

FreshersLive's Current Affairs

Weekly Edition [22nd Oct'18 - 28th Oct'18]

**India's longest river
bridge to be built**



**India becomes 2nd largest
Solar Market**



**Russia launched
first Soyuz Rocket**

**4th Week Current Affairs
October 2018**



**Pooja Dhanda
won bronze**

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

IFC launched USD 1 Billion Masala Bond Programme in the US and Europe

- International Finance Corporation, the World Bank's lending arm launched its \$1 billion masala bond programme in the US and Europe.
- These bonds are aimed at funding the rapidly expanding investment activities of IFC in India.
- Masala bonds are rupee-denominated borrowings issued overseas.
- IFC uses them to raise rupee funds overseas and brings the proceeds to India for investments.

Bolton arrived in Russia for talks on nuclear treaty

- **John Bolton**, White House National Security Advisor, began two days of meetings with senior Russian officials as the U.S. announced its withdrawal from Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, known as the INF, a Cold War-era nuclear weapons treaty.
- The Trump administration withdrew from the treaty due to Moscow's deployment of Novator 9M729 missiles.



- The U.S. mentions the act falls under the treaty's ban on missiles that can travel distances of between 310 and 3,400 miles (500 and 5,500 km).

Xi inaugurated world's longest sea bridge

- Xi Jinping, Chinese President inaugurated a 55-km, world's longest sea-crossing bridge **Hong Kong-Macau-Zhuhai Bridge** (HMZB).
- It will deepen the integration of Hong Kong and Macao with the rest of China.
- The world's longest sea-crossing bridge will be at the heart of an integrated Greater Bay Area (GBA) covering 11 major neighbouring cities, which include Hong Kong, Macao, Guangzhou and Shenzhen.
- The giant GBA comprises of 68 million people.
- The bridge has been built to withstand super-typhoons, a magnitude 8 earthquake, as well as hits by super-sized cargo ships.
- A 6.7 km underground sea tunnel to allow the uninterrupted flow of shipping above, along with the super-busy Pearl River Delta, is also part of the bridge's design. In the end, it will cut the travel time between the three cities from three hours to just 30 minutes.



- It took about a decade to build the \$20 billion bridge.

International Conference on Status and Protection of Coral Reefs STAPCOR 2018 in Lakshadweep

- The conference was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan.
- The theme for the conference was: **“Reef for Life”**.
- Nearly 150 delegates from India and other countries participated.

UNESCO MGIEP, Government of Andhra Pradesh to organize TECH 2018

- The main aim is to showcase the role of games and digital learning in enabling a shift from transmissive pedagogies to transformative pedagogies to develop peaceful and sustainable societies.
- It also acts as a holistic platform for the ministers of education, senior policymakers, education technology specialists, educators and teachers, curriculum designers, researchers, learners, students, game designers, and ed-tech exhibitors.



Saurabh Kumar named India's next Ambassador to Myanmar

- Saurabh Kumar is an Indian Foreign Service Officer (IFS) of 1989 batch.
- At present, he is the Ambassador of India to Iran. He will take up this assignment soon.
- He will succeed Vikram Misri who has been serving as Ambassador of India to Myanmar since 2016.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS

India's longest river bridge to be built on Brahmaputra river in Assam

- **India's longest river bridge** will be built across the **Brahmaputra**, connecting Dhubri in Assam To Phulbari in Meghalaya, by 2026-27.
- It will be a 19.3 km, a four-lane bridge that will cut road travel by 203 km.
- The new bridge will complete the missing link of **NH127B** from Assam to Meghalaya.
- The bridge will also improve connectivity from West Bengal to Assam.
- For the project, the **National Highways and Industrial Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL)**, recently reached out to global players in France.

India Ranked 9th Most Valuable Nation Brand

- India secured ninth rank out of top 50 valuable national brands, according to a report titled 'Nation Brands 2018'



released by Brand Finance, a leading brand valuation and strategy consultancy.

- India was ranked 8th in last year's report but slipped by a spot to the 9th rank, despite its brand value rose by 5%. India's brand value was \$2,046 billion in 2017 and has increased to \$2,159 billion in 2018.
- The US topped the list with a brand value of \$25,899 billion which rose by 23% from last year.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Dedicated National Police Memorial To The Nation In New Delhi

- It has been built in recognition of the supreme sacrifice made by police personnel since independence.
- Since Independence of the country, 34,844 police personnel have been martyred, with 424 losing their lives this year.
- The memorial has been erected on 6.12 acres of land in Chanakyapuri, at the northern end of Shanti Path.

Environment Ministry launches Harit Diwali, Swasth Diwali campaign

- This campaign was initiated in 2017-18 wherein a large number of school children especially from eco-clubs



participated and took a pledge to minimize bursting of crackers and also discouraged the neighborhood and their friends from bursting of crackers.

- During this intensive campaign, the children were advised to celebrate Diwali in an environment-friendly manner by gifting plant sapling to their relatives and friends along with sweets, undertake cleaning of houses, neighbourhoods, schools, collect old books and unused notebooks gift to needy children, donate old warm clothing, blankets to night-shelters and other homeless people.

Twenty Seventh International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Fusion Energy Conference held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat

- It is organized by IAEA. It is hosted by the Department of Atomic Energy and Gandhinagar-based Institute of Plasma Research.
- It aims to provide a platform for discussion of major physics and technology issues and innovative concepts related to the use of nuclear fusion as a source of energy. International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) Organisation, European Atomic Energy Community



(Euratom), research institutes involved in developing smaller plasma devices are participating in the conference.

Gujarat Government declares 51 talukas as water scarcity hit

- The Gujarat government declared 51 talukas, comprising 3,291 villages, as scarcity hit owing to scanty rains.
- Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel said in Ahmedabad that 10 talukas of Kutch district are declared as water scarcity hit taluks.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Launches 'Main Nahi Hum' Portal In New Delhi

- Professionals from about 100 locations across India joined the event through video-conference.
- The Prime Minister launched the “**Main Nahin Hum**” Portal and app on the occasion.

Human Resource Development Minister Launches Web Portal Of SPARC In New Delhi

- The main aim is to improve the research ecosystem of India’s higher educational institutions by facilitating



academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world.

India most outward migrants in 2017 according to ADB report

- The number of international migrants was topped by India, followed by **China and Bangladesh**.
- One-third of international migrants were from Asia in 2017.
- India had the most outward migrants in 2017 (17 million), followed by China (10 million) and Bangladesh (7.5 million).
- The global stock of international migrants from Asia rose 3.9 percent from 83.6 million in 2015 to 86.9 million in 2017.



AWARDS AND HONOURS

Indian Navy won the 14th PMC Bank all India Guru Tegh Bahadur Gold Cup hockey tournament

- **Indian Navy (Mumbai) won the 14th PMC Bank all-India Guru Tegh Bahadur Gold Cup hockey tournament at the Mahindra Stadium at Mumbai, Maharashtra.**
- Indian Navy (Mumbai) beat Central Secretariat (New Delhi) and secured 2-1.
- The winner was awarded Rs.2 lakh and the runner-up, Rs.1 lakh.

Haryana girl Nishtha Dudeja won Miss Deaf Asia 2018 crown

- She is the first Indian to have won any title at the **Miss Deaf World Pageant**.
- She is the brand ambassador for Sivantos India Pvt Ltd. (Formerly Siemens hearing Instruments Pvt Ltd.), the world's leading brand of hearing aids.



Invest India Won UN Investment Promotion Award

- The award was presented by Armenian President Armen Sarkissian to Deepak Bagla, the CEO of Invest India, in Geneva, Switzerland.

About Investment Promotion Award

- The Investment Promotion Awards, organized by UNCTAD, honors Investment Promotion Agencies and their governments for their achievements.
- The Awards have been given annually since 2002 as part of UNCTAD's investment promotion and facilitation programme.

Jyoti Shelar won the first place in the English category of SCARF

- **Jyoti Shelar**, The Hindu's Mumbai-based correspondent won the first place in the English category of Schizophrenia Research Foundation's (SCARF) media for mental health reporting award.



- Ms.Shelar's report on suicides by farmers and the resultant impact on the mental health of their families won her the award.

Tezpur University professor bagged INSA Teachers Award

- Indian National Science Academy (INSA) selected Tezpur University professor **Ashis Mukherjee** for the prestigious Indian National Science Academy (INSA) Teachers Award (2018).
- He was selected for his consistent and high-level of teaching, and inspiration and mentoring students to take up careers in Science and Technology.
- He will be conferred the award at the Anniversary General Meeting of the Academy in December 2018.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Air purifier makers expects huge sales as pollution levels worsen in NCR and adjoining areas

- As the air quality in the **National Capital Region (NCR)** and adjoining areas are likely to deteriorate further in the coming weeks, the Air purifier makers are looking at a big spike in their sales.
- There is a rise in demand for air purifiers from smaller and tier-II cities, other than metros.
- Although the air purifier industry is small in size and limited to metro cities, makers are witnessing a high double-digit growth in the segment due to increased awareness among the people who are willing to spend money to improve the quality of air around them.
- The overall **Air Quality Index (AQI)** of Delhi was recorded at 337 last week, which falls in the very poor category and is the highest for this season, creating hazy conditions, said data from the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)**. Below given is the Air Quality Index (AQI) range.



Supreme Court announced ban on toxic and loud firecrackers

- Supreme Court judgment declared a **ban on toxic and loud crackers** during Diwali.
- The ban has been declared to avoid the air pollution caused due to the burning of firecrackers which in turn deterioration of air quality.
- The Bench acknowledges that there is a necessity to tackle the other contributory factors for air pollution.
- **Unregulated construction activity** which generates a lot of dust and **crop burning** in the neighbouring States are the two other major reasons. Vehicular pollution is also another cause.

World's oldest intact shipwreck found in black sea

- An ancient Greek trading ship dating back more than 2,400 years found virtually intact at the bottom of the **Black Sea**.
- The vessel is one of more than 60 shipwrecks including Roman ships and a 17th-century Cossack raiding fleet identified by the Black Sea Maritime Archaeology Project.
- The ship, which is lying on its side with its mast and rudders intact, was dated back to 400 BC a time when the Black Sea was a trading hub filled with Greek colonies.



PNB Metlife unveiled an app named Khushi

- PNB Metlife, a Life insurer, unveiled an app named **‘Khushi’**. The app is an **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**-powered customer service.
- 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.
- Kushi has the ability to understand customer intent and provide tailored responses.



BANKING AND FINANCE

State Bank of India launches Wealth Hub in Mangalore

- State Bank of India is the first bank to introduce wealth business services for its customers.
- The wealth hub was launched by SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar.

Paytm teams up with Softbank, Yahoo to launch PayPay service in Japan

- PayPay allows users to store money from a bank account in their “PayPay” wallet and aims to promote the use of cashless payment in Japan.
- Japan accounts for only 20% of overall cashless transactions in the country.

Indian banks profitability weaker than BRICS peers, to improve next fiscal: Moody's

- Moody's Investors Service in its report stated that the profitability of Indian banks is “distinctively weak” compared to the other BRICS nations.



- In India, the system-wide asset quality is weak due to stressed public sector banks, which dominate the sector. Indian banks have a tangible common equity ratio of 8.7 percent at the end of 2017.
- It is unprofitable and has a negative ROA due to high credit costs at dominant state-owned banks.

Paytm Payments Bank Appoints Satish K Gupta As MD and CEO

- Paytm Payments Bank has appointed veteran banker **Satish Kumar Gupta** as its new Managing Director and CEO.
- The post was lying vacant after Renu Satti stepped down in July 2018. Satti now heads the company's new retail business.
- The veteran banker had earlier served as the Deputy General Manager at State Bank of India where he worked for over three decades.

NSE got SEBI nod to launch copper large futures contract

- National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) got regulatory approval from SEBI to launch **copper large futures contract**.



- The copper large futures contract will have a trading unit of 25 tonnes at par with international commodity markets.
- It is one of the highest traded contracts and is considered as the global benchmark.
- **About NSE:**
 - **Headquarters:** Mumbai
 - **Chairman:** Mr. Ashok Chawla

IDFC Bank To Be Renamed as IDFC First Bank

- IDFC Bank proposed to change its name to 'IDFC First Bank Ltd' in the wake of its amalgamation with the non-banking financial company Capital First.
- The decision was taken during the meeting of the Board of Directors of IDFC Bank.
- It would further require the approvals of statutory or regulatory authorities including the Registrar of Companies, Shareholders and other Stakeholders.



SPORTS

Mumbai beat Delhi to lift Vijay Hazare Trophy title for third time

- **Mumbai** defeated Delhi by four wickets to win their third **Vijay Hazare Trophy title** at M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru
- He won the trophy way back in 2006-07 when they defeated Rajasthan
- Aditya Tare struck a fluent half-century

Bajrang Punia settles for silver after losing to Japanese Takuto Otaguro in 65 kg category in World Wrestling Championship

- Nineteen-year-old Otaguro beat Punia and secured 16-9.
- Otaguro became Japan's youngest World Champion at the age of 19

DANISA Denmark Open 2018: Complete List Of Winners

- This tournament was organized by Badminton Denmark, and sanctioned by the **Badminton World Federation**



(BWF) This international tournament was held at Odense Sports Park in Odense, Denmark

Sl. No.	Event	Winner
1	Men's Singles	Kento Momota (Japan)
2	Women's Singles	Tai Tzu-ying (Chinese Taipei)
3	Men's Doubles	Marcus Fernaldi Gideon, Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo (Indonesia)
4	Women's Doubles	Shiho Tanaka, Koharu Yonemoto (Japan)

Virat Kohli Becomes Fastest To Reach 10,000 Runs In History Of ODI Cricket

- Virat Kohli scored his 37th ODI hundred, reaching the landmark in 116 fewer innings than Sachin Tendulkar.



- He scored his 37th ODI hundred in his 205th innings, while Sachin had reached the milestone in his 321st innings against Pakistan in 2004.

Pooja Dhanda Wins Bronze Medal In World Wrestling Championships

- **Pooja Dhanda** joined the elite company of Indian women grapplers who have won the **bronze** medal at the **World Championships at Budapest, Hungary**.
- Dhanda defeated Grace Bullen of Norway 10-7 in the 57kg Freestyle category to secure the bronze medal at the Papp Lszlo Sport Arena.



QUIZ CORNER

1)Who launched ‘Indian Sports: Conversations and Reflections’?

A.Vijayan Bala

B.Dinesh Karthik

C.Suresh Kumar

D.Venkatesh Kumar

Answer: A

2)Which company ranks 22 in Forbes’ global 2000 best employers list?

A.Larsen & Toubro (L&T)

B.Reliance

C.Ashok leyland

D.Ford Company

Answer: A



3) Which bank launches “Wealth Hub” in Mangalore?

A. Yes Bank

B. Dena Bank

C. State Bank of India

D. Canara Bank

Answer: C

4) Which state government stated Man-animal conflict as a ‘State Declared Disaster’?

A. Bihar

B. Uttar Pradesh

C. Madhya Pradesh

D. Tamil Nadu

Answer: B

5) Who is the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh?

A. Rajeev Bindal

B. Gulab Singh Thakur



C.Vidya Stokes

D.Jai Ram Thakur

Answer: D

6) Which country ranked 9th Most Valuable Nation Brand?

A.India

B.Pakistan

C.Sri Lanka

D.Indonesia

Answer: A

7) Which of the following app does the Tea Board of India plans to launch?

A.Chai Sahay

B.E-tea service

C.Tea-serv

D.Chai-service

Answer: A



8) Which state Hosts 4-Day International Dance Festival?

A. Bihar

B. Gwalior

C. Mumbai

D. Kerala

Answer: B

9) Twenty Seventh International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Fusion Energy Conference held in _____.

A. Gujarat

B. Bihar

C. Karnataka

D. Kerala

Answer: A

10) Who won the 14th PMC Bank all India Guru Tegh Bahadur Gold Cup hockey tournament?

A. Central Secretariat (New Delhi)



B.Indian Army (Mumbai)

C.Indian air force (Mumbai)

D.Indian Navy (Mumbai)

Answer: D

11) Who is awarded the first World Agriculture Prize instituted by the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) in New Delhi?

A.C.N.R.Rao

B.Abhas Mitra

C.M.S.Swaminathan

D.Jayant Narlikar

Answer: C

12)Who is appointed as the next Editor of ‘The Hindu’?

A.Suresh Nambath

B.Naresh Kumar

C.Dinesh Karthik



D.Nitish Kant

Answer: A

13) One of the dengue diagnosing method, ELISA stands for _____.

A.Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay

B.Endocardial Linked Immuno Assay

C.Enzyme Linked Intradeficient Assay

D.Enzyme Linked Immuno Access

Answer: A

14) Who confers Lal Bahadur Shastri award on Fali Nariman?

A.Shri Venkaiah Naidu

B.Shri Ramesh Gupta

C.Shri Arun Jaitley

D.Shri Suresh Gupta

Answer: A



15) Which bank obtained Seven hundred and twenty eight crores capital infusion from union government?

- A.Syndicate Bank
- B.Yes Bank
- C.Dena Bank
- D.State Bank of India

Answer: A

16) Who won Men's single title at DANISA Denmark Open 2018?

- A.Kento Momota (Japan)
- B.Lee Chong Wei
- C.Taufik Hidayat
- D.Rudy Hartono

Answer: A

17) Which payments bank appoints Satish K Gupta as MD and CEO?



- A.Fino Payments Bank
- B.Equitas Payments Bank
- C.Paytm Payments Bank
- D.Airtel Payments Bank

Answer: C

18) China and Japan are partnering to develop _____.

- A.trade and financial purpose
- B.missile treaty
- C.infrastructure in Asia
- D.banking resources

Answer: C

19) IATA stands for _____.

- A.Internal Aviation Transport Association
- B.International Air Traffic Aviation
- C.International Aviation and Transport Association



D.International Air Transport Association

Answer: D

20) Who is the Governor of J&K?

A.Satya Pal Malik

B.OP Kohli

C.Anandiben Patel

D.BD Mishra

Answer: A

21) Which state banned use of glyphosate herbicide?

A.Punjab

B.Himachal Pradesh

C.Andhra Pradesh

D.Kerala

Answer: A



22) Who inaugurates 10th Nuclear Energy Conclave In New Delhi?

A. Dr Jitendra Singh

B. Dr Rajesh Sharma

C. Dr Naresh Iyer

D. Dr Vijay Kumar

Answer: A

23) Which country has most Outward Migrants In 2017: ADB Report?

A. India

B. Saudi Arabia

C. Indonesia

D. Albania

Answer: A

24) Who is the present Union Home Minister of India?

A. Shri Dinesh Kumar



B.Shri Rajesh Gupta

C.Shri Rajnath Singh

D.Shri Naresh Iyer

Answer: C

25) Which country watchdog fines Facebook 500,000 over data breach?

A.USA

B.UK

C.Pakistan

D.Indonesia

Answer: B

26) Which company to invite Expression of Interest (EoI) from investors?

A.Ashok Leyland

B.Larsen and Toubro

C.Reliance Communications



D. Bridge and Roof Company

Answer: D

27) Who bagged INSA Teachers Award?

A. Tezpur University

B. Professor University Of Oxford

C. Harvard university

D. University of Chicago

Answer: A

28) Who bags prestigious Jean Monnet Centre of excellence award?

A. Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE)

B. Mayaz Academy For Training Pvt Ltd Mylapore

C. Educational Academy for Law [MEAL]

D. Executive MBA ICFAI University Distance Learning

Answer: A



29) Where is the headquarters of NSE?

- A.Mumbai
- B.Chennai
- C.Hyderabad
- D.Secunderabad

Answer: A

30) Which country is the most outward migrants in 2017 according to ADB report?

- A.India
- B.Pakistan
- C.Saudi Arabia
- D.Indonesia

Answer: A

31) Which bank To Be Renamed as IDFC First Bank?

- A.IDFC Bank
- B.SBI Bank



C. Yes Bank

D. Dena Bank

Answer: A

32) Who won Bronze Medal In World Wrestling Championships?

A. Varun Karthik

B. Pooja Dhanda

C. Dinesh Gupta

D. Suresh Kumar

Answer: B



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