



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCT 29, 2019

STATES

- **The Delhi Government – launches the free ride scheme for women in public buses on October 29**
- ✓ Under the free ride scheme, the bus conductors would be issuing pink tickets with the value of Rs 10 each to all female passengers free of cost.
- ✓ The cost of each ticket will be reimbursed later to the transporters by the Delhi Government
- ✓ The free-ride scheme aims to ensure the safety and security of female passengers apart from making the transportation ride smooth for them.

NATIONAL

- **Air India - to launch a new flight connecting Amritsar with London Stansted on October 31**



- ✓ The Boeing 787 aircraft will be displaying an important religious symbol 'Ek Onkar' or 'God is One' to mark the birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak.
- ✓ This flight service will be helpful for the Sikh pilgrims travelling to India on the occasion of 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, founder of Sikhism

INTERNATIONAL

- **The European Union - agreed to delay Brexit by three more months until January 31**
- ✓ As per the earlier agreement, Britain was to exit EU by October 31, becoming the first country ever to leave the 28-nation bloc
- ✓ Britain's departure has already been delayed twice by the Parliament on March 29 and April 12, during the tenure of new Prime Minister Boris Johnson
- ✓ Boris Johnson's predecessor, Theresa May, also failed three times to get her deal ratified by Parliament.
- ✓ Britain had voted 52%-48% in a referendum in favour of leaving the EU, three and half years ago

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **Pakistan - to establish a Guru Nanak university in Punjab province's Nankana Sahib, the birth place of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak**
- ✓ The foundation stone of the Baba Guru Nanak International University (BGNIU), spread over 10 acres, was laid by PM Imran Khan
- ✓ A budget of Rs 6 billion will be spent on the project
- ✓ It is expected to be completed in three phases.

PERSONALITIES

- **Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of terror organization, Islamic State (IS) – was killed in a raid by U.S. special forces in northwest Syria**



- ✓ During the operation, Baghdadi blew himself up in a tunnel along with his three children
 - ✓ A native of Iraq, Al-Baghdadi was the world's most-wanted terrorist head
 - ✓ A target of a \$25 million bounty on him was placed by the American government
 - ✓ The operation was named after Kayla Mueller, an American aid worker who was killed by al-Baghdadi
 - ✓ The raid involved eight helicopters flying more than an hour from an undisclosed base
 - ✓ It was carried out with the cooperation of Russia, Syria, Turkey and Iraq.
 - ✓ At its height, IS controlled vast areas of Iraq and Syria and Baghdadi declared himself a 'khalifa'
- **Nirmal Purja, a Nepali mountaineer, has become the fastest mountain climber as he scaled world's 14 highest peaks in just over six months.**



- ✓ He completed all 14 mountains, all higher than 8,000 metres (26,250 feet) in seven months under 'Project Possible'
- ✓ Purja already had his name in the Guinness Book of Records before conquering the 14 peaks – for having scaled three of them in just five days in 2017 - Mount Everest (8,850 meters), neighboring Lhotse (8,516 meters) and Makalu (8,485 meters).
- ✓ At the age of 20, Purja joined the British Army's Brigade of Gurkhas and later became a member of the Special Boat Service, an elite unit of the Royal Navy
- ✓ The previous record of fastest mountain climbing was achieved in a span of 7 years, 11 months and 14 days, by Polish climber Jerzy Kukuczka in 1980s

DEFENCE

- **Indo-French joint bilateral army exercise 'Shakti 2019' - is scheduled to begin on October 31, 2019 in Bikaner, Rajasthan**



- ✓ The exercise will be conducted from October 31 to November 13, 2019.
- ✓ The 36 hours exercise will be conducted at the Foreign Training Node at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan
- ✓ The Indian side will be represented in the exercise by a contingent of the Sikh Regiment of Sapta Shakti Command.
- ✓ 'Shakti-2019' will mainly focus on counter-terrorism operations to take place in the backdrop of semi-desert terrain
- ✓ The 'Exercise Shakti' series was launched between India and France in 2011.
- ✓ Last year, it was conducted in France from January 20 to February 4, 2018 at the combat training centre of Mailly-le-Camp, Aube, in eastern France.
- ✓ The Indian Army was represented last year by 45 personnel specialized in mountain combat from the 8th Gorkha Rifles

ECONOMY

- **Transactions made through India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI)—hit a landmark of one billion in October**
- ✓ UPI, the country's own domestic payments platform, recently crossed 100 million users, making it the fastest adoption of any payments system anywhere in the world.
- ✓ The UPI platform enables users to send money from their account to any account without entering bank details by using an email-like link or scanning a QR code.
- ✓ The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) operates the UPI platform
- ✓ The NPCI plans to take the network global by enabling acceptance of UPI in countries like Singapore and the UAE.
- ✓ The UPI platform was launched before demonetisation in 2016

- ✓ GooglePay, Paytm and PhonePe—have dominated the market as customers of different banks use largely these three apps along with the NPCI's BHIM app to transact.
- ✓ The NPCI had also launched the Ru-Pay network

SPORTS

- **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty – finished runner up in the final of the French Open Super 750 at Paris**



- ✓ The World No. 1 pair lost the game against top seeds Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo of Indonesia in the final
 - ✓ Recently, Satwik and Chirag had won their maiden Super 500 title at the Thailand Open in August
 - ✓ Partho Ganguli and Vikram Singh Bisht were the last Indian pair to win the French Open in 1983.
- **Papua New Guinea – defeated Kenya to book their maiden appearance at the T20 World Cup in Australia next year.**



- ✓ Emerging cricket nation, Papua New Guinea beats the African nation Kenya by 45 runs at Dubai International Stadium

- ✓ With the win, they ultimately topped their group and qualified directly for Australia to their first World Cup in any format
- ✓ Among the Associate nations, Ireland also got qualified to play in the World Cup in Australia

