

## **NATIONAL**

- Four Himalayan peaks near Gangotri glacier have been named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The peaks are located at 6,557m, 6,566m, 6,160m and 6,100m on the right flank of Gangotri glacier.
- President Ram Nath Kovind arrived and inaugurated the three-day 'Vishwa Shanti Ahimsa Sammelan' at Mangi Tungi in Satana taluka. It was organised by the Bhagwan Rishabhdev Murti Nirmaan Samiti.
- India and Myanmar signed an important MoU for the appointment of a private Port Operator for the Operation and Maintenance of Sittwe Port, Paletwa Inland Water Terminal and associated facilities included in the Kaladan Multi Model Transit Transport Project in implementation of India's Act East Policy.
- The Haryana regional office of Nabard has signed an MoU with Delhi-based Ayurved Research Foundation (ARF) for facilitating various collaborative initiatives, especially in the resource-poor districts of Haryana, for the integrated agricultural and rural development of the state.
- The nation's largest bank, State Bank of India has launched its wealth business services by opening "SBI Wealth Hub" at the Lalbagh branch. The wealth hub was inaugurated by SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar.
- The 27th IAEA Fusion Energy Conference is being organized by the IAEA in cooperation with the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India and the Institute for Plasma Research, at the Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar (Ahmedabad) Gujarat, India.
- **The Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is the only Indian company among the top 10 firms to get foreign labour certification for the H-1B visas for the fiscal year 2018 by receiving over 20,000 such certifications.**
- **The Environment Ministry has launched Harit Diwali, Swasth Diwali campaign.** This campaign was initiated in 2017-18 wherein large number of school children participated and took pledge to minimize bursting of crackers.
- **The Global Agriculture Leadership Summit 2018** was opened in **New Delhi**. The theme of the 2-day summit is, '**Connecting Farmers to Market**'. The summit was inaugurated by the Secretary Agriculture and Co-operation, **Sanjay Agrawal**.

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will launch the '**Main Nahin Hum**' portal and mobile application. He will also interact with IT and electronic manufacturing professionals across India via video-conference.
- The **Centre has constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM)** to examine the existing legal and institutional frameworks for dealing with **matters of sexual harassment of women at the workplace.**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a two-day visit to Japan** to take part in an annual summit between the two nations and will engage with his counterpart **Shinzo Abe** on a range of issues including defence and regional security.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **Krishi Kumbha 2018- a mega farmers' conclave- in Lucknow.**
- The President inaugurated the **International Arya Mahasammelan-2018 in New Delhi.**
- The Punjab government has signed **four MoUs with Israeli institutions** to address issues of farmers and depleting groundwater level in the state.
- India and Japan has concluded a \$75 billion bilateral currency swap agreement. The move that will help in bringing greater stability in foreign exchange and capital markets in the country.
- India and Japan has decided to cooperate for the first time in the areas of Indian traditional medicinal systems such as Yoga and Ayurveda to provide holistic healthcare and wellness in both the countries.
- India has donated three lakh Dollars for a peacekeeping initiative at the UN. It will help develop the capacity of future commanders and managers over a period of three years.
- The 5th National Summit on Good and Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Health Care Systems in India began at Kaziranga in Assam.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unveil the bronze statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at Kevadia in Narmada district, on the 143rd birth anniversary of Sardar Patel.
- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has embarked on a three-nation visit to **Botswana, Zimbabwe and Malawi.** Mr Naidu is being accompanied by a high-level delegation for the six-day visit.
- India Mobile Congress is one of the biggest marquee Mobile, Internet, and Technology event for South-East Asia organized by **COAI and DoT.**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed his Italian counterpart **Giuseppe Conte**, who is on a day-long visit to India. During his visit, PM Conte will hold talks with PM Modi to boost cooperation in key areas such as trade and investment, besides participating in the **India-Italy Technology Summit.**

# INTERNATIONAL

- Paytm has launched a QR-based smartphone payment settlement service in Japan in collaboration with SoftBank and Yahoo Japan Corporation. It allows users to store money from a bank account in their “PayPay” wallet and make payments with it.
- The Pakistan and Russia armies will be holding joint military drills 'Druzhba-III' in the mountains of northwestern Pakistan which will continue till November 4.
- **India, Afghanistan and Iran** held their **first trilateral meeting on Chabahar port project** during which they reviewed its implementation.
- A leading **state-run Israeli defence company** has signed a **USD 777 million** contract with India for the supply of and missile defence systems for the Indian Navy.
- The **eleventh session of India – Czech Republic Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation (JCEC)** was held at **Prague**.
- The **International Conference on Status and Protection of Coral Reefs (STAPCOR – 2018)** was organized in **Bangaram Island, Lakshadweep**. The theme of the conference was “**Reef for Life.**”
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** **lifted its ban** on adding new customers for **Fino Payments Bank**. The ban had been placed by the RBI in May because of non-compliance of operational guidelines, particularly certain accounts having deposits in excess of the allowed amount.
- **NATO** has launched its biggest war games since the end of the Cold War.
- India is all set to be among top three aviation market by 2024 according to International Air Transport Association (IATA). Currently India is at seventh position in the aviation market.
- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal has inaugurated the first Mega Food Park in Gujarat. It is promoted by Gujarat Agro Infrastructure Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd and the Park is located at Village Shah and Vasravi, Surat district.
- The Arunachal Pradesh government has signed a MoU with the British Council to strengthen educational and cultural cooperation. It will enhance the opportunities for young people in Arunachal Pradesh and connect them to international expertise and ideas
- The world's largest airport terminal "under one roof" with a capacity to serve 90 million passengers will be officially opened on October 29 in Istanbul, Turkey.
- Miss Paraguay Clara Sosa won the Miss Grand International 2018 title at the 6th edition of the beauty pageant in Yangon, Myanmar.
- An Indonesian Lion Air flight, JT610 with 189 people on board crashed into the sea and sank soon after taking off from the capital, Jakarta, on a flight to a tin-mining region.

- The **Republic of Seychelles** has launched the world's first sovereign blue bond — a **financial instrument designed to support sustainable marine and fisheries projects.**

## **BANKING AND ECONOMY**

- The World Bank's lending arm, has launched its \$1 billion masala bond programme in the US and Europe. According to the IFC, the first tranche of \$100 million under the programme opened on the London Stock Exchange.
- **India has the second largest insurance gap in the world of \$27 billion (in absolute terms)** after **China**, where the underinsurance or insurance gap is over \$76 billion. According to a Lloyd's of London's report, **global underinsurance stands at \$162.5 billion in 2018.**
- An **overseeing committee (OC)** is set up under the **inter-creditor agreement (ICA)** for resolution of stressed assets and it will have six members.
- **Life insurer PNB Metlife** has unveiled an **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered** customer service app '**Khushi**'. The app is designed to be a one-stop shop providing **insurance-related information**, anytime, anywhere, such as policy features, premium due details besides providing fund value and portfolio details.
- IDFC Bank has proposed to change its name to '**IDFC First Bank Ltd**' as it is in the process of amalgamating non-banking financial company Capital First with itself.
- Amazon is overtaken by Microsoft as world's second most-valuable company after shares plunge 10 per cent.
- India's largest lender State Bank of India(SBI) and payments solution provider Hitachi Payment Services India has entered into an agreement to form a joint venture for establishing a card acceptance and digital payment platform.
- IBM Corp had agreed to acquire U.S. software company Red Hat Inc for \$34 billion, including debt, as it seeks to diversify its technology hardware and consulting business into higher-margin products and services.
- India is Asia's most investment savvy economy and more than two-thirds of the country's affluent class prefer to use various investment products to achieve their financial goals and greater social mobility.
- The Reserve Bank of India will inject Rs 40,000 crore in the banking system next month, a move that will help ease cash shortage in the system and stabilise debt market rates.
- The State Bank of India, the country's largest lender, was authorised **to issue and encash electoral bonds** with effect from October 1 to 10. These could be done at **29 of the bank's authorised branches.**

## BOOKS AND AUTHORS

- **Benyamin**, the author of '**Jasmine Days**', translated from **Malayalam into English** by **Shahnaz Habib**, is the winner of the first edition of the **Rs 25 lakh JCB Prize for Literature**, India's richest literary prize. '**Jasmine Days**' is published by Juggernaut Books.
- The **Agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan** will receive the **first World Agriculture Prize** instituted by the **Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA)** in New Delhi. It will carry a cash component of **\$1,00,000**.

## APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNS

NAME OF THE PERSON	APPOINTED AS	BY REPLACING	RESIGNS
Cameroon's President Paul Biya	has won a <b>seventh term</b> in office in elections.	_____	_____
Former <b>Sri Lankan president Mahinda Rajapaksa</b>	becomes the <b>new Prime Minister of Sri Lanka</b> .	_____	_____
<b>Ethiopia's</b> parliament has approved <b>senior diplomat Sahle-Work Zewde</b>	<b>as the country's first female president</b> .	_____	_____
Paytm Payments Bank appointed Satish Kumar Gupta	as its new <b>managing director and CEO</b> .	_____	_____
IRS officer Sanjay Kumar Mishra	was appointed the new chief of the Enforcement Directorate in an additional capacity.	Karnal Singh	_____
Michael D Higgins	has been re-elected as Irish president after receiving 56% of the country's election vote.	_____	_____
Jair Bolsonaro, a far-right firebrand former Army captain,	won Brazil's presidential election.	_____	_____
<b>Anupam Kher</b>	_____	_____	has resigned as the <b>Film and Television Institute of India chairman</b> .

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

- The US-based Dalit writer Sujatha Gidla's debut book wins Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize.
- The Athletics Federation of India has been chosen winner of the FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) India Sports Awards 2018 for the category of Best National Sports Federation (NSF). The eminent Jury was chaired by Justice (ret'd) Mukul Mudgal.
- **Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu** has presented the **Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award** to eminent jurist and senior advocate at Supreme Court **Fali S Nariman**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has been conferred with the **Seoul Peace Prize** for 2018 for his **contribution to international cooperation and fostering global economic growth.**
- **Invest India, the country's investment promotion body**, has won the UN Award for excellence in promoting investments in sustainable development.
- Roopam Sharma, a 23-year old Indian scientist, won the World Health Summit Startup award, 2018 for his invention, Manovue – the world's first intelligent personal assisting system for the visually impaired.
- The **United Nations** has announced the winners of **United Nations Human Rights Prize 2018.**The honour was given to Asma Jahangir, the late Pakistani lawyer and leading human rights defender, along with Tanzanian activist Rebeca Gyumi, Brazil's first indigenous lawyer Joenia Wapichana and Irish human rights groups Front Line Defenders.
- **Gujarat state has received 'Best Agriculture Award'** by the **Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA)** at the '11th Global Agriculture Leadership Summit and Leadership Awards – 2018' in New Delhi.
- The **Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016** were announced.The award jury was headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and included Chief Justice of India Justice Ranjan Gogoi, former chief election commissioner N Gopalaswami and national vice president of the BJP Vinay Sahasrabudde.
- Nobel Prize Winner **Malala Yousafzai** is being honoured by **Harvard University** for her work promoting girls' education.

## SPORTS

- Praveen Kumar has announced retirement from all forms of cricket. He thanked the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association (UPCA) for helping him through his journey as an international cricketer.
- Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen got his first victory of F1 race US Grand Prix in Texas.
- **Virat Kohli became only the fourth batsman** to score **10,000 ODI runs for India** and in the process, he also broke Sachin Tendulkar's record to become the fastest to reach the milestone.
- **Pooja Dhanda** became the **fourth Indian woman to win a medal at the United World Wrestling (UWW) World Championships.**

- Indian golfer Khalin Joshi clinched the Panasonic Open India title at the Delhi Golf Club. With this win, Joshi became the seventh Indian to win the Panasonic Open India title in the last eight editions of the tournament.
- Indian table tennis player Ayhika Mukherjee has won a silver medal in the under-21 women's singles category of the ITTF Challenge Belgium Open.
- The World number one Simona Halep has become the first recipient of the Chris Evert Women's Tennis Association (WTA) World No.1 Trophy, named after WTA's first-ever world number one, Chris Evert.
- The World number three Roger Federer beat Romanian qualifier Marius Copil 7-6(5) 6-4 to win the Swiss Indoors and claimed his 99th career title in front of his home crowd in Basel.
- Maverick Vinales has won the Australian MotoGP as newly-crowned world champion Marc Marquez failed to finish after starting from pole for the fifth straight year.
- India and Pakistan were declared as the joint winners of the 5th Men's Hero Asian Champions Trophy Muscat 2018 hockey tournament after the final was abandoned due to bad weather conditions.

## OBITUARY

- The Senior composer and lyricist Yashwant Dev passed away.
- **Padma Shri Professor Qazi Abdussattar**, a noted Urdu writer and former head of Aligarh Muslim University's Urdu department, passed away.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

OCTOBER	IMPORTANT DAY	THEMES
24	The United Nations Day	_____
24	UN's World Development Information Day	Theme 2018 – “End Polio Now”.
27	The World Day for <b>Audiovisual Heritage</b>	_____
31	<b>National Unity Day</b>	_____