

WEEKLY GK UPDATES

General Awareness



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“The expert in anything was once a beginner.” – Helen Hayes

Economy & Banking

1. Bids invited for UDAN's global flight

- Government has invited proposals from interested air operators for the international version "Udan" scheme to enhance air connectivity from India to select overseas destinations.
- National airports operator AAI(Airport Authority of India) has been mandated to implement the international version of the Udan scheme named International Air Connectivity Scheme "IACS Udan".

- *UDAN stands for Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik aimed at boosting regional air connectivity and providing various incentives to airlines was launched in 2016. It aims to increase ticketing volume from 80 million to 300 million by 2022.*
- *Under the scheme on designated routes regional flights Airfares is capped at 2500 rupees for an hour's flight. Viability gap funding support is being provided by States & airport operators.*

2. Trade deficit shrinks to 5-month low

- India's trade deficit shrank to its lowest in five months in September, at \$13.98 billion despite high oil prices
- However this decline is entirely due to the base effect resulting from September 2017 being an abnormally high growth month of about 26% in dollar terms
- Merchandise exports in September 2018 exhibited a positive growth of 9.65% in rupee terms. In dollar terms, there was a marginal negative growth in merchandise exports of 2.15% in September 2018

- *Trade deficit- Trade deficit is the excess of a country's import bill over its export receipts. It is also referred to as a negative balance of trade (BOT).*
- *India runs a trade deficit, with its import bill on crude oil, precious metals, electronic goods and other items, far exceeding its export earnings.*

3. Higher food prices drive wholesale inflation to 5.13%

- Wholesale inflation accelerated to 5.13% in September
- Growth in the Wholesale Price Index quickened in September from 4.53% in August.
- Out of three major groups, primary articles inflation increased sharply in September and fuel and light, and manufactured inflation moderated in September

- *Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is an indicator of price changes in the wholesale market.*
- *It measures the changes in commodity price at selected stages before goods reach to the retail level.*
- *It is published by Office of Economic Advisor (Ministry of Commerce & Industry).*
- *It measures price movements of goods only.*

4. Kreditech gets NBFC license from RBI

- The Germany-based Kreditech has been licensed by the RBI to operate as an NBFC with the first-of-its-kind license in the Indian financial history for digital lending business and app-based financing.
- "With a market potential of roughly \$1 trillion in revenue for the next five years, India clearly is the most promising emerging market for Kreditech" said David Chan, CEO at Kreditech.

- *A Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) is a company registered under the Companies Act & engaged in the business of loans and advances, acquisition of shares/stocks/bonds/debentures/securities issued by Government, leasing, hire-purchase, insurance business, chit business but does not include any institution whose principal business is that of agriculture activity, industrial activity, purchase or sale of any goods (other than securities) or providing any services and sale/purchase/construction of immovable property.*
- *A non-banking institution which is a company and has principal business of receiving deposits under any scheme or arrangement in one lump sum or in installments by way of contributions or in any other manner, is also a non-banking financial company (Residuary non-banking company).*

5. Now, transfer money from one e-wallet to another

- RBI has released the guidelines for interoperability between prepaid payment instruments (PPIs) such as wallets and cards.
- It will effectively allow users of popular payment wallets such as Paytm, Freecharge, Mobikwik, PhonePe and PayZapp, among others, to transfer money from one wallet to another.
- Wallets could implement interoperability through the Unified Payment Interface (UPI).
- RBI also allowed PPIs to issue cards using authorized card networks such as Mastercard, Visa or Rupay

- *Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is a system that powers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application (of any participating bank).*
- *UPI was developed by National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) under the guidelines of RBI. UPI is based on the Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) platform.*
- *The per transaction limit is Rs.1 lakh.*

6. Arundhati Bhattacharya joins board of Reliance Industries

- Former chairman of State Bank of India, Arundhati Bhattacharya has joined as additional director (designated as independent director) on the board of Reliance Industries.
- Earlier in this month home grown private equity firm ChrysCapital Advisors LLP has hired her as an advisor. She will advise on firm's strategy and investments.

- *Reliance Industries Limited is an Indian conglomerate holding company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.*
- *Reliance owns businesses across India engaged in energy, petrochemicals, textiles, natural resources, retail, and telecommunications.*
- *Mukesh Ambani is the CEO & owner of the company.*

7. RIL acquires controlling stake in DEN , Hathway for Rs.5230 cr

- Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) has announced strategic investments of more than Rs.5,230 crore in DEN Networks Ltd. and Hathway Cable and Datacom Ltd.
- It will support the expansion of Reliance Jio's JioGigaFiber service.
- This acquisition and partnership is part of JioGigaFibre roll-out.

- Reliance Jio GigaFiber offers high speed broadband connections as well as add-ons including Live television and smart home services.
- Jio has already started work on connecting 50 million homes across 1,100 cities in the country. This could provide a big boost to the home broadband space in India, which currently is in a dismal state. According to the latest numbers by internet speed analysis firm Ookla, the global average download speed for home broadband is 49.26Mbps and the global average upload speed is 24.20Mbps.
- The ranking puts India at number 66 out of a total of 130 countries, with the average download speed of 25.02Mbps and an average upload speed of 20.78Mbps.

8. Adani Group , Total enter into retail partnership

- Adani and Total(world's second largest LNG private player based in France) have signed an agreement to jointly develop multi-energy offerings for the Indian market.
- It will include LNG and fuel retail.
- The agreement targets developing various regasification terminals, including Dhamra LNG, on the east coast of India. This joint venture has an objective of building a retail network of 1,500 service stations over 10 years, on India's main roads, such as highways and intercity connections

- Adani Group is an Indian multinational conglomerate based in Ahmedabad(Gujarat).
- It was founded by Gautam Adani in 1988 as a commodity trading business with the flagship company Adani Enterprises Limited.
- Gautam Adani is the chairman of the company.

9. Gold imports rise 4% to \$17.63 billion

- Gold imports increased by about 4% to \$17.63 billion in the first half of 2018-19 causing inflating trade deficit and current account deficit.
- Increase in gold imports pushed the trade deficit to \$94.32 billion in April-September 2018-19 against \$76.66 billion in the same period last year.
- Current Account Deficit (the difference between outflow and inflow of foreign exchange) widened to 2.4% of the GDP in the first quarter of 2018-19.

In India Gold can be found mainly in Karnataka(Kolar Gold field , Hutti, Topuldedi, wondalli) , Andhra Pradesh(Ramagiri Gold field) and Jharkhand(Singhbhum).

Kolar & Hutti goldfields all together produce 98% of total country production

10. RBI opposes move for independent Payments Regulatory Board

- It was envisaged by the draft proposal for amendments to the Payment & Settlement Systems Act, 2007.
- In a dissenting note to the Inter-Ministerial Committee for finalization of amendments, the RBI said, "There is no case of having a regulator for payment systems outside the RBI."
- "Since banks are regulated by the RBI, a holistic regulation by RBI will be more effective and not result in increased compliance costs," it said.
- The Watal Committee(The Committee on Digital Payments constituted by the Ministry of Finance) also recommended the establishment of the PRB within the overall structure of the RBI.

- *Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 came into force with effect from 12th August 2008.*
- *It provides for the regulation and supervision of payment systems in India and designates the Reserve Bank of India (Reserve Bank) as the authority for that purpose and all related matters.*
- *Under the PSS Act, 2007, two Regulations have been made by the Reserve Bank of India, namely, the Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems Regulations, 2008 and the Payment and Settlement Systems Regulations, 2008.*

11. Strides gets U.S. nod for Gabapentin

- Global arm of Strides Pharma Science (Strides) - Strides Pharma Global Pte Singapore has received USFDA approval for Gabapentin capsules..
- Gabapentin capsules is a generic version of Neurontin capsules of Pfizer Inc
- This anti-convulsant/anti-epileptic drug is used with other medication to prevent and control seizures and is also used to relieve nerve pain following shingles in adults.

- *US FDA "US Food and Drug Administration" is a federal agency of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. it oversees the manufacturing and distribution of food, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, tobacco and other consumer products and veterinary medicine.*

Government & Polity

1. Allahabad to be Renamed Prayagraj Soon, Says CM Yogi Adityanath

- The ancient name of this important city was Prayag but it was changed after Mughal emperor Akbar founded a fort near the confluence of the Ganga and the Yamuna, and named the fort and its neighborhood "Ilahabad".
- Later on his grandson ShahJahan renamed the entire city as Allahabad. But the area near the Sangam (site of the Kumbh Mela) continues to be called Prayag.
- BJP government in the state had earlier changed the name of Mughalsarai Junction as Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Junction. Also, Mughalsarai was made Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay Nagar.

- *Kumbh Mela -Inscribed on the UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.*
- *It is held once in every 12 years in Haridwar, Ujjain, Allahabad, and Nasik (held every three years in each of the four different locations, returning to each of the four places after a gap of every twelve years).*
- *Besides the regular Kumbh Mela, an Ardh (half) Kumbh Mela takes place six years after the Maha Kumbh in each of the location(location varies according to what position the Sun, Moon, and Jupiter hold in that period in different zodiac signs).*
- *The Kumbh Mela will be held in Allahabad (Prayag) in the year 2019 from 15th of January till 4th of March.*

2. Ahead of climate talks, India in touch with 40 nations

- Ahead of COP 24 (Conference of Parties to UNFCCC , to be held in Katowice , Poland) India is having discussions with 40 countries to forge alliances and compel developed countries to make good on past promises to provide enough finance and technology to face the challenges of global warming.
- Developed countries have promised to provide \$100 billion annually to developing countries to check such warming. But it has not been fulfilled yet.
- The 'Like Minded Developing Countries' (India, China, Venezuela and Iran) and BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India, China) are networks that are formed to lend weight to developing country concerns.

- *UNFCCC- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (entered into force in 1994) is an international environmental treaty adopted in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.*
- *It works for stabilization of GHG concentrations in the atmosphere to prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.*
- *COP serve as the formal meeting of the UNFCCC Parties. Last COP 23 was held in Bonn Germany.*

3. No time bar for crimes under POCSO Act

- Government clarified that there is no time bar on reporting such crimes.
- Survivors of child sexual abuse will be able to file a police complaint after they become adults also.
- Unlike the Code of Criminal Proceedings (CrPC), the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), 2012, does not lay down a time limit for reporting crimes covered under it.
- However POCSO is applicable only for crimes after its enactment in 2012.

- *POCSO Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012 is gender neutral legislation.*
- *It defines a child as any person below the age of 18 years and provides protection to all children from offences such as sexual assault, penetrative sexual assault and sexual harassment.*

4. Narendra Modi to launch app to rope in volunteers

- #Self4Society is developed by MyGov. It will be launched by Prime Minister on 24th October in New Delhi.
- It will help to have better synergy among many initiatives and would result in better outcomes.
- The app will have incentives, gamification and intra & inter-company competitions along with social networking features.
- Initially it is for IT companies and in future will include more.

- *MyGov is a citizen engagement platform founded by the Government of India to promote the active participation of Indian citizens in their country's governance and development.*
- *It was launched in 2014.*

5. A.P. shines in rural survey

- Kuligod in Karnataka's Belagavi district is the country's best developed village, but more than a third of the gram panchayats ranked in the top 10 are in Andhra Pradesh, according to the findings of an ongoing Rural Development Ministry survey under Mission Antyodaya convergence scheme.
- There are 97 panchayats in the top 10 ranks with multiple panchayats assigned the same score
- The Rural Development Ministry has done a gap analysis of more than 3.5 lakh villages, in more than 1.6 lakh panchayats under the Mission Antyodaya convergence scheme. A team of officials surveyed and scored village level facilities and amenities using parameters related to infrastructure, economic development and livelihood, irrigation facilities, health, nutrition and sanitation, women's empowerment, and financial inclusion.

- ***Mission Antyodaya is a convergence framework for measurable effective outcomes on parameters that transform lives and livelihoods.***
- ***Mission Mode Project envisaged by the Ministry of Rural Development. Comprehensive and integrated system for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness at Gram Panchayat Level.***

6. Field surveys for Titli damage ordered

- The Odisha government on asked District Collectors and the agriculture department to conduct field inspection to ascertain damages to cultivation by Cyclone Titli and the subsequent floods.
- The farmers will be provided input subsidy for crop loss on the basis of the reports.
- State asked the Centre to immediately release Rs.1,000 crore as interim assistance for relief and restoration works for the cyclone and flood-affected areas
- As per the norms of NDRF and SDRF, the State government will give agriculture input subsidy at the rate of Rs.13,500 per hectare for irrigated land and Rs.6,800 per hectare for non-irrigated land.
- At least 57 people have been killed and 10 others are missing due to the cyclone.

- ***Cyclone 'Titli' hit Odisha & Andhra Pradesh in October 2018 which was a 'very severe cyclonic storm'.***
- ***A tropical cyclone is a rotating, organized system of clouds and thunderstorms that originates over tropical or subtropical waters and has closed low-level circulation.***
- ***Hurricanes, cyclones and typhoons are all tropical storms. They are given different names depending on where they appear.***

7. Bullet train plan stalls on land row

- NDA government's ambitious bullet train project is being delayed due to conflicts over acquisition of private land in Maharashtra.
- Ahead of the annual summit between Mr. Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe on October 28-29, latest status report by the office of collector of Palghar(Maharashtra) warned of an imminent delay in meeting the December 2018 deadline for completion of survey and acquisition.

- *The Shinkansen high-speed trains of Japan are called as bullet trains for their appearance and speed. It is a term generally used to describe a high-speed train of speeds above 250 kmph.*
- *India's first bullet train will run between Mumbai and Ahmadabad through a high-speed rail corridor, whose construction began in September 2017. It is a 508 km long high-speed rail corridor building with the help of Japan. The train will run at a speed of 320kmph and is expected to be completed by 2022.*

International

1. Special forces in India-U.S. exercise

- The first India-U.S. tri-services exercise is likely to take place in 2019 and talks are on to include the special forces also in the drill,
- The three forces of each country already take part in bilateral exercises separately — their **Armies** participate in an annual drill called **Yudh Abyaas**(September 2018 , Uttarakhand) and the **Air Forces** take part in a bilateral drill called **Cope India**. The **Navies** participate in an exercise in **Malabar**, involving Japan.
- But this will be the first time, the three services of India and the U.S. will participate in a drill together.

- *Recently India & USA signed COMCASA The Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement.*
- *It will facilitate access to advanced defense systems and enable India to optimally utilize its existing U.S.-origin platforms.*

2. Uncertainty plagues U.K. talks with EU over Brexit

- To avoid the disturbances in her own party factions and domestic political arena , Prime Minister Theresa May rejected terms of a deal being negotiated with EU and which was close to be reached on agreement stage.
- The main issue which resulted in sudden turn in Brexit talks was time length of a temporary custom union that would act as a tool to prevent a hard border(with stringent rules and trade barriers) between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland once Britain leaves the EU.

- *Brexit - “British Exit” from the European Union (EU) based on a referendum held on June 23, 2016 in Britain. Currently Britain and EU are negotiating the terms of exit.*
- *EU European Union is a political, trade and economic union founded in 1957. There are 51 countries in Europe, out of which 28 countries have signed a treaty to become a part of European Union.*
- *The Euro Area (EA) is a subset of the EU, which is a monetary union of 19 of the 28 countries which use the common currency, Euro.*
- *The Treaty of Lisbon is an international agreement that amends the two treaties which form the constitutional basis of the European Union*

3. Korean war memorial to be built in Delhi

- A Korean War memorial will be built in New Delhi to commemorate India's role in the war which ended in an armistice in 1953.
- India and South Korea have agreed on building the war memorial.
- The proposal was initiated by the Indian Korean War Veterans Association.

There are 21 countries which participated in the Korean War from 1950-53 of which 16 countries had sent combat troops. India sent medical teams and a custodian force to deal with the Prisoners of War (PoW). India played a neutral role in the war.

As of now, there are Korean War memorials in about 20 countries around the world which had played a role in the war.

4. Canada legalizes marijuana

- Canada became the first industrialized nation and the second country after Uruguay to legalize recreational cannabis. Now onwards adult Canadians will be able to legally smoke recreational marijuana after nearly a century-long ban.
- consumers can buy legal marijuana online, from provincial governments or licensed retailers

Cannabis, also known as marijuana among other names, is a psychoactive drug from the Cannabis plant used for medical or recreational purposes

5. Rwanda announces 'gender-balanced' Cabinet

- Two days after Ethiopia announced a "gender-balanced" Cabinets with 50% women, Rwanda has done the same.
- Now in Rwanda women make up half of the 26-seat Cabinet.
- The country has received international recognition for female representation in government, with women making up 61% of Parliament members.
- Mostly European, where women make up 50% or more of ministerial positions, according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union and UN Women.

- *Ethiopia- It is one of the countries in “Horn of Africa”(a peninsula situated in the northeast of the African continent which includes Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Djibouti.) .Capital-Addis Ababa and Currency-Ethiopian birr. Current Prime minister is Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.*
- *Rwanda- It is a landlocked East African country. Its capital is Kigali and currency is Rwandan franc. Paul Kagame is the current president of the country.*
- *Kigali Agreement - The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal. Protocol is related to HFC Phase-down. The Parties to the Montreal Protocol (on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer) reached agreement at their 28th Meeting of the Parties on 15 October 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda to phase-down hydro fluoro carbons (HFCs).*

6. India, Japan, U.S. plan joint air exercise

- India, Japan and the U.S. are set to elevate the bilateral ‘Cope India’ air exercise to a trilateral format on the proposal of US.
- The next edition is scheduled to be held in December
- The three countries already conduct naval war games under the expanded Malabar naval exercise.
- The level of interoperability in the exercises, both bilateral and trilateral, is expected to go up with India recently signing the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement with the U.S.

7. China will carry on with economic reforms – Li Keqiang

- Chinese Premier(Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China) Li Keqiang said at a meeting between Asian and European leaders in Brussels that China will continue to open up its economy, push forward reforms and improve its business environment
- There are many factors that caused stock fluctuations and declines in China recently, including interest rate hikes by the central banks of major economies and trade war situation between US & China.

China is the most populous country of the world. It lies in East Asia. Its capital is Beijing and currency is Renminbi. Xi Jinping is current president of the nation.

8. Europe , Japan sent spacecraft on 7-year journey to Mercury

- An Ariane 5 rocket successfully lifted the spacecraft carrying two probes into orbit for a joint mission to Mercury(the planet closest to the sun).
- The European Space Agency and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency jointly launched unmanned BepiColombo spacecraft from French Guiana to begin a seven-year journey to Mercury.
- The spacecraft was named after Italian scientist Giuseppe “Bepi” Colombo.
- The project costs 1.3 billion Euro. It will release two probes Bepi and Mio that will independently investigate the surface and magnetic field of Mercury.

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States

1. Tamil Nadu notifies compensation for victims of sexual abuse

- It notified the Tamil Nadu Victim Compensation Scheme for Women Victims/Survivors of Sexual Assault/Other Crimes, 2018, in line with the Supreme Court judgment delivered last month.
- SC had approved the suggestion for compensation while hearing the Nipun Saxena Vs Union of India case.
- Under the scheme, a rape survivor will get a minimum compensation of Rs.4 lakh. In the case of a survivor of gang rape, the compensation would be Rs.5 lakh. If the woman has lost her life, her dependant would be entitled to a compensation of Rs.7 lakh.
- The maximum compensation that could be granted in cases of loss of life as well as gang rape is Rs.10 lakh and the maximum compensation for rape could be Rs.7 lakh.
- Survivors and their dependants could apply for compensation before the Tamil Nadu Legal Services Authority (TNSLSA) or the respective District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) with the police FIR.

Tamil Nadu- Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami Governor - Banwarilal Purohit

2. Tipu Jayanti will continue to be celebrated

- The Karnataka government has decided to celebrate Tipu Jayanti despite opposition from BJP
- Since 2015, when the state government decided to celebrate Tipu Jayanti officially, right wing groups, led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have opposed any glorification of the erstwhile ruler of Mysore.

- ***Tipu sultan –Born on 10 November 1750.***
- ***He was a ruler of the Kingdom of Mysore. He was the eldest son of Sultan Hyder Ali of Mysore. He introduced a number of administrative innovations during his rule such as his coinage, a new Mauludi lunisolar calendar and a new land revenue system which initiated the growth of the Mysore silk industry.***

3. Maharashtra Finance Commission given one year to submit report

- The Maharashtra government has issued an unprecedented directive to the State Finance Commission to complete its latest report in one year's time after receiving a rap from Central 15th Finance Commission (Chairman N K Singh).
- Central commission had raised concerns over Maharashtra's reluctance to devolve greater powers as part of its constitutional responsibility to strengthen local governance.
- Central team had carried out a two-day visit to the State last month. The team raised concerns over issues of inter-regional disparity, slow pace of decentralization, and rigidity in revenue expenditure and debt sustainability.

- *The Government of India, with the approval President of India, has constituted Fifteenth Finance Commission (Chairman N K Singh) under Article 280 of the Constitution.*
- *The Finance Commission is set up every five years. The recommendations of the previous 14th Finance Commission (FFC), chaired by former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Y.V. Reddy, are valid from 2015 to 2020. The recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission will be implemented for the period starting 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2025.*

4. 'Centre to weigh all options before NRC nod for Tripura'

- On October 8, a petition was filed by the Tripura People's Front and others in the Supreme Court to update the NRC in Tripura as is being done in Assam, to detect "illegal immigrants" from Bangladesh. The petition asked the SC to direct the authorities to update the NRC with respect to Tripura in terms of Rules 3 and 4 of The Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003, by taking July 19, 1948, as the cut-off date.
- The SC issued a notice to the Centre and the State government on the petition.
- The Centre said it was weighing all options to implement the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Tripura.
- There are other provisions such as the Citizenship Act, Foreigners Act and the Passport Act existed to detect and deport illegal immigrants in the country.

- *NRC National Register of Citizens - Assam is the only State that had prepared an NRC in 1951. It has also now become the first State to get the first draft of its own updated NRC.*
- *It is aimed to establish the credentials of a bona fide citizen as distinguished from a foreigner and detect Bangladeshi migrants who may have illegally entered Assam after the midnight of March 24, 1971. This cut-off date was originally agreed to in the 1985 Assam Accord.*

5. Delhi records worst post-Dussehra air quality in 4 years

- The air quality index in the city recorded a four-year low a day after Dussehra due to unfavorable meteorological conditions and increased levels of particulate matter pollution. The Air Quality Index (AQI) score was 326 which comes under 'Very Poor' category.
- While road dust and pollution from transport are key sources of pollution in the city, during Dussehra there was an additional load of pollution from the burning of effigies.

AQI Air Quality Index is a 5-level, color-coded index, maintained by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). A reading greater than 400 indicates 'severe' levels of pollution and meriting emergency measures as per the Graded Response Action Plan prepared by the Environment Pollution (prevention and control) Authority.

Sports

1. Novak Djokovic wins Shanghai Masters to continue hunt for Nadal's No 1 crown

- He defeated Croatian Borna Coric to win the Shanghai Masters title for the fourth time
- He will surpass Federer as world No 2 when the next edition of the ATP rankings are released.
- He is from Serbia..

2. Wrestler Simran wins Silver in Youth Olympics

- Indian wrestler Simran secured a silver in women's freestyle 43 kg category competition after she lost to Emily Shilson of United States in the final bout.
- She is from Delhi.
- This is India's fifth silver along with three gold in the ongoing Youth Olympics

- *Youth Olympics 2018-6th October to 18th October 2018*
- *Place- Buenos Aires (Argentina)*
- *Official Mascot- Pandi, it is inspired by the jaguar, one of the most emblematic wild cat species found in northern Argentina*

3. Youth Olympics: Indian men's and women's hockey team bag silver

- The Indian Under-18 men's and women's Hockey team secured silver in Youth Olympic Games.
- While the women suffered a heart-breaking 1-3 loss against hosts Argentina, the men were handed a 2-4 loss by Malaysia in their respective final of the hockey 5s competition on Sunday night.

4. Youth Olympics: Suraj Panwar walks to silver

- Suraj Panwar Soren won silver in the men's 5000m race walk event at the Youth Olympic Games.
- This was the first medal in athletics at the event for India.
- He had finished second in the 10,000m race walk, behind China's Xin Wang.
- India has never won an athletics gold in the Youth Olympics

5. Praveen takes triple jump bronze at Youth Olympics

- Praveen Chitravel from Tamil Nadu won the bronze medal in the men's triple jump in the ongoing Youth Olympics.
- The 17-year-old, who hails from a village in Thanjavur district was a gold medalist in the inaugural Khelo India School Games and won a silver at the junior Nationals in Coimbatore earlier this year

- Alejandro Diaz of Cuba won gold while Emmeanuel Oritsemeyiwa of Nigeria came second.

6. Akash strikes historic silver

- Akash Malik became India's first archery silver-medalist at the Youth Olympic Games
- The 15-year-old son of a farmer lost a one-sided final to Trenton Cowles of the USA 6-0.
- In 2014, Akash was part of the recurve boys' team which won a gold medal at the mini-National at Vijayawada. Last year, Akash clinched gold in the Youth Olympic qualifying event.
- India ended with three gold, nine silver, and one bronze medal at this year event.

7. Two-year suspension for Chikte

- Former India goalkeeper Akash Chikte has been handed a two-year suspension for testing positive for steroid Nandrolone in an out-of-competition test.
- The sample was collected on February 27 this year with the B-sample tested in April.
- The three-member panel, including Olympian Jagbir Singh and Dr. Sanjeev Kumar from the Army Medical Corps, accepted Chikte's plea that the use of Nandrolone was not intentional, thereby leading to only a two-year suspension instead of the WADA-mandated four-years.
- Meanwhile, another hockey player, Bharat Singh, has also reportedly tested positive for Methylhexanamine (MHA) during the recent inter-services championship and disciplinary process is still on.

8. Praveen bids adieu

- Veteran India pacer Praveen Kumar retired from all forms of cricket . He represented India in 84 matches between 2007 and 2012, took 112 wickets in Tests, ODIs and T20Is
- In the IPL, he played for KXIP, RCB, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Gujarat Lions.

9. Mumbai regains title after 11 years

- Mumbai won the National one-day title Hazare Trophy after a gap of 11 years with a four-wicket victory over Delhi at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.
- Mumbai opted to field and there was reward for its bowlers at once.
- Gautam Gambhir, Unmukt , Dhawal Kulkarni , Shivam Dubey were some of the players of Delhi team , while Mumbai team had Aditya Tare, Sidhesh Lad, Navdeep Saini etc.

The Vijay Hazare Trophy, also known as the Ranji One Day Trophy, was started in 2002-03 domestic competition involving state teams. It is named after the famous Indian cricketer Vijay Hazare.

Appointments

1. Vasudevan assumes office as VFI president

- He will assume the role of president of Volleyball Federation of India and hold office till 2021.
- Prior to him West Bengal's Rathin Roy Choudhary was named ad hoc president of the Volleyball Federation of India (VFI) in November 2017.
- Ramavtar Singh is the secretary general of VFI.

Person/Event/Award

1. IIT-Bombay tops QS ranking of Indian institutions

- Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, has topped the first-ever standalone ranking of Indian higher education institutions by QS(Quacquarelli Symonds).
- QS World University Rankings is an annual publication of university rankings by Quacquarelli Symonds.(Britain) Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, which tops Indian institutions in almost all rankings, stands second.
- The top 10 Indian institutions include seven IITs, with the IITs at Madras, Delhi, Kharagpur and Kanpur standing third, fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively, in the rankings.
- The University of Hyderabad stands seventh, the University of Delhi stands eighth in the rankings. Jawaharlal Nehru University, ranked sixth in NIRF is the most notable absentee in the ranking.

- *NIRF The National Institutional Ranking Framework is a methodology adopted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in 2015 to rank institutions of higher education in India.*
- *First ranking was released in 2016. As per latest ranking in overall category IISc Bangalore ranked first.*

2. Microsoft billionaire co-founder Paul Allen dies at 65

- Paul G. Allen, who co-founded Microsoft with his childhood friend Bill Gates before becoming a billionaire philanthropist who invested in conservation, space travel and professional sports passed away.
- Allen left Microsoft in 1983, before the company became a corporate juggernaut, following a dispute with Gates.
- He died in Seattle from complications of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, his company Vulcan Inc. announced.

- *Microsoft Corporation is an American multinational technology company with headquarters in Redmond, Washington. Satya Nadela is current CEO of the company.*

3. L&T ranks 22 in Forbes' best global employer list

- Engineering & Construction major Larsen & Toubro is the only Indian company among top 25 of Forbe's global 2000 best employers list.
- The list is topped by Google parent Alphabet. While L&T was ranked 22, there are only 4 domestic firms in top 100 which include Mahindra & Mahindra(55) Grasim Industries(59) HDFC (91).
- Only 24 domestic firms were included in the list in total.

- ***Forbes is an American family-controlled business magazine. Published bi-weekly, it features original articles on finance, industry, investing, and marketing topics.***

4. India jumps five spots in the WEF competitiveness index

- The World Economic Forum released the Global Competitiveness Report 2018. According to the report, India has jumped five spots to become the 58th most competitive economy on the Global Competitiveness Index 2018 (GCI 4.0).
- India witnessed the largest gain among the G20 nations. The index covers 140 nations and it measures national competitiveness. The United States ranked number one again with a score of 85.6. Top 5 countries on the Index include US, Singapore, Germany, Switzerland and Japan. India ranked highest among South Asian countries with a score of 62.0. Sri Lanka was ranked 86, Bangladesh 103, Pakistan 107 and Nepal 109. It may be noted that this index captures determinants of long-term growth.

- ***The World Economic Forum, based in Geneva, Switzerland, was founded in 1971 as a not-for-profit organization.***
- ***It is an International Institution for Public-Private Cooperation.***

5. Akal Takht jathedar resigns

- Giani Gurbachan Singh, jathedar of the highest Sikh temporal seat (the Akal Takht) has resigned from the post on health grounds. He has forwarded his resignation to SGPC president Gobind Singh Longowal.

- ***The Akal Takht is the throne of the timeless one. It is one of five takhts (seats of power) of the Sikhs, located in the Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple) complex in Amritsar, Punjab.***
- ***It was built by Guru Hargobind as a place of justice and consideration of temporal issues, the highest seat of earthly authority of the Khalsa (the collective body of the Sikhs) and the place of the Jathedar, the highest spokesman of the Sikhs.***

6. INS Vikramaditya completed Rs.705 cr refit

- India's only aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya is set to sail from the port for basin trials before returning to its home port at Karwar Port(Karnataka) after undergoing a five-month refit at a cost of Rs.705 crore at the Cochin Shipyard. This was the second refit of the carrier since its induction into the Indian Navy in 2013. Both refits were performed by the Cochin Shipyard.

- INS((Indian Navy Ship) Vikramaditya is a modified Kiev-class aircraft carrier which entered into service with the Indian Navy in 2013.*
- She has been renamed in honour of Vikramaditya, a legendary emperor of Ujjain.*

"The difference between ordinary and extra ordinary is that little extra." – Jimmy Johnson

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