ⇒ India 'C' defeated India 'B' in the final to clinch the Deodhar Trophy cricket 2018-19.
- ⇒ The 2018 World Wrestling Championships were held in Budapest, Hungary. Japan won the most medals. India was at the 17th place with 2 medals – 1 silver and 1 bronze. Bajrang Punia bagged the Silver medal (Men's) and Pooja Dhanda won Bronze medal (Women's).
- ⇒ Turtle 'Olly' is the official mascot of the Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup, 2018, being organised at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.
- ⇒ India and Pakistan were declared joint winners of the Hero Asia Cup Men's Hockey Championship.
- ⇒ Sourav Kothari clinched the 2018 World Billiards Championship crown.
- ⇒ The Third Summer Youth Olympic Games were organised in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Russia emerged as the overall champion with 59 medals. India clinched 13 medals including 3 gold and 9 silver medals.

Awards

- ⇒ Nobel Prizes, 2018 –
- Medicine or Physiology – James Allison of the USA and Tasuku Honjo of Japan for their path-breaking discoveries about how to harness and manipulate the immunity system to fight cancer.
 - Physics – Arthur Ashkin of the USA, Gerard Mourou of France and Donna Strickland of Canada for inventing optical lasers that have paved the way for advanced precision tools used in corrective eye surgery and in micro machining.
 - Chemistry – Frances Arnold and George Smith, both from the USA and Gregory Winter of Britain for harnessing the power of evolution to generate novel proteins used in different fields.



- Economics – William Nordhaus and Paul Romer, both from the USA for developing 'Green Growth' models that show how innovation and climate policies can be integrated with economic growth.
 - Peace – Denis Mukwege, a doctor who helps the victims of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo; and Nadia Murad, a Yazidi rights activist and survivor of sexual slavery by the Islamic State terror group.
- The Nobel Prize for Literature was not announced this year for some sex abuse scandal in the Swedish Academy.
- ⇒ Sikkim was awarded the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Future Policy Gold Award (Gold Prize) for its achievement in becoming the world's first totally organic agriculture state. The award is also known as the 'Oscar for Best Policies'. The policies from Brazil, Denmark and Quito (Ecuador) won the Silver prizes.
 - ⇒ Mohammed Zahur Khayyam Hashmi, famously known as Khayyam, won the 2018 Hridaynath Mangeshkar Award for Lifetime Achievement.
 - ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of national award in the name of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose to honour those involved in disaster response operations. The national award will be given every year to the police personnel who do excellent work in rescue and relief operations during any kind of disaster.
 - ⇒ US-based Dalit writer Sujatha Gidla (55) has won 2018 Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize for her debut book "Ants Among Elephants: An Untouchable Family and the Making of Modern India".
 - ⇒ Eminent jurist Fali S. Nariman was awarded the 19th Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration. He is one of India's most distinguished constitutional lawyers.
 - ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred with the Seoul Peace Prize, 2018 in recognition of his dedication for improving international cooperation, raising global economic growth and accelerating Human Development of people in India by fostering economic growth.
- Persons**
- ⇒ Lt. General Asim Munir has been appointed new director General of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency.
 - ⇒ Rita Baranwal, an Indian-American nuclear expert has been nominated as the head of the nuclear energy division at the department of energy.
 - ⇒ Tushar Mehta is the new Solicitor General of India. It is to be noted that the Attorney General is the government's primary lawyer who pleads in the court where the Union of India is a party. The Solicitor General is the secondary law officer in the country who assists the Attorney General. (K K Venugopal is the present AG of India)
- ⇒ Gita Gopinath, an India-born economist has been appointed Chief Economist of International Monetary Fund (IMF). It makes her the second Indian after former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan to hold the position.
 - ⇒ Madan Bhimarao Lokur has been appointed Executive Chairman of National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA) by the President Ramnath Kovind. NALSA provides services of free legal aid in civil and criminal matters for poor and marginalised people who cannot afford services of lawyers in any court or tribunal.
 - ⇒ Mahinda Rajapaksha, the former President of Sri Lanka has been sworn in as the new Prime Minister of the country by the President Maithripala Sirisena.
- Died**
- ⇒ Narayan Dutt Tiwari, former Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand Chief Minister passed away.
 - ⇒ Annapurna Devi, the doyen of Classical Hindustani music passed away.
 - ⇒ Paul G Allen, the co-founder of Microsoft with Bill Gates, passed away.
- Miscellaneous**
- ⇒ The External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj participated in the 17th Council of heads of Government Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
 - ⇒ All India Council for Technical Education will establish country's first AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy in Jaipur. Three more ATAL academies will come up at Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), Guwahati (Assam) and Baroda (Gujarat) by next year. These academies will provide upgraded teaching methods and modules to make technical education more effective and accountable.
 - ⇒ Union Finance Ministry has constituted a nine-member Competition Law Review Committee to ensure that legislation is in tune with changing business environment. It will be chaired by Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas. The committee will review competition regulations in view of changing business environment and suggest the necessary changes to strengthen and re-calibrate existing law to promote best practices.
 - ⇒ The International Day of Older Persons (IDOP) is observed every year on October 1 to raise awareness about issues affecting elderly and to appreciate contributions that the older people make to society. The theme for this year is 'Celebrating Older Human Rights Champions'.
 - ⇒ According to the International Status Report 2018 released by the Canadian Cancer Society, India was ranked 5th among 206 countries in Cigarette Package Health Warnings.



- ⇒ Odisha Government has launched State Food Security Scheme (SFSS) to benefit the 25 lakh poor people who were left out of the National Food Security Act (NFSA). Under it, beneficiaries will get 5 kg of rice per person per month at the rate of Re. 1 per kg.
- ⇒ The UP government declared that a death through a man-animal conflict as a State disaster. If a person dies in an attack by a tiger, lion, leopard, elephant, Indian wolf, hyena, crocodile, etc, the deceased family will be entitled for a compensation of Rs. 5 lakh.
- ⇒ An airbus of Singapore Airlines flew the world's largest distance by a commercial plane. It covered a 16,700 km distance from Singapore to New York in 19 hours with 161 passengers on board.
- ⇒ The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay emerged as the top-most Indian educational institution in the latest QR (Quacquarelli Symonds) rankings for Asian universities. However, IIT Bombay's ranking was 33rd in Asia, followed by IIT Delhi (40th). The National University of Singapore emerged as the best in Asia followed by the University of Hong Kong.
- ⇒ The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) plans to create a new college of artificial intelligence for the programme focusing on 'responsible and ethical' uses of technology.
- ⇒ The Union government has formed the Strategic Policy Group (SPG) headed by the National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. The SPG will act as a principal mechanism for inter-ministerial coordination and integration of relevant inputs in the formation of national security policies.
- ⇒ The sixth edition of IBSAMAR (India-Brazil-South Africa Maritime), a joint multi-national maritime exercise between Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies was held at Simons Town, South Africa.
- ⇒ The world's largest dome was inaugurated at Maharashtra Institute of Technology (MIT)'s World Peace University (MIT-WPU) campus, Pune (Maharashtra) on the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ⇒ The Union Cabinet has remodified its earlier decision to establish National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR) in Sehore District (Bhopal-Sehore highway) instead of Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. NIMHR will be the first of its kind in the country in the area of mental health rehabilitation.
- ⇒ Indian Air Force (IAF) has successfully undertaken a series of flight trials of Astra Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVR-AAM) from September 26 to October 3, 2018. The tests were conducted at Integrated Test Range (ITR), Balasore, Odisha as part of the final development trials of the missile.
- ⇒ Australian government has announced that new migrants will not be allowed to settle in its two largest cities Melbourne and Sydney.
- ⇒ India has launched humanitarian operation Samudra Maitri to provide assistance to earthquake and tsunami victims in Indonesia. Under this operation, India has dispatched two aircrafts C-130J and C-17 and three naval ships carrying relief material and personnel to the country.
- ⇒ The first joint exercise of Coast Guards of India and Vietnam 'Sahyog HOP TAC-2018' was held in the Bay of Bengal off the Chennai coast, Tamil Nadu. It was aimed at strengthening the working level relationship between coast guards of both navies
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently conferred Swachh Survekshan Grameen Awards 2018 to top ranked states and districts. Haryana was ranked as the best State, followed by Gujarat and Maharashtra. Satara District of Maharashtra was ranked as the best district. Uttar Pradesh was rewarded for maximum citizens' participation.
- ⇒ Union Ministry of Civil Aviation has released a policy on biometric based digital processing of passengers at airports called Digi-Yatra. The initiative seeks to promote paperless and hassle-free air travel. It will be operational by the end of February, 2019 at Bengaluru and Hyderabad airports and gradually to the entire country. Under it, there will be a one-time verification at departure airport while travelling for the first time using ID. After successful verification, facial recognition biometric will be captured and stored in the Digi Yatra ID. With this initiative, ticket booking, airport entry and boarding pass security check-in will be made digital.
- ⇒ NASA's Parker Solar Probe has successfully completed flyby of Venus at a distance of about 2,415 kilometres during its first gravity assist from the planet. Parker Solar Probe mission is mankind's first mission to study the outer corona of the Sun.
- ⇒ National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC) will be set up on the banks of the Ganga river in Patna University campus in Patna. It will be Asia's first Dolphin research centre. Gangetic river dolphin is one of the four fresh-water dolphin species in the world.
- ⇒ Alphonso mango, from 5 districts of Maharashtra has been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indication Registry and Intellectual Property India. With this recognition, Alphonso has joined the list of 325 products from India with GI tag. Alphonso, better known as 'Hapus' in Maharashtra is considered the king of mangoes.
- ⇒ Bihar's Sahi Lichi has got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ⇒ Gujarat Forest Department has started vaccination of lions in Gir sanctuary to protect them from a deadly canine distemper virus (CDV) and protozoa infections. The virus is blamed for the death of as many as 23 lions in Gujarat's Gir sanctuary in less than a month.



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- ⇒ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Russia's federal space agency Roscosmos State Corporation for Space Activities (ROSCOSMOS) have agreed to work together for the first manned space mission Gaganyaan. It is India's first manned space mission. Under it, India is planning to send three humans into space in low earth orbit (LEO) by 2022.
- ⇒ Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has reconstituted Supreme Court empowered Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) under the chairmanship of Bhure Lal. The EPCA is Supreme Court mandated body tasked with taking various measures to tackle air pollution in the National Capital Region.
- ⇒ The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has released special report on global warming in Incheon, South Korea. It will be the key scientific input in upcoming Katowice Climate Change Conference in Poland in December 2018.
- ⇒ Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has confirmed 22 positive laboratory-confirmed cases of Zika virus in Rajasthan's capital Jaipur. Zika virus is a mosquito-borne virus transmitted by Aedes aegypti mosquitoes which also transmit three other vector-borne diseases Chikungunya, dengue and yellow fever.
- ⇒ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed an MoU with Central University of Jammu (CUJ) for setting up of Satish Dhawan Centre for Space Science in the University. It will be first of its kind institute coming up in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ⇒ The 12th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit was held in Brussels, Belgium. The theme of the summit was 'Global Partners for Global Challenges'. India was represented by Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu.
- ⇒ India and the US have agreed to elevate their bilateral 'Cope India' air exercise to a trilateral format by including Japan. The next edition of this exercise is scheduled to be held in December 2018 in India.
- ⇒ India's longest river bridge with a total length of 19.3 kilometres will be built on the Brahmaputra river in Assam. This bridge will connect Dhubri of Assam to Fulbarani of Meghalaya. At present, India's largest river bridge is 9.15 kilometres long Dhola-Sadia bridge (also known as Bhupen Hazarika Bridge) in Assam.
- ⇒ Indian railways announced its plan to link New Delhi and Ladakh by means of a railway line that will run along the India-China Border. The proposed 465 km Bilaspur-Manali-Leh Line would be the world's highest railway line (5,360 metres above mean sea level).
- ⇒ The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) scientists have developed less polluting green firecrackers named SWAS, SAFAL and STAR. SWAS stands for safe water releaser, SAFAL stands for safe minimal aluminium and STAR stands for safe thermite cracker.
- ⇒ International Conference on Status and Protection of Coral Reefs (STAPCOR – 2018) was held recently at Bangaram Island, in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. The theme of the conference was 'Reef for Life'. International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) has declared the year 2018 as International Year of the Reef (IYOR 2018). Coral reef is an underwater marine ecosystem characterized by reef-building corals. Corals are often called 'rainforests of the sea' as they form some of the Earth's most diverse ecosystems. They occupy less than 0.1% of world's ocean area, but provide home for at least 25% of all marine species.
- ⇒ The International Court of Justice ordered the USA to suspend sanctions of humanitarian goods like medicines, food and agricultural commodities from Iran.
- ⇒ The UK government extended its 'Places of Worship' scheme that funds measures to install security measures in temples, mosques and Gurudwaras to protect them against growing incidents of religious hate crime.
- ⇒ India and China have launched their first joint programme for Afghanistan to train its diplomats.
- ⇒ China inaugurated Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, the world's longest sea bridge with total length of 55 km. It includes an undersea tunnel (6.7 km) which reaches a depth of 44 m
- ⇒ World Development Information Day (WDID) is observed every year on October 24 to draw attention of world to development problems and necessity of strengthening international cooperation to solve them. This day also coincides with United Nations Day (October 24).
- ⇒ Odisha Government has launched an automatic public address system to warn citizens about cyclone, tsunami and floods. This is the first of its kind technology in the field of Early Warning Dissemination System (EWDS) in India.
- ⇒ Hungary government has enacted a law which says sleeping on the streets is a crime.
- ⇒ The 75th anniversary of the formation of Azad Hind government has been commemorated.
- ⇒ For centuries, women were not allowed to enter the Sabarimala shrine in Kerala based on the biological ground of menstruation. Following a verdict of the Supreme Court, the Lord Ayappa Temple at Sabarimala has been opened to the women of all ages.

Books & Authors :

- ⇒ Woman World – Amrinder Dhaliwal (Graphic novel)
- ⇒ Milkman – Anna Burns (Man Booker Prize)
- ⇒ Red Birds – Mohammad Hanif
- ⇒ Acid – Sangeetha Sreenivasan.
- ⇒ Maharana Pratap, The Invisible Warrior – Rima Hooja
- ⇒ Kama : The Riddle of Desire – Gurcharan Das