

## October 2018 Current Affairs

### Important Days

- ❑ The United Nations has designated the first Monday of October of every year as World Habitat Day. The theme is Municipal Solid Waste Management.
- ❑ The International Day of Older Persons is observed on October 1 each year to recognize the contributions of older persons and to examine issues that affect their lives. The theme is “Celebrating Older Human Rights champions”.
- ❑ World Animal Day is celebrated at various parts of the world on 4th October to raise the status of animals in order to improve welfare standards around the globe.
- ❑ World Teachers’ Day is celebrated globally on 5th October. The theme is “The right to education means the right to a qualified teacher”.
- ❑ The Indian Air Force celebrated its 86th Anniversary on 08 Oct 2018. To mark the occasion and in keeping up with the tradition, IAF has planned a grand Parade cum Investiture Ceremony at Air Force Station Hindan (Ghaziabad). On the occasion of 86th anniversary, the Indian Air Force has launched an innovative mobile health App named ‘MedWatch’.

- ❑ World Post Day is celebrated each year on 9 October, the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern. The theme is: "Imagine you are a letter travelling through time. What message do you wish to convey to your readers?"
- ❑ World Mental Health Day is celebrated on 10 October every year. The theme is 'Young People and Mental Health in a Changing World'.
- ❑ International Day Of The Girl Child celebrated on 11th October 2018. The theme for is 'With Her: A Skilled Girl Force'.
- ❑ The International Day for Disaster Reduction is observed across the world on October 13 to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction. The theme is 'Reducing Disaster Economic Losses'.
- ❑ The International Day of Rural Women is observed on 15th October. The theme is "Sustainable infrastructure, services and social protection for gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls".
- ❑ Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas is celebrated on 15th of October. In 2016, the Ministry had decided to observe 15th October as RMKD to recognise the contribution of women farmers in various aspects of agriculture. (Kisan Diwas/National Farmers' Day- 23 December

## Appointments/Resignation

- ❑ Justice Ranjan Gogoi has sworn-in as new Chief Justice of India. President Ram Nath Kovind administered him the oath of office at a function in Rashtrapati Bhawan. He succeeded Justice Dipak Misra who retired as Chief Justice of India recently. Justice Gogoi is the 46th Chief Justice of India. He will have a tenure of a little over 13 months and will retire on November 17, 2019.
- ❑ The Centre has appointed former IAS officer Rangachari Sridharan as chairperson of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA).
- ❑ India-born Harvard University professor Gita Gopinath has been appointed as the Chief Economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) by IMF's Managing Director Christine Lagarde.
- ❑ Iraq's Parliament has elected a veteran Kurdish Politician Barham Salih as the country's new President. He has named Shiite Adel Abdul Mahdi as Prime Minister of the country.
- ❑ Chanda Kochhar has quit as CEO of ICICI Bank with immediate effect. The private lender has appointed Sandeep Bakhshi as managing director and chief executive officer for five years.

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- ❑ Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi became the first person to be stripped of the honorary Canadian citizenship for her role in gross human rights violations against the Rohingya people.
- ❑ The National Stock Exchange's (NSE) MD and CEO Vikram Limaye has been appointed the chairman of the working committee and director on the board by the international industry body—World Federation of Exchanges (WFE).
- ❑ Pankaj Sharma has been appointed as the ambassador and India's permanent representative to the United Nations Conference on Disarmament (UNCD) in Geneva, Switzerland. Mr Sharma will replace Amandeep Gill.
- ❑ Brett Kavanaugh sworn in as US Supreme Court Chief Justice. Brett Kavanaugh was sworn in as the 114th Justice of the Supreme Court. He replaced Chief Justice John Roberts.
- ❑ Indian-American Nikki Haley has resigned as the US Ambassador to the United Nations.
- ❑ Rakesh Sharma has taken charge as the managing director and chief executive officer of the bank. He has replaced B Sriram.
- ❑ PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) has announced that Mahesh Y Reddy has taken over as its Secretary General with immediate effect.
- ❑ The government has appointed 58-year-old Pravin Srivastava, a senior officer with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), as the Chief Statistician of India (CSI).
- ❑ Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta has been appointed as the new Solicitor General of India. Solicitor General is the second highest ranking law officer of the government after the Attorney General. Previous Solicitor General was Ranjit Kumar.

## Awards

- ❑ Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honoured with United Nations' highest environmental award- UNEP Champions of the Earth, along with French President Emmanuel Macron in New Delhi. The award was presented by UN Secretary-Antonio Guterres.
- ❑ Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave awards to top Ranked State, District and State with maximum citizen participation based on the National Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018 commissioned by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. Haryana was ranked as the best State while Satara District of Maharashtra was ranked as the best district as per the ranking undertaken by Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018.
- ❑ (A) Top 3 States-
  1. Haryana,
  2. Gujarat,
  3. Maharashtra.
- ❑ (B) Top 3 Districts-
  1. Satara, Maharashtra,
  2. Rewari, Haryana,
  3. Pedapalli, Telangana.



- ❑ Reliance Industries' Chairman Mukesh Ambani has emerged as the richest Indian for the 11th consecutive year with a net worth of USD 47.3 billion, according to Forbes magazine.
- ❑ Apple displaced Google to become the top brand in the world in 2018 while Facebook, mired in data breach controversies, fell to ninth place in the top 100 brands globally. According to global brand consultancy Interbrand's "Best 100 Global Brands 2018" report, Amazon achieved a 56% growth to become the third top brand globally. Apple went on to become the first company in the US to hit the \$1 trillion market cap. Google stood at second place while Amazon is third.
- ❑ The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has won the 'ISSA Good Practice Award' for Administrative Solution for Coverage Extension at the "Regional Social Security Forum for Asia and the Pacific" held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- ❑ Japan's passport has been named the most powerful in the world, overtaking Singapore, according to the Henley Passport Index 2018. The Indian passport has secured the 81st rank.
- ❑ Top 3 on Henley Passport Index Power Ranking 2018:
  1. Japan, 2. Singapore, 3. Germany, France, South Korea.
- ❑ Indus Towers, world's largest telecom tower company (outside China), won the Deming Prize for 2018, being the first Indian company in the service sector and the fifth in the world to achieve this.

## Nobel Prize 2018

S. No.	Field	Winner	Description
1.	Physiology or Medicine	James P Allison (USA) and Tasaku Honjo (Japan)	"for their discovery of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation"
2.	Physics	Arthur Ashkin (USA), Gerard Mourou (France) and Donna Strickland (Canada)	"for groundbreaking inventions in the field of laser physics"
3.	Chemistry	(a) one half to Frances H. Arnold (USA) (b) other half jointly to George P. Smith (USA) and Sir Gregory P. Winter (UK)	(a) "for the directed evolution of enzymes" (b) "for the phage display of peptides and antibodies"
4.	Peace	Denis Mukwege (Congo) and Nadia Murad (Iraq)	"for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict"
5.	Economic Sciences	(a) William D. Nordhaus (USA) (b) Paul M. Romer (USA)	(a) "for integrating climate change into long-run macroeconomic analysis" (b) "for integrating technological innovations into long-run macroeconomic analysis."

## Sports

- ❑ Yuvraj Wadhvani has won the 25th Asian junior individual squash championship title. He defeated Anas Ali Shah of Pakistan in the final in Chennai. Yuvraj has become the second Indian to win the Under-13 title after Veer Chotrani, who had won the title in 2014 in Iran.
- ❑ Prithvi Shaw has become the youngest Indian to score a century on Test debut, achieving the feat aged 18 years and 329 days against West Indies in Rajkot, Gujarat. The opener is also the fourth youngest player of all time to hit a debut ton and the second youngest Indian to make a Test century after Sachin Tendulkar. Sachin Tendulkar Age- 17 Years 107 Days Prithvi Shaw Age- 18 Years 329 Days
- ❑ Manu Bhaker was named as the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for the 3rd Youth Olympic Games to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- ❑ The 36th National Games will be held from March 30 to April 14 in Goa.
- ❑ India's Keerthana Pandian Wins Girls' Title in IBSF World U-16 Snooker Championships while Belgium's Ben Marten won the Boys' Title.
- ❑ Indian under-19 cricket team has defeated Sri Lanka by 144 runs in the summit clash of the 2018 ACC Under-19 Asia Cup in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- ❑ Sixteen-year-old shooter Manu Bhaker has become the first-ever Indian woman to win gold at Youth Olympics.
- ❑ Britain beats India to win Sultan Johar Cup Junior Hockey in Malaysia.



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- ❑ The sixth edition of IBSAMAR, a joint Multi-National Maritime Exercise between the Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies, is being held at Simons Town, South Africa. The last edition of IBSAMAR (IBSAMAR V) was conducted off Goa, from 19 – 26 Feb 16.
- ❑ A Vietnam Coast Guard ship, on its maiden visit to Chennai, undertook joint exercises with the Indian Coast Guard 'Sahyog HOP TAC-2018', off the city coast aimed at strengthening the working level relationship between them.
- ❑ Maritime exercise between Japan and India 'JIMEX 18' held in Visakhapatnam
- ❑ Ukraine began a series of large-scale air force exercises with the United States and other NATO countries. The "Clear Sky 2018" war games held in western Ukraine.
- ❑ Renowned harmonium player Pandit Tulsidas Borkar passed away in Mumbai. He was 84. He was conferred with the Padma Shri award in 2016. He was also a recipient of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.
- ❑ National Khadi Festival 2018 Held in Mumbai. The National Khadi Festival 2018 is being organised by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to promote Khadi products.
- ❑ India and Russia signed the \$5 billion S-400 air defence system deal during the annual bilateral summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin at Hyderabad House.
- ❑ India Chem 2018, the 10th Biennial International Exhibition & Conference held in Mumbai. The largest event of Chemicals and Petrochemical Industry in India is a two-day event.
- ❑ A four-day Indian International Science Festival (IISF) 2018 held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❑ India's 1st 'Methanol Cooking Fuel Program' Launched in Assam. Northeast and Assam Petro-chemicals, a state-owned company for launched Asia's first cannisters based and India's first "Methanol Cooking Fuel Program".
- ❑ Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) will complete commissioning of its second generation (2G) ethanol bio-refinery at Baulsingha village in Bargarh district of Odisha by 2020.
- ❑ The country's first India-Israel Innovation Centre (IIIC), an entrepreneurial technology hub, was opened in Bengaluru.

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- ❑ Piyush Goyal received University of Pennsylvania's top energy policy prize.
- ❑ Nokia appoints Alia Bhatt as brand ambassador in India.
- ❑ RBI approves appointment of Sandeep Bakshi as ICICI Bank MD, CEO.
- ❑ Paul Allen, who co-founded Microsoft with Bill Gates, dies of cancer at 65.
- ❑ Author Anna Burns has won the Man Booker Prize for her novel 'Milkman', becoming the first author from Northern Ireland to win the most prestigious English-language literary award.
- ❑ Praveen Chitravel clinched a bronze in men's triple jump to give India its second athletics medal in the ongoing Youth Olympics.
- ❑ Russian-Pakistani military drills "Friendship 2018" will be held in the mountains of Pakistan from October 21 until November 4.
- ❑ Welspun Group Chairman Balkrishan Goenka is new Assocham president.
- ❑ Akash claims India's maiden archery silver at Youth Olympics.
- ❑ China successfully tests world's largest unmanned transport drone.
- ❑ Former Jharkhand minister Devdayal Kushwaha passes away.
- ❑ An Indian-American Minal Patel Davis, Special Advisor on Human Trafficking to Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, received the 'Presidential Medal for Combating Human Trafficking' in the White House.
- ❑ Armies of India and Japan will hold their first ever joint exercise "Dharma Guardian" from November 1 at a jungle warfare school in Mizoram's Vairengte with a focus on strengthening counter-terror cooperation.
- ❑ Global body World Steel Association (worldsteel) has elected JSW Steel CMD Sajjan Jindal as its treasurer. The association has also appointed Tata Steel MD T V Narendran and ArcelorMittal Chief L N Mittal as its members.
- ❑ Congress veteran Narayan Dutt Tiwari, who served in various positions at the Centre and in states, died on his birthday. He was 93. Tiwari had the unique distinction of having served as the chief minister of two states, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

- ❑ Japanese-born Marine biologist Osamu Shimomura, who won the Nobel Prize in chemistry, has died. He was 90.
- ❑ Grammy-winning Hindustani classical music instrumentalist Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt will be honoured with the annual Ustad Chand Khan Lifetime Achievement Award.
- ❑ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the newly created National Police Memorial and newly built Police Museum and dedicated it to the nation.
- ❑ Prominent Bollywood singer Asha Bhosle was conferred the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for her outstanding contributions in the field of singing at the first Kumar Sanu Award function organized by Kumar Sanu Vidya Niketan at the auditorium of the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Delhi.
- ❑ Bajrang Punia settled for a silver medal in the world Wrestling championship.
- ❑ China officially opened the 55-km-long sea bridge, said to be the world's longest, connecting Hong Kong to Macau and the mainland Chinese city of Zhuhai.
- ❑ President Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the Vishwashanti Ahimsa Sammelan at Mangi Tungi, Nasik, Maharashtra. The event is being organised by the Bhagwan Shri Rishabhdev 108 Feet Vishalkai Digambar Jain Murti Nirman Committee.
- ❑ IT industry body Nasscom has signed a letter of intent with the Hiroshima government to work together in creating Japan-India IT corridor to facilitate partnerships between companies from both nations.
- ❑ The Seoul Peace Prize Committee has decided to confer the 2018 Seoul Peace Prize on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in recognition of his dedication to improving international cooperation, raising global economic growth, accelerating the Human Development of the people of India by fostering economic growth in the world's fastest growing large economy and furthering the development of democracy through anti-corruption and social integration efforts.
- ❑ TVS Motor Company has elevated K N Radhakrishnan as Director and CEO of the company for a period of five years with effect from October 23, 2018.
- ❑ M Nageshwar Rao has been appointed as the interim director of CBI.
- ❑ India has awarded an additional USD 777 million deal to a leading Israeli defence firm for supplying Barak 8 LR-SAM Air and Missile Defence Systems to seven ships of the Indian Navy.
- ❑ Tata Chemicals (TCL) signed an agreement with CSIRCECRI (Central Electrochemical Research Institute), Karaikudi in Tamil Nadu, to explore collaborative technology scaling up of manufacturing cathode materials for Lithium-ion cells.

- ❑ US President Donald Trump designated Indian-American Neil Chatterjee as chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).
- ❑ Malayalam author Benyamin has bagged the inaugural JCB Prize for literature for his book 'Jasmine Days', which explores the lives of South Asians in the Middle East.
- ❑ The Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering has elected Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw as its first female Foreign Fellow.
- ❑ Manipuri dance doyen Rajkumar Singhajit Singh, Bangladeshi cultural organisation Chhayanaut and sculptor Ram Vanji Sutar have been selected for the prestigious Tagore Award for the year 2014, 2015 and 2016, respectively.
- ❑ Pakistan's iconic human rights activist and lawyer Asma Jahangir was posthumously awarded the 2018 UN Human Rights Prize.
- ❑ Union minister Maneka Gandhi inaugurated the 5th edition of the Women of India National Organic Festival in New Delhi.
- ❑ Former Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa became the new Prime Minister of the country.
- ❑ India's Sourav Kothari defeated Peter Gilchrist of Singapore 1134-944 of to clinch the 2018 WBL World Billiards Championship title.
- ❑ Indian golfer Khalin Joshi clinched his maiden Asian Tour title, claiming the Panasonic Open India title.
- ❑ 'Little India Gate' was inaugurated in the Medan city of Northern Indonesia. It is the first-of-its-kind structure in the country which recognises the contribution of Indian community in the development of Medan city.
- ❑ India's Akashdeep Singh was adjudged player of the tournament but the team had to share the Asian Champions Trophy with Pakistan after the much-anticipated summit clash was abandoned due to heavy downpour.

- ❑ Elina Svitolina claimed the biggest title of her career with a gritty comeback victory against Sloane Stephens at the season-ending WTA Finals in Singapore.
- ❑ National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL) Payments Bank has commenced operations as a payments bank.
- ❑ Steel manufacturing giant Tata Steel was named as an official partner for the prestigious men's hockey World Cup to be held here from November 28 to December 16.
- ❑ Justice Ajikuttira Somaiah Bopanna was sworn in as Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court.
- ❑ India's first engine-less semi-high speed train - "Train 18" - was rolled out by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) and will eventually replace the Shatabdi Express for inter-city travel.
- ❑ RBI had approved the re-appointment of Aditya Puri as managing director of the bank for another two years.
- ❑ A night trial of India's indigenously developed nuclear-capable Agni-1 ballistic missile was successfully conducted. The missile has a strike range of 700 km.
- ❑ Pioneering underwater coral reef scientist Ruth Gates has died. She was 56.
- ❑ Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated a 182-metre statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel to the nation.
- ❑ Nobel Prize Winner Malala Yousafzai will be honoured with the Gleitsman Award by Harvard University for her work promoting girls' education.
- ❑ An Indian-American couple- Marie and Vijay Goradia has been honoured with the Roy M Hiffington Award in the US for making significant contributions to the areas of literacy, education and healthcare in India.