EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOV 1, 2018

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu – has received the award in the 'Best practices summit' organized by Ministry of health and family welfare**
  - ✓ The award has been conferred for highest annual decline of Neo-natal mortality rate 2016
  - ✓ The average reduction for the entire country stood at -4% while Tamil Nadu registered -14.3%

- **'Run for Unity' event – flagged off in Chennai by Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Defence minister**

  - ✓ It is held on the occasion of birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India
  - ✓ Two Tamil Nadu Ministers, D Jayakumar and SP Velumani, also participated in the event
  - ✓ The run was conducted to mark the dedication of the 'statue of unity' by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Gujarat

- **IIT Madras – creates 'Shakti', India's first indigenous Microprocessor**

  - ✓ It was developed with a Microchip fabricated in the Semiconductor lab of ISRO at Chandigarh
  - ✓ The team was led by Prof Kamakoti Veezhinathan at IIT-M's RISE laboratory
  - ✓ The team has also developed 'Parashakti', an advanced microprocessor for super computers

- **Chennai metro water – launches 'One time password' (OTP) system** – to avoid the diverting of the water meant for residential purposes to commercial establishments
  - ✓ The OTP system is introduced for 'dial for water' and 'dial for septic tank clearance' customers
  - ✓ The new system comes into effect from November 1, 2018

SCHEMES

- **Odisha – launches 'Soura Jalanidhi' scheme**

  - ✓ The scheme aims to increase the use of solar energy for irrigation purposes to the farmers
  - ✓ Under this scheme, 5000 solar pumps will be provided to farmers at a subsidy of 90% to irrigate 2,500 acres of land
  - ✓ A budget of Rs 27.18 crore has been earmarked for the new scheme

- **Karnataka – launches ‘Samruddhi’ scheme**

- ✓ It aims to boost employment opportunities for SC/ST youth through entrepreneurship
- ✓ For the scheme, the state government has signed MoU with 30 retail companies
- ✓ Additionally, the government will also provide a seed grant upto Rs. 10 lakh to interested youth to start their own franchises
- ✓ A total cost of Rs 200 crore has been set aside for the scheme
- ✓ By the scheme, the government plans to create about 10000 entrepreneurs by 2021

STATES

- **Delhi Metro Pink Line – extended with the inauguration of 17.86 km long Shiv Vihar – Trilokpuri Sanjay Lake section**

- ✓ With this extension, Delhi metro joins the elite league of top metro networks (like London, New York, Beijing and Shanghai) in the world with an operational length of over 300 km
- ✓ Delhi Metro Network has now become 314 kilometre long with 229 metro stations
- ✓ The 17.86 km long Shiv Vihar – Trilokpuri Sanjay Lake section is part of 59 km long Majlis Park - Shiv Vihar corridor (Line 7) of Phase 3 of the Delhi Metro, also known as the Pink Line

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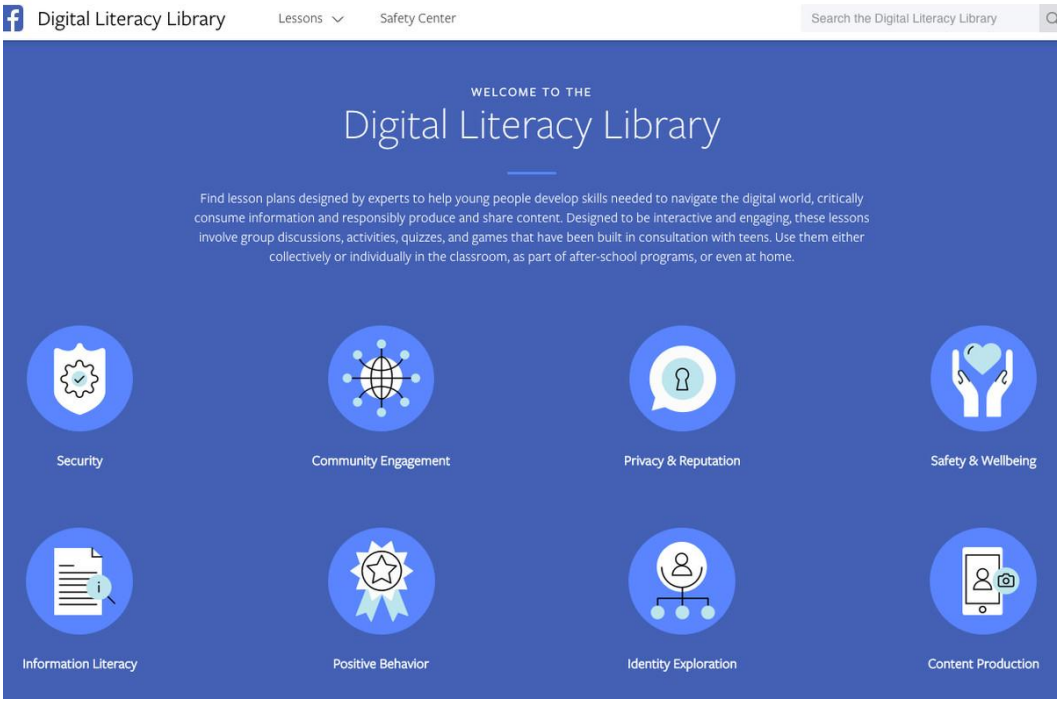
- **Uttar Pradesh – to start a 'Food value chain' in collaboration with Japanese Government**
  - ✓ Under the agreement, in the first five years, Japanese companies will invest in agri-related and food-related industries in the state

- **Uttar Pradesh cabinet – also gave the approval for the construction of 'Queen Ho memorial' in Ayodhya at a cost of Rs 24 crores**

NATIONAL

- **Facebook – launches 'Digital Literacy Library' in 6 Indian languages - Bengali, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam**



  - ✓ This launch is a part of Facebook's efforts to train 3,00,000 people in India on digital literacy by the end of 2018
  - ✓ The campaign provides digital safety tips for women and youth

- **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change – to organize 'Clean Air week' in Delhi-NCR region** from November 1 to 5 – to control Air pollution
  - ✓ 52 teams have been formed to ensure compliance and safety apart from taking quick action

- **HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company -** launched the **'Cyber Security Awareness Week'** from October 21 to October 27, 2018
  - ✓ Theme - '#HackSeLado'

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- **India – to export 'Grand Naine bananas' to Italy – for the first time in the country**
  - ✓ The bananas were grown in Kudalore in Theni district from TNAU campus
  - ✓ The bananas will be stored inside the container at a temperature of 13 degree Celsius
  - ✓ This will prevent them from ripening

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **1st India-US Dialogue on Intellectual Property (IP) – held in New Delhi**
  - ✓ The dialogue aims to share technical knowledge and expertise related to the IPs, including patent filing, copyright and infringement, technology transfer, and enforcement

- **Netherlands – to be the 'Partner country' at the 25th DST-CII Technology summit – to be held in 2019**
  - ✓ This was announced by Dr Harsh vardhan**,** Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, Forest and Climate Change

PERSONALITIES

- **K J Alphons, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism – Presides over the 'Programme and Budget Committee' meeting of UNWTO**

  - ✓ He is currently attending the 109th session of United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Executive Council in Manama, Bahrain
  - ✓ As the chair of the Committee, the Minister informed the session that UNWTO had a surplus budget for the first time and most of the arrear dues have been paid
  - ✓ India will be the chair of 'Programme and Budget Committee' of UNWTO Executive Council till 2021

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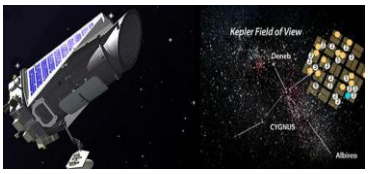
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **NASA's Kepler telescope – retires after serving a nine and half year mission**



  - ✓ It had discovered 2,689 exoplanets and 5,30,506 stars, before running out of fuel
  - ✓ Kepler, the unmanned space telescope was launched in March 6, 2009 from Colorado as part of NASA's first planet-hunting mission
  - ✓ The mission costed $600 million and travelled 150 million km
  - ✓ It had discovered 'KEPLER-22B' in 2011 about 600 light years away, which was 2.4 times bigger than Earth and in the habitable zone with traces of water and water vapour

- **2nd successful Night trials of Agni-1 ballistic missile – conducted off odisha coast**
  - ✓ Agni-1, the indigenous surface-to-surface missile has a strike range of 700 km
  - ✓ The 15-metre-long missile weighs 12 tonnes and can carry payloads up to 1000 kg
  - ✓ It has already been inducted into the Indian Army
  - ✓ It was developed by DRDO with colloborations

DEFENCE

- **Ministry of Defence – signs MoU with 'Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers' (GRSE) – for the production of 4 Survey Vessels to Indian Navy**
  - ✓ GRSE is a Public sector Enterprise, with its headquarters at Kolkata
  - ✓ The 2,435.15 crore agreement will see the supply of all vessels within four and half years
  - ✓ The vessels will have a length of 110 metre and 3300 tonnes displacement capacity
  - ✓ They will be used for Ocean research activities, including coastal survey of ports and rescue operations
  - ✓ <u>GRSE</u>
    - ✓ Established – 1884 as a Private company on Hooghly river bank
    - ✓ Renamed – 1916 as Garden Reach workshop
    - ✓ Nationalised – 1960
    - ✓ It builds and repairs commercial and naval vessels
    - ✓ It is first Indian shipyard to build 100 warships

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- **India & Russia – signs $950 million deal – for supplying 2 warships equipped with Brahmos missile to the Indian Navy**
  - ✓ 2 Frigates of Project 11356 class will be bought directly from Russia and 2 more will be built by state-owned 'Goa shipyard'
  - ✓ The Russian frigates will be delivered by 2022

- **INS Tarangini – returns to Kochi after a 7 month sail around the world**

  - ✓ The ship sailed over 22000 nautical miles across 15 ports in 13 countries in 205 days
  - ✓ The voyage named 'Lokayan 18' was flagged off on April 10 from Kochi
  - ✓ It also participated in the closing ceremony of the 'Three Festival Tall Ships Regatta' at Bordeaux, France, as well as the 'Tall Ships Races Europe 2018'

APPOINTMENTS

- **S S Deswal – appointed as the Director General of Indo-Tibetan border police (ITBF)**

  - ✓ He succeeds R K Pachnanda, who is retiring
  - ✓ Deswal will be in charge of the ITBF till his superannuation on Aug 31, 2021
  - ✓ Prior to this appointment, he was the Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)
  - ✓ <u>ITBF</u>
    - ✓ Established – 24 October 1962, following Indo-Chinese war
    - ✓ Autonomy – Full autonomy as per Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force Act, 1992
    - ✓ Headquarters – New Delhi
    - ✓ Ministry – Ministry of Home
    - ✓ Motto - Shaurya – Dridhata – Karm Nishtha
    - ✓ Primary activity – to guard 3,488km long Indo-China border along Tibet

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- **Anupham kher – resigns as the Chairman of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII)**

  - ✓ He replaced Gajendra Chauhan in October 2017 and took charge of the institute
  - ✓ He has cited international film and TV commitments for the resignation
  - ✓ He thus became the first chairperson to resign without completing the full term and also had the shortest tenure of all
  - ✓ Kher had a successful acting career of over 35 years with around 500 films
  - ✓ He was the proud recipient of Padma Shri (2004) and Padma Bhushan (2016)
  - ✓ <u>FTII</u>
    - ✓ Established – 1960
    - ✓ Registration – under Societies' Registration Act of 1860
    - ✓ Ministry – Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
    - ✓ Headquarters – Pune
    - ✓ Primary activity – to train artists in Film making, video editing, direction and Acting

AWARDS

- **Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Union Minister for Food processing – gave Awards to the country's 'Cleanest Mega Food Parks and Cold Chain Units'**
  - ✓ 1st prize - M/s. Patanjali Food and Herbal Park (P) Ltd. in Haridwar
  - ✓ 2nd prize - Satara Mega Food Park (P) Ltd., Satara District, Maharashtra
  - ✓ 3rd prize - Pagro Frozen Foods Pvt.(P) Ltd. (Cold Chain Project) in Fatehgarh Sahib, Punjab
  - ✓ The awards were presented as part of 'Swachhta Pakhwada' activities of the Ministry - for maintaining and promoting Swachhta Culture

SPORTS

- **Mary Kom – appointed as the Brand ambassador of 10th Women's Boxing World championship**, to be held in New Delhi between November 15 and 24, 2018

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- ✓ The five-time world champion said that she wants to seek her sixth Women's World Championship crown and second gold at home since 2006
- ✓ The Boxing Federation of India unveiled the logo and anthem for the event in the capital
- ✓ The World Championships will see close to 300 pugilists from 70 countries across 10 weight categories, the highest ever in the history of the Tournament
- ✓ The Indian Squad - Mary Kom (48 Kg), Pinky Jangra (51 Kg), Manisha Maun (54 Kg), Sonia (57 Kg), L Sarita Devi (60 Kg), Simranjit Kaur (64 Kg), Lovlina Borgohain (69 Kg), Saweety Boora (75 Kg), Bhagyabati Kachari (81 Kg) and Seema Poonia (+81 Kg)

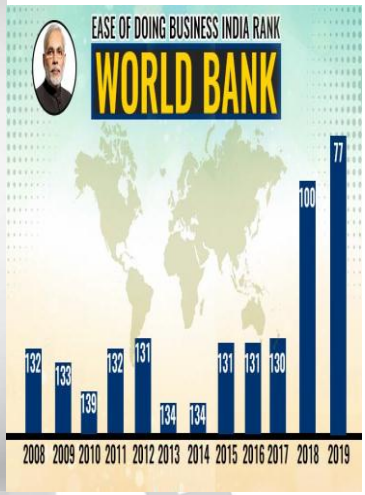
- **Pankaj Advani – becomes the 1st Indian to win the Asian Snooker title**

- ✓ The Nineteen-time World champion defeated Ju Reti of China in the final at Jinan, China
- ✓ The 33-year-old from Pune will now move to Billiards as Myanmar hosts the prestigious world championships from November 12 to 27

- **Tata steel – was announced as the 'Official partner' for the Men's Hockey World cup 2018** – to be held at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha – between November 28 and December 16
  - ✓ 16 countries will take participate in the tournament.
  - ✓ The upcoming 14th edition of the FIH (International Hockey Federation) World Cup will be held in India for the 3rd time
  - ✓ Earlier, India had hosted the tournament in 1982 in Mumbai and in 2010 in New Delhi
  - ✓ Tata Steel is the first private sector company in India to start a hockey academy.

RANKINGS

- **Ease of Doing Business 2019 Rankings – Released by World bank**
  - ✓ The Doing Business assesses 190 countries and covers 10 indicators which covers the lifecycle of a business
  - ✓ India jumps to 77th rank from 100th rank last year



  - ✓ India improved its rank in 6 out of 10 indicators and came closer to International standards in 7 out of 10 indicators
  - ✓ This is the second consecutive year for which India has been recognized as one of the top improvers
  - ✓ India is now placed at first position among South Asian countries

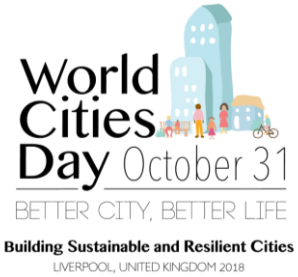
  - ✓ <u>Top 20 – Ease of doing Business 2019 Index</u>

TABLE 1.1 Ease of doing business ranking

Rank	Economy	EODB score	EODB score change
1	New Zealand	86.59	0.00
2	Singapore	85.24	+0.27
3	Denmark	84.64	+0.59
4	Hong Kong SAR, China	84.22	+0.04
5	Korea, Rep.	84.14	-0.01
6	Georgia	83.28	+0.48
7	Norway	82.95	+0.25
8	United States	82.75	-0.01
9	United Kingdom	82.65	+0.33
10	Macedonia, FYR	81.55	+0.32
11	United Arab Emirates	81.28	+2.37
12	Sweden	81.27	0.00
13	Taiwan, China	80.90	+0.24
14	Lithuania	80.83	+0.29
15	Malaysia	80.60	+2.57
16	Estonia	80.50	+0.01
17	Finland	80.35	+0.05
18	Australia	80.13	-0.01
19	Latvia	79.59	+0.33
20	Mauritius	79.58	+1.29

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **World cities day – October 31**

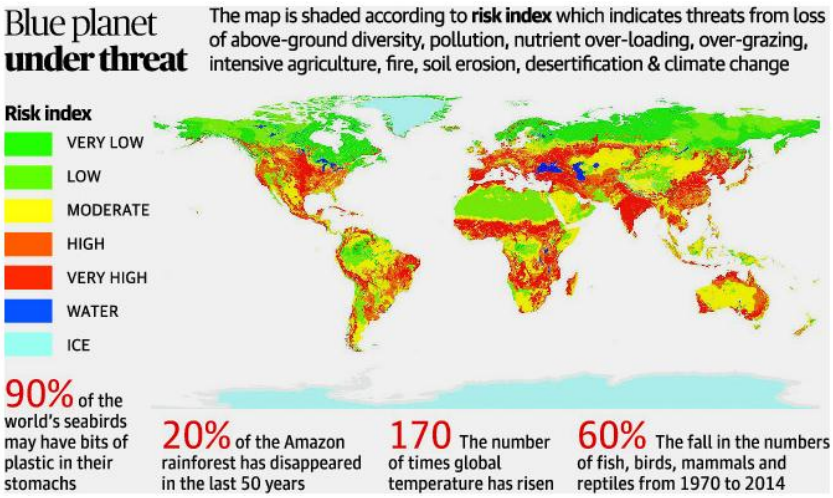


- ✓ The day intends to create awareness about Planned and sustainable urban life following rapid population growth and other relevant issues
- ✓ The global observation of 2018 World Cities Day was celebrated in Liverpool, United Kingdom
- ✓ General theme - "Better City, Better Life"
- ✓ 2018 Sub theme - 'Building Sustainable and Resilient Cities'
- ✓ Established – by UN General Assembly in December 2013
- ✓ 1st World cities day – celebrated in Shanghai, China on Oct 31, 2014 under the Sub-theme "Leading Urban Transformations"

REPORT

- **<u>Global Soil Biodiversity Atlas or Living Planet Report 2018 – Released by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)</u>**

  - ✓ India was coloured 'Red' on atlas and is among countries whose soil biodiversity faces the highest level of risk



- ✓ Other countries in this category include Pakistan, China, several countries in Africa and Europe, and most of North America
- ✓ The key aspect of this year's report was threat to soil biodiversity and pollinators, the two key drivers of biodiversity
- ✓ 150 million bee colonies were needed to meet the pollination requirements of about 50 million hectares of agricultural land in India, but only 1.2 million were present currently
- ✓ Population of fish, mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles has reduced by an average of 60% from 1970 to 2014
- ✓ During the same period, fresh water species have also reduced by 83%
- ✓ Globally, a reduction of 87% in the wetlands is observed
- ✓ South and Central America is the worst affected region globally with a 89**%** drop
- ✓ <u>WWF</u>
  - ✓ Established – 1961
  - ✓ Headquarters – Gland, Switzerland
  - ✓ Primary activity – to preserve the natural environment and reduce human impact
  - ✓ It is the world's largest conservation organization
  - ✓ It publishes 'Living planet report' in every 2 years since 1998

APPOLO STUDY CENTRE