STATES

- Telangana – ‘Bharosa’, a 24-hour centre to support women and children affected by violence was inaugurated in Hyderabad

- It has been set up on the instructions of the DGP, Telangana
- It would ensure speedy justice to women in distress and has facilities to record statements of children in POCSO cases

NATIONAL

- India’s first Cryptocurrency ATM – opens at Kemp Fort Mall in Bengaluru

- The virtual currency exchange, Unocoin, has installed the currency deposit and dispensing ATM
- The kiosk allows its customers to deposit and withdraw minimum amount of Rs 1000 from the platform
Users can deposit money to buy currencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum using an OTP received on their registered numbers.

In order to withdraw money, a request has to be first made on the Unocoin website.

First of its kind in India, this ATM circumvents the RBI regulation against bitcoin transaction.

- **Muzaffarpur’s Shahi Litchi - got official recognition as it receives the Geographical indication (GI) tag**

- The GI registration was done in the name of ‘Litchi Growers Association of Bihar’, who had applied for the tag.
- The sweet, pulpy and juicy Litchi is mostly grown in Muzaffarpur and adjoining areas of Bihar.
- The first product to get a GI tag in India was the Darjeeling tea in 2004.
- There are a total of 325 products from India that carry this indication.
- Alphonso Mango of Maharashtra has recently got the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.

**COMMITTES**

- **Government – constitutes a panel of Judges - to look into the legal framework to control sexual harassment at workplaces after the impact of #MeToo campaign**

- In early 2013, a three-member committee headed by former judge J.S. Verma including Justice Leila Seth and senior lawyer Gopal was formed.

- The committee had termed Sexual Harassment Bill “unsatisfactory”.
- It also said that the bill did not reflect the spirit of the ‘Vishakha guidelines’ framed by the Supreme Court in 1997 for the sexual harassment at the workplace.
CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Expo Cihac, Mexico City**
  - 45 Indian companies representing various sectors of the construction industry like building materials, construction equipment, interior furnishing, manufacturing and marketing of ceramic vitrified tiles are taking part in the event.

  - Trade promotion council of India is leading the Indian delegation to the expo.
  - It is the leading event for the construction industry being held in Mexico till October 20, 2018.
  - More than 570 exhibitors from the field of architecture, engineering, interior design, lighting, home automation and machinery are participating in the expo.
  - The event brings together the best products, technologies and innovations in construction from all over the world.

- **2nd edition of ‘Goa Maritime Symposium-2018’** – was inaugurated by Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chief of Naval Staff at INS Mandovi at Goa.

  - The symposium aims to promote maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
  - Theme - “Building Stronger Maritime Partnerships in IOR”.
  - On the occasion, “Naval War College Journal”, an academic collection of papers from various writers on maritime strategy and security was released.
  - The inaugural symposium was held in November 2016.
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- European Space Agency – to launch a first-of-its-kind ‘BepiColombo’ mission with two orbiters – to explore Mercury and search for Water

- Mercury, which is closest to the Sun, has the surface temperatures ranging about 450 degree Celsius
- The spacecraft will be launched from the European Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana, on October 20 and will take seven years to reach Mercury, arriving in 2025
- Only two spacecraft have been to Mercury until now
  - NASA’s ‘Mariner 10’ - which flew past the planet in 1974 and 1975
  - NASA’s ‘Messenger’ - which orbited the planet between 2011 and 2015

- China – launches 2 new satellites in the BeiDou-3 navigation series – to strengthen its GPS-style network

- The satellites were launched from a Long March-3B carrier rocket
- These satellites are the 39th and 40th of the BeiDou navigation system, and the 15th and 16th of the BeiDou-3 family
- China plans to send three more BeiDou-3 satellites into space by the end of 2018
- The name BeiDou was given after the Chinese term for the ‘Big Dipper’
- The BeiDou system became functional for China in 2000 and the Asia-Pacific region in 2012
DEFENCE


- The annual exercise was cancelled after the Doklam stand-off in 2017.

ECONOMY

- BSNL and Nokia – signs MoU to implement ‘Industry 4.0’ industrial automation solution to the manufacturing excellence at Nokia’s factory in Oragadam, Chennai.

- The various emerging technologies like Augmented and Virtual Reality (AR/VR), connected Robotics, Artificial Intelligence, Big Data Analytics, and the Internet of Things (IoT) will be employed to enhance operations and increase productivity.

AWARDS

- Anna Burns (Ireland) – wins Man Booker Prize 2018 – for her novel ‘Milkman’.

- Burns received the prestigious award from Prince Charles' wife Camilla for her 3rd novel after her previous novels, 'No Bones' and 'Little Constructions'.
- She is the first writer from Northern Ireland to win the Booker Prize.
- She is also the first woman to win the award since 2013, when Eleanor Catton took the award for ‘The Luminaries’.
- Milkman is an exploration of Northern Ireland's three decades of violence expressed through the voice of a young woman.
✓ The other finalists who competed for the award are –
  ✓ Esi Edugyan for “Washington Black”
  ✓ Daisy Johnson for “Everything Under”
  ✓ Rachel Kushner for “The Mars Room”
  ✓ Richard Powers for “The Overstory”
  ✓ Robin Robertson for “The Long Take”
✓ Man Booker Prize
  ✓ It recognizes the best original novel written in English and published in the UK"
  ✓ In 2014, it was opened to the authors of all English speaking countries
  ✓ Instituted in – 1969
  ✓ 2017 Winner - “Lincoln in the Bardo” of American writer, George Saunders

➢ Suheil F. Tandon, Social Entrepreneur – wins International Olympic Committee's ‘Sport and Active Society Commission's Grant Award’ for his contribution to sports development

✓ Suheil is the Founder of Pro Sport Development (PSD) and Executive Director of Martha Farrell Foundation
✓ The award ceremony was held during the ‘Olympism in Action’ forum at Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 5th and 6th October 2018

➢ H M Pernal - bagged the prestigious ‘Vimala V Pai Vishwa Konkani’ best book award for the year 2018

✓ Pernal, a noted writer, journalist and critic, was conferred this award for ‘Beeg Ani Beegath’, a collection of short stories in Konkani published in 2002
✓ H M Pernal is the pen name of Henry M Mendonca, a native of Pernal in Udupi district, who currently lives in Mangaluru
BOOKS & AUTHORS

- Stephen Hawking’s final book “Brief Answers to the Big Questions” – launched by his Children

- The book tackles issues from the existence of God to the potential for time travel

- “Maharana Pratap: The Invincible Warrior” - authored by Rima Hooja, Historian was released

- The book narrates the life of Maharana Pratap, the great Rajput warrior and also talks about the famous battle of Haldighati.

SPORTS

- Youth Olympics, Buenos Aires
- Praveen Chitavel (Tamil Nadu) – wins ‘bronze’ medal in Triple jump with a combined jump of 31.52m in stage 1 and 2
This gave India their second medal in the track and field events
Earlier, he had won Gold at the inaugural Khelo India School Games
He was selected and coached under the state Government’s ‘J Jayalalithaa’s Centre of Excellence scheme’ since 2012 and took to Triple jump only in March 2016

- Akash Malik (Haryana) – has become the country’s first silver-medallist in archery in the Youth Olympics

RANKINGS

- World’s most depressed country – as per World Health Organisation
  - 1 – India
  - 2 – China
  - 3 – United States
  - According to the 2015-16 National Mental Health Survey (NMHS), every sixth person in India needs mental health help of some sort
  - In India, atleast 6.5% of the population suffer from some form of the serious mental disorder

- Data Breach Level Index – Released by Gemalto, digital security firm
  - As per the report, India is second to the US in terms of Data breach
  - It is due to compromises in the Aadhaar database
  - India accounted for over 1 billion data during the first six months of 2018
  - Overall, 4.5 billion data records being compromised worldwide in the first half of 2018
  - Data breach of over 2 billion users on social media platform Facebook was ranked as top incidence globally

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- National Ayurveda Day – October 17
It is celebrated every year on the occasion of Dhanvantari Jayanti
Lord Dhanvantari is considered as divine propagator of Ayurveda
National Dhanwantari Ayurveda Award is conferred on this day every year by the Ministry of AYUSH
Last year on this day, country’s 1st All India Institute of Ayurveda was inaugurated by the Prime Minister at New Delhi
This year, on the occasion, Airports Authority of India has planted 40000 saplings at 21 airports in South India
Moreover, Ministry of AYUSH is going to organise First National Summit on Invest in AYUSH in New Delhi on 4th November, 2018
NITI Aayog and Department of Industrial and Policy and Promotion are the partner organisations of this first National summit in AYUSH

OBITUARY

N D Tiwari, Former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand (93 years)

He passed away on the day of his 93rd birthday (October 18)
Tiwari was thrice chief minister of Uttar Pradesh in varied periods between 1976–77, 1984–85, 1988–89
He was also the third chief minister of Uttarakhand from 2002-2007.
He was also the Governor of Andhra Pradesh from 2007 to 2009
He also served in the Ministry of External Affairs in the Rajiv Gandhi Cabinet between 1986-87
He had the unique distinction of having served as the chief minister of two states, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, where his native place is located.