

# WEEKLY GK UPDATES

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## General Awareness

October 2nd week

8th to 14th October, 2018



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*“Liberty cannot be preserved without general knowledge among the people.” -  
John Adams*

## Economy & Banking

### 1. IMF forecast India growth at 7.3% in 2018

- IMF released latest WEO World Economic Outlook report, which projects India's growth rate for 2018 as 7.3% and for 2019 7.4%.
- It will regain the lost tag of the fastest growing major economy this year. In 2017 China emerged as the fastest growing economy taking over India.
- India grew at 6.7% last year.
- The increased growth rate can be attributed to reforms such as – GST, inflation-targeting framework, Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, liberal FDI policy, improved Ease of doing business in the country etc.
- However the projection is slightly lower than what annual WEO in April 2018 mentioned. This is because of the recent surge in Crude oil price and global trade war.

- *IMF was founded in 1945 at Bretton Woods Conference.*
- *Headquarter – Washington D.C.*
- *MD – Christine Lagarde*
- *Chief Economist – Gita Gopinath (October 2018)*
- *Reports - World Economic Outlook (WEO), Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR), and Fiscal Monitor (FM).*

### 2. Government hikes interest for gratuity funds to 8%

- Department of Economic Affairs of Ministry of Finance notified that the interest rate for non-government provident fund, superannuation and gratuity funds has been raised from 7.6% to 8%.
- It would be effective from 01.10.2018 to 31.12.2018.
- Apart from these funds Government also decides interest rates for - Public Provident Fund (PPF), National Savings Certificates (NSC), Senior Citizens Savings Scheme and SukanyaSamriddhi every quarter.

- *Ministry of Finance has five departments under its purview*
- *Department of Expenditure, Department of Revenue, Department of Financial Services, Department of Economic Affairs and Department of Investment & Public Asset management.*

### 3. Payment players told to stick to deadline on data storage

- RBI has asked payment system players to adhere to the October 15 deadline for storing data locally.
- In April this year RBI asked all players to ensure that the entire data relating to payment systems operated are stored in a system only in India. Payment system players were given six months' time, which ends on October 15, to comply with the guidelines.
- The step was aimed to ensure better monitoring and surveillance.

- *Payment system in India is regulated under Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 which is implemented by RBI.*
- *NPCI ( Mumbai , 2008) is the umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.*

### 4. Bandhan Bank gets exemption

- Bandhan Bank on Friday said it had got exemption from SEBI on one-year lock-in period for selling shares by promoters.
- As per the Licensing terms of RBI for Private Banks , it had to reduce shareholding of holding company Bandhan Financial Holdings to 40%.
- As a result of which , RBI restrained it from opening new branches and froze the remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer Chandra Shekhar Ghosh

- *Bandhan Bank – Kolkata based , started in 2015. CEO – Chandrashekhar Ghosh*
- *Tagline – “AapkaBhala, SabkiBhalai”.*

### 5. Retail inflation up a tad at 3.7% in Sept; August IIP at three-month low of 4.3%

- Retail inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index came in at 3.77 per cent in September against 3.69 per cent in August. It is less than the targeted inflation rate of 4 per cent with (+/-) 2 per cent range.
- The rate of core inflation (overall CPI minus volatile food and fuel) slipped to 5.8 per cent against 6 per cent in August.
- The rate of industrial production growth (IIP) slowed down to a three-month low of 4.3 per cent in August. Manufacturing sector output grew 4.6 per cent in August compared with near 7 per cent in July, but 3.8 per cent in August a year ago.

- *CPI-calculates the average price paid by the consumer to the shopkeepers. Education, communication, transportation, recreation, apparel, foods and beverages, housing and medical care are the 8 groups for which the CPI is measured. It is released by CSO Central Statistics Office on the base year 2011-12.*
- *IIP Index of Industrial Production is also released by CSO on the base year 2011-12. It measures the short-term changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products during a given period with respect to that in a chosen base period.*

#### 6. U.S. markets are finally getting back to basics

- US Equity market is doing well in recent times which is affecting the exchange rate of other countries including India. American equity valuations are high and interest rates are rising. Due to this it seems to be an attracting destination to invest which is pulling away investments from other emerging economies.
- The **Federal Reserve, led by Jerome Powell**, is slowly but steadily increasing short-term interest rates.
- That reflects a decade of economic growth, a tight labor market with unemployment below 4%, and somewhat strengthening inflation.
- With current scenario and upcoming earning season the situation looks similar in future too.

- *Effect on India- Indian currency's downfall in current year is caused by various factors. US dollar strengthening is one of them. Other reasons are widening Current account deficit, weak export performance, rising prices of Crude oil etc.*

#### 7. Insurance claims likely to be paid in installments

- As per recent IRDAI circular it constituted a working group(with IRDAI Executive Director - Suresh Mathur as chairman) to examine the concept of **settlement of personal accident and benefit based health insurance claims in installments**. It would enable beneficiaries and claimants to receive payments in a series of pre-determined installments
- The proposal had presumably been mooted for ensuring a regular income for the beneficiary or family.
- The eight-member group, which has got two months time to submit its report, would also deliberate on the accounting, actuarial and investment norms that need to be put in place before considering the concept.

***IRDAI- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India***

- ***Headquarter Hyderabad***
- ***Founded in -1999***
- ***Chairman- Dr. Subhash C. Khuntia***

**8. Government released a draft National Electronics Policy**

- It targets a turnover of \$400 billion for the electronics system design and manufacturing (ESDM) sector.
- It also suggests replacing the Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS) with schemes which are easier to implement for example-Interest subsidy and credit default guarantee to encourage new units and expansion of existing units in electronics manufacturing sector.
- It also recommends providing suitable direct tax benefits for setting up of a manufacturing unit or expansion of an existing one.
- It also talks about establishing standards setting body in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

***M-SIPS was launched in 2012. The scheme provides for capital subsidy of 25% for electronics industry located in non-special economic zone (SEZ) area and 20% for those in SEZ areas.***

**9. Government clears closure of two jute PSUs**

- Cabinet approved the closure of National Jute Manufacturers Corporation and its subsidiary Birds Jute & Exports Ltd.
- The proposal will help in closing loss-making companies and ensuring release of valuable assets for productive use.
- As a result the government would not be burdened with the expenditure of keeping the two PSUs running.

- ***National Jute Manufacturers Corporation- Kolkata ( Founded in 1980)***
- ***Birds Jute & Exports Ltd- Kolkata. It is virtually inoperable since 2002.***

## Government & Polity

### 1. Cyclone Titli intensified

- The deep depression over the **Bay of Bengal** has intensified into cyclonic storm “Titli”.
- IMD has also issued a red alert in Odisha as it is moving towards Odisha-Andhra coasts.
- Several trains and flights have been cancelled taking IMD alert into consideration.

#### *Cyclone in 2018*

- *Sagar( Arabian Sea)*
- *Mekunu ( Indian Ocean)*
- *Daye ( Bay of Bengal)*
- *Luban ( Arabian Sea)*

### 2.Govt. sets water flow target for river Ganga

- First time Union government has mandated the minimum quantity of water (Ecological flow) that various stretches of the Ganga must necessarily have all through the year.
- National Mission for Clean Ganga has laid down the flow specifications.
- It would require hydropower projects located along the river to modify their operations to ensure the compliance.
- Central Water Commission has been made the designated authority under the new norms.

- *Central Water Commission is the premier Technical Organisation of India in the field of water resources.*
- *Its responsibilities include initiating, coordinating and furthering, in consultation with the State Governments concerned, schemes for control, conservation and utilization of water.*
- *S Masood Hussain is the present Chairman of the commission.*



### 3. One in Five Indian children wasted as per Global Hunger Index 2018

- India has been ranked at 103 out of 119 countries in the Index, with hunger levels in the country categorized as “serious”. India’s ranking has dropped three places from last year.
- Four main indicators are used to calculate hunger levels in the report.
- The first indicator is undernourishment (share of the population which is undernourished) second is child wasting (low weight for height) third is child stunting (low height for age) and fourth is child mortality.
- The Global Hunger Index 2018 report was prepared jointly by global NGOs namely, Concern Worldwide (Ireland) and Welthungerhilfe (Germany).

- *GHI scores are calculated each year to assess progress and setbacks in combating hunger.*
- *Globally share of the undernourished population stood at 12.3 percent in 2015–2017, 27.9 percent children under five years of age were stunted, 9.3 percent children under-5 years were wasted and under-five mortality rate was 4.2 %.*

### 4. India teams up with GenomeAsia project

- It was decided by the first-ever assembly of the Prime Minister’s Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (STIAC)
- It aims to improve healthcare as well as tap into the global trend of designing “personalised medicine”.
- The GenomeAsia project will involve sequencing whole genomes of 1,00,000 Asians, that includes 50,000 Indians and a group of Indian scientists and companies have already teamed up on the project, with close supervision from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Department of Biotechnology

- *PM-STIAC a new 21-member advisory panel on science, technology and innovation called Prime Minister’s Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council.*
- *It will replace earlier Scientific Advisory Committee.*
- *It will be headed by Principal Scientific Advisor K Vijay Raghavan to the government of India. It has nine members, including Chairperson.*
- *Apart from nine members, it will also have twelve special invitees.*



#### 5. SC Collegium recommends chief justices to 5 High Court

- It has recommended the appointment of Chief Justices to High Courts of Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Guwahati, Calcutta, and Bombay.
- The resolution regarding the recommendations was passed by the Collegium (comprising Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Justices Madan B Lokur and Kurian Joseph).
- Justice NH Patil- Bombay HC
- Justice DK Gupta - Calcutta HC
- Justice Ramesh Ranganathan- Uttarakhand HC
- Justice Vijai Kumar Bist- Sikkim HC
- Justice AS Bopanna- Guwahati HC

- *There are 24 high courts at the state and union territory level of India.*
- *Chief Justices of High courts are appointed by the President on the recommendations of Collegium but other judges are appointed by the will of President, Governor and the Chief Justice of High Court.*

## International

### 1. Nikki Haley quits as US Ambassador to UN

- She has resigned from the post she held under Donald Trump's administration.
- She is the daughter of immigrants from India. She has been the Governor of South Carolina state.

#### **United Nations**

- **Founded on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1945**
- **Headquarter- New York**
- **Secretary General – Antonio Guterres**
- **Members- 193 members and 2 observer states-the Holy See and the State of Palestine.**

### 2. Yameen's party challenges poll defeat

- Maldives' outgoing President Abdulla Yameen has challenged his recent election defeat.
- The Election Commission has denied the charge.
- In recent election Ibrahim Mohamed Solih from Maldivian Democratic Party defeated incumbent President Yameen Abdul Gayoom.

- **Maldives is an Indian Ocean archipelago country.**
- **Its capital is Male and currency is Maldivian rufiyaa.**

### 3. Indians top list of "Overstayers" in UK

- The problem of "visa overstayers" was highlighted by "Global Britain and India" inquiry into post-Brexit relations with India.
- Britain's visa regime for Indians as one of the key impediments to its relationship
- Apex IT body NASSCOM warned that a restrictive immigration system, limiting opportunities for global talent, could hit Britain's economic growth and productivity.

- **United Kingdom –It includes England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.**
- **Capital –London Currency –Pound Sterling**

#### 4. India Elected To UN Human Rights Council With Most Number Of Votes

- India was elected to the United Nations' top human rights body for three years beginning January 1, 2019, getting 188 votes in the Asia-Pacific category.
- It secured the highest number of votes among all candidates.
- The 193-member UN General Assembly held elections for new members to the UN Human Rights Council. The 18 new members were elected by absolute majority through a secret ballot.
- India won in the Asia Pacific category. Along with India, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Fiji and Philippines had also elected from same category. Given that there were five nations vying for five seats in the Asia Pacific category, India's election to the Council was all but certain.

- ***UN Human Rights Council – Its mission is to promote and protect human rights around the world.***
- ***The current High Commissioner is Michelle Bachelet of Chile.***

#### 5. Khashoggi case- Trump warns Saudi

- Jamal Khashoggi is a Saudi journalist who has been missing from kingdom's consulate in Istanbul
- Turkish and foreign media have been protesting the mystery disappearance of the journalist.
- He is a staunch critic of Saudi Government, hence it is being seen as a curb to free speech and media independence. US intervened and showed its strong displeasure about the incident.

- ***USA -Donald John Trump is the 45th and current President of the United States. Before entering politics, he was a businessman and television personality. He belongs to the Republican Party. Capital – Washington D C Currency – US Dollar***
- ***Saudi Arab – Capital: Riyadh Currency: Saudi Riyal***
- ***Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud is King of Saudi Arabia, Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia***

## States

### 1. Zika cases in Rajasthan

- Cases of the Zika virus disease have been reported in Jaipur.
- Till date, a total of 22 positive laboratory confirmed cases have been detected.
- The outbreak was detected through the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) surveillance system.
- The Zika virus is an emerging disease, currently being reported in 86 countries worldwide.

- *Zika virus infection is caused by the bite of an infected Aedes mosquito.*
- *The illness is usually mild with symptoms (fever, rash, joint pain, or conjunctivitis) lasting for several days to a week.*
- *There are concerns that pregnant women who become infected with Zika virus can transmit the disease to their unborn babies, with potentially serious consequences such as Microcephaly.*

### 2. Punjab CM launches 3 mobile apps to combat stubble burning

- The decision aims at checking crop residue burning and creating awareness about its ill-effects
- The three android mobile applications launched by the Chief Minister have been developed by Punjab Remote Sensing Centre (PRSC).
- They are i-Khet Machine for facilitating farmers to have access to the agriculture machinery/equipment for in-situ management of crop residue, e-PEHaL for monitoring tree plantation, and e-Prevent to have prompt and accurate information regarding incidents of crop residue burning.

- *Punjab- Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh & Governor V.P. Singh Badnore*

### 3. CM SarbanandaSonowal flags off Majuli-NeematighatRoRo ferry service

- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) launched the service in collaboration with the government of Assam
- It will provide a much-needed connectivity boost to world's largest river island, Majuli, in Assam.
- It is a landmark event towards augmenting connectivity not only in Assam but the entire North Eastern Region.
- Currently, there are only four road bridges across river Brahmaputra – at Jogighopa, Guwahati, Tezpur and Sadiya for connectivity between southern and northern parts of Assam.

- *Assam – CM Sarbananda Solowal (BJP) Governor Jagdish Mukhi*
- *Majuli is a river island in the Brahmaputra River, Assam and in 2016 became the*

#### 4. Cross border row over killings of state animal

- The killing of at least 10 **mithuns — the State animal of Arunachal Pradesh** — in the last one month has sparked a row with neighboring Assam.
- The mithun or gayal (*Bos frontalis*), considered a descendant of the Indian Gaur or bison, plays an important role in the socio-economic and cultural life of tribes such as the Nyishi, Apatani, Galo and Adi in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The killing of mithuns since mid-September has sparked tension between villagers on either side of the inter-State border, specifically in Kangku circle of Arunachal Pradesh and adjoining areas of Assam's Dhemaji district.

- *Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister-Pema Khandu Governor-B D Mishra*
- *National parks- Namdapha National Park , Sessa Orchid Sanctuary, Mouling National Park, Dihang-Dibang Biosphere Reserve, Kane Wildlife Sanctuary, Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary*

## Sports

### 1. Jeremy Lalrinnunga won India's maiden gold at Youth Olympics

- **Weightlifter Jeremy Larinnunga** won India's first ever gold at the games by securing top position in the men's 62 Kg category.
- The 15 year old champion is from **Mizoram**.
- Later on **Air pistol ace Manu Bhaker** also clinched **gold** in the games.

- *Youth Olympics 2018-6<sup>th</sup> October to 18<sup>th</sup> 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.*

### 2. Pankaj Advani to lead Indian challenge at World billiards Championship

- He will spearhead India's team at IBSF World Billiards Championship in **Yangon** (Myanmar).
- Other participants are – DhvajHaria, Rupesh Shah, B. Bhasker, and Alok Kumar.

### 3. Saurabh Chaudhary hits the bulls eye

- Saurabh Chaudhary claimed the gold medal in the 10m air pistol event in Youth Olympics 2018.
- He is an Asian Games and Junior ISSF World Championship gold medalist.

### 4. Para Asiad: India claim two golds in Jakarta

- K. Jennitha Anto clinched the gold in women's individual rapid P1 chess event after beating Manurung Roslinda of Indonesia 1-0 in the final round, while Kishan Gangolli got the better of Majid Bagheri in the men's individual rapid VI - B2/B3 event to claim the top spot.
- Rapid P1 event is for physically impaired athletes while rapid VI - B2/B3 event features partially blind competitors.

- *Para Asiad 2018 – Hosted by Jakarta*

### 5. Silver for Lakshya at Youth Olympics

- Promising Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen settled for a Silver medal after he lost the men's singles summit clash against Li Shifeng of China in straight games at the Youth Olympics
- Sen, the reigning junior Asian champion, lost 15-21, 19-21 in a 42-minute final match to bag the Silver.
- In other events, Indian women's team notched up a comfortable 3-0 win over Poland to enter the semifinals of the Hockey 5s competition of the 2018 Youth Olympic Games

## Appointments

### 1. AsimMunir appointed new Pakistan ISI chief

- Lt. Gen. AsimMunir, who previously served as head of the Military Intelligence, will be the new chief of Pakistan's spy agency ISI.
- He replaces Lt. Gen. Naveed Mukhtar.
- He was conferred Hilal-i-Imtiaz, the second highest civilian award, in March 2018.

- *ISI Inter Services Intelligence is the premier intelligence agency of Pakistan.*

### 2. Tushar Mehta New Solicitor General of India

- Government cleared the appointment of Tushar Mehta as the Solicitor General of India; 10 months after the post fell vacant last year.
- At present, Mehta holds charge of Additional Solicitor General.
- The post is second highest ranking law officer of the government.
- He is from Gujarat and has been serving as the Additional Solicitor General since 2014.

- *The Solicitor General of India is below the Attorney General for India.*
- *He is appointed for the period of 3 years by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.*

### 3. RBI board gets two new directors

- The government has appointed SachinChaturvedi(head of Delhi-based think tank Research and Information System for Developing Countries RIS) in place of NachiketMor on the central board of the Reserve Bank of India.
- Revathy Iyer, a former Indian Audit and Accounts Services officer, was also nominated to the RBI board, along with Mr. Chaturvedi.
- Both are appointed for a period of four years with effect from September 19, 2018.
- RBI will now have 18 members on its central board, including four deputy governors and the governor

- *Reserve Bank of India commenced its operations on 1 April 1935 in accordance with the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.*
- *It is India's central banking institution and controls the monetary policy of the country.*
- *Present Governor is Urjit Patel. Four Deputy Governors are - BP Kanungo,, N S Vishwanathan and Viral Acharya, Mahesh Kumar Jain.*



#### 4. Bank of Baroda CEO & MD gets 1 year extension

- Bank of Baroda's MD & CEO P S Jayakumar was given one-year extension by the Personnel Ministry.
- He had joined Bank of Baroda in October, 2015. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved extension in tenure of Jayakumar for a period of one year, i.e. till October 12, 2019.
- Prior to his appointment as the MD and the CEO of the bank, he was the co-founder and CEO of VBHC Value Budget Housing (VBHC).

- ***Bank of Baroda is Vadodara based Public Sector Bank founded in 1908. Its Tagline is “India’s International Bank”.***
- ***Present Chairman is Ravi Venkatesan.***

#### 5. Shekhar Mande is new CSIR DG

- Government has appointed Shekhar C Mande, the director of the Pune-based National Centre for Cell Science, as the Director General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Secretary of the Department of Scientific and Research (DSIR).
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Dr Shekhar C Mande.
- 56-year-old Mande is a recipient of the coveted SS Bhatnagar Prize, most prestigious science honor in the country, in 2005.
- The position of CSIR DG fell vacant recently with its previous chief Girish Sahni superannuating on August 31.

- ***CSIR Council of Scientific and Industrial Research is established by Gol in 1942 as an autonomous body and the largest research and development organization in India.***
- ***It is funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology.***

## Person/Event/Award

### 1. India ranks 147th in Oxfam world inequality index

- UK-based charity Oxfam International's 'Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index' ranks India 147th among 157 countries.
- It mentions country's commitment to reducing inequality as "a very worrying situation".
- It measures government action on social spending, tax and labor rights as these are the three areas found to be critical to reducing the gap.
- The index is topped by Denmark.
- Japan is the top-ranking Asian country and overall 11th on the index.

### 2. The first CEO of TCS awarded Life Time Achievement Award at the CII Connect 2018

- F C Kohli, the first CEO of tech giant TCS has been awarded Lifetime achievement award by Chief minister of Tamilnadu for his contribution to the IT sector.
- He is referred to as the father of the Indian software industry.

- *CII- Confederation of Indian Industry was founded in 1895. Its motto is "Charting change enabling development. Incumbent president of the body is Rakesh Bharti Mittal.*
- *TCS Tata Consultancy Services is Indian MC based in Mumbai. It is not only one of the largest IT Company but also overall one of the largest conglomerate of India by market capital. It became first Indian company to reach \$100 billion*

### 3. Sushma Swaraj launches India for Humanity initiative in New Delhi

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj launched India for Humanity initiative in New Delhi as part of 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi being held over the next one year.
- It will have a year-long series of artificial limb fitment camps in a number of countries spanning the globe.
- Ministry is collaborating for this with charitable organization Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti, BMVSS (founded in 1975 and better known by its trademark limb Jaipur Foot)

- *Government of India is planning to celebrate 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of Mahatma Gandhi in India and abroad from October 2, 2018 to March 30, 2019.*
- *Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had, during his budget speech, allocated Rs 150 crore for the celebrations.*
- *The Tourism Ministry will include the words "The land of Gandhi" in the logo of its flagship programme 'Incredible India' as part of its plans to commemorate the event.*

#### 4. 100% organic Sikkim shortlisted for FAO Future Policy Award

- The state was shortlisted for the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Future Policy Award.
- This award would celebrate policies that create enabling environments for sustainable agriculture.

- *Sikkim- Indian state since 1975. Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling. Capital- Gangtok*
- *UN FAO is a specialized agency of UN that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. It was founded in 1945. Its headquarter is in Rome and present head of the agency is Jose Graziano da Silva.*

#### 5. "Save Ganga" crusader G. D. Agarwal died

- Late G D Agarwal 86, was on a fast to save the Ganga, died following a heart attack
- He was earlier a professor in the civil engineering department at IIT-Kanpur. Later on he adopted the name Swami GyanSwaroopSanand.
- He was vocal on disallowing hydroelectric projects in Uttarakhand along the Ganga.
- His demands included a special law to deal with pollution and encroachment on the Ganga, and maintaining the environmental flow of the river to prevent pollution.

- *Ganga originates from Gangotri glacier and ends into the Bay of Bengal.*
- *"NamamiGange Programme", is an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as 'Flagship Programme' by the Union Government in June 2014 with budget outlay of Rs.20,000 Crore to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga.*

#### 6. International Day of Girl child was celebrated on 11<sup>th</sup> October

- 17 girls from across 10 states of India ,from underprivileged backgrounds stepped into the roles of ambassadors and high commissioners of 17 countries on 'International Day of the Girl Child' (IDG) as part of an initiative to spread the message of equality, freedom and power for the girls and young women.
- This comes at a time when India is reeling under the shocking revelations of sexual harassment and exploitation of women through the MeToo campaign.
- On the occasion, Anil Kapoor, the chief guest, launched the 'Girls Get Equal Campaign'. The campaign focuses on advocating for the empowerment of girls and their right to be equally seen, heard and valued.

- *International Day of the Girl Child is an international observance day declared by the United Nations.*
- *It was started in 2012.*
- *This year's theme was With Her: A Skilled GirlForce.*

#### 7. Maryse Conde – Guadeloupe author wins alternative Nobel Literature prize

- Maryse Conde, one of the Caribbean's most renowned authors, has won an award created to replace this year's Nobel Prize for Literature.
- The prestigious literature prize was suspended this year after a scandal at the Swedish Academy, which awards it.
- She was nominated alongside Japan's Haruki Murakami, the UK's Neil Gaiman and Vietnamese-born Canadian Kim Thuy.
- Conde has written more than 20 novels, including Desirada and Segou.
- The alternative prize was set up by an organisation calling itself the New Academy, comprising more than 100 Swedish writers, artists and journalists. It will be dissolved in December.

- *Caribbean islands (West Indies) surrounded by the Caribbean Sea and some by both , the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean .*
- *Some of the countries/dependencies belonging to this grouping are – Bahamas , Cuba , Cayman Islands, Haiti , Dominion Republic , Jamaica etc.*

#### 8. Bishan Singh Bedi honored with Chidambaram award

- Former India captain and spinner Bishan Singh Bedi was honored with the Dr. M.A. Chidambaram Birth Centenary Award (instituted by MAC Charities in memory of the former BCCI president).
- Other former Test cricketers like C.D. Gopinath, V.V. Kumar, G.R. Viswanath, K. Srikanth and T.A. Sekhar were also honored.

- *BCCI Board of Control for Cricket in India is the national governing body for cricket in India.*
- *The board was formed in December 1928 as a society, registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act.*
- *Vinod Rai is the chairman of the Committee of Administrators (CoA) administering it at present.*

### 9. Serendipity festival set to open in December

- The third edition of Serendipity Arts Festival 2018 is set to commence in Goa from December 15 to 22.
- It is a multi-disciplinary arts event highlighting country's rich tradition of music, dance and theatre, alongside culinary arts, craft and visual arts exhibitions.
- It is an initiative of the Serendipity Arts Foundation, founded in 2016 by Sunil Kant Munjal.
- This year it is focusing on fostering cultural development, supporting emerging artists across South Asia.

- **Goa- Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar**
- **Governor – Mridula Sinha**
- **Capital -Panaji**

### 10. Legendry musician Annapurna Devi passes away

- She was known as 'Guruma'. She was a famous reclusive surbahar player.
- She has been teacher to the likes of Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, Nityanand Haldipur and Nikhil Banerjee
- She was born in Maihar, Madhya Pradesh to Ustad Baba Allaaddin Khan and Madina Begum in 1927
- Annapurna Devi was married to sitar maestro Ravi Shankar at the age of 15 in 1942 and after a period of estrangement eventually divorced him in 1962.
- She was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1977 and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1991. The Sangeet Natak Akademi appointed her as the prestigious 'Ratna' fellow in 2004.

***"If you want to conquer fear, don't sit home and think about it. Go out and get busy." - Dale Carnegie***

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# **Weekly GK Updates**

## **General Awareness**

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