TAMIL NADU

- IIT, Madras – to host 27th International workshop on vertex detectors between October 21 and 26, 2018
- Vertex is an annual series of international workshops for physicists and engineers from the high energy and nuclear physics community

- K Abhijit, a Class VII student from Velammal Main School, Mogappair – won gold medal (in 35 kg to 40 kg category) at the 2018 ITF National Taekwondo Championships held in Panaji, Goa

NATIONAL

- President, Ram Nath Kovind – inaugurates a 3-day “Vishwa Shanti Ahimsa Sammelan” (World peace and non-violence conference) at Nashik district, Maharashtra

- It was organised by the Bhagwan Rishabhdev Murti Nirmaan Samiti
- The President also presented the 1st international “Bhagwan Rishabhdev Award” to Teerthanker Mahaveer University of Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh
- He also released a book titled ‘Sarvoccha Digambar Jain Pratima’
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change - launches ‘Harit Diwali-Swasth Diwali’ campaign

- The campaign aims to reduce the pollution associated with the bursting of crackers during Diwali
- This campaign was started in 2017-18 in Delhi and NCR to educate children about a ‘Green’ Diwali by buying gifts, sweets etc., with minimal bursting of crackers
- For 2018, this campaign is taken on a pan-India level by merging with “Green Good Deed” movement that aims conservation and protection of environment

‘Green Climate Fund’ of United Nations – approves $43 million to boost Climate resilience for the population of India’s coastal states

- The fund will focus on selected vulnerable areas of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha states
- It will be supported through United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- The project activities will focus on conservation of over 15,000 hectares of mangroves, coral reefs, seagrasses and saltmarshes in the selected states
- It will also help India in reaching its goals outlined in Paris Agreement and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

e-Mitra Mobile App – has been launched to complement the Aspirational District Programme of the Government

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has identified 117 Aspirational Districts for transformation
- The ‘Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child and Adolescent health’ (RMNCH+A) program is an important pillar to be transformed under the ‘Aspirational Districts Programme’
- The e-Mitra app is an mobile integrated Toolkit for RMNCH+A statistics from different sources
‘Vayusena Pradarshani’ – an Outreach programme conducted by Air Force Station ‘Nal’ in Bikaner, Rajasthan

- Suryakiran Aerobatic Team, Akash Ganga Sky Diving Team and Air Warrior Drill Team (AWDT) were displayed during the programme
- It was viewed by around 1.5 lakh people including civilians, armed force personnel, paramilitary forces and around 12000 children
- It was conducted as part of Air Force Day Celebration, which was observed on Oct 8th, 2018

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- Supreme Court – allows the bursting of Crackers during all the festivals with a set of Stringent conditions
- The SC bench comprising Justices AK Sikri and Ashok Bhushan permitted the sale of green and low emission crackers alone in the country
- Highlights of the verdict
  - Firecrackers with reduced emission and decibel levels (as per its July 2005 verdict) only will be permitted during all festivals
  - Sale of firecrackers will happen only through licensed vendors
  - A ban on the online sale of firecrackers - with due responsibility on the e-commerce portals to adhere the same
- Time limit fixation –
  - On Diwali, people will only be allowed to burn crackers between 8 pm and 10 pm
  - The time limit for New Year and Christmas has been set from 11:45 pm to 12:15 am.
- Central Pollution Control Board - to monitor air quality 7 days before and 7 days after Diwali.
- In Delhi-NCR region, crackers to be burst only in the designated areas identified by Central Pollution Control Board
INTERNATIONAL

- Green Climate Fund (United Nations) has approved over $1 billion funds for 19 new projects for the developing countries to tackle climate change
  - This was announced at the four-day meeting of GCF in Manama, Bahrain
  - The projects to be covered include those related to geothermal energy in Indonesia, greener cities in Europe and Middle East and protection for coastal communities in India
  - The Green Climate Fund was established in Durban, South Africa in December 2011
  - It has its headquarters in the city of Incheon, South Korea
  - GCF was central to the Paris climate agreement signed in 2015
  - It aims to raise a Climate Finance of $100 billion a year by 2020

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- India and Myanmar – signs MoU for identifying a Private operator for Sittwe Port in Myanmar
  - The port will connect India’s landlocked north-east region to Bay of Bengal through Mizoram
  - It also provides an alternate route to Kolkata, thereby providing an impetus to Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project
  - Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project - is developed to connect Kolkata (India) with Sittwe seaport in Myanmar by sea
  - The project will reduce distance from Kolkata to Mizoram by approximately 1000 km and cut travelling time to 3-4 days for the transportation of goods
India and Croatia – signs 2 MoU’s - to facilitate cultural exchange and diplomatic cooperation

Signatories
- Sushma Swaraj - External Affairs Minister of India
- Marija Pejcinovic Buric - Croatia’s Minister of Foreign and European Affairs and Deputy prime minister

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

5th edition of ‘Women of India Organic Festival’ – kicks off at Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi

- It is organized by the Ministry of Women and Child development from 26th October to 4th November, 2018
- It is the country’s largest Organic festival
- It aims to boost organic culture and promote Women Organic Farmers and Entrepreneurs
A 4-day international dance festival titled “Udbhav Utsav” starts in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh

- It was inaugurated by Farhod Arziev, Uzbekistan Ambassador to India
- This is the 15th year for this festival, sponsored by the Greenwood group of schools
- Dance troupes from Bulgaria, Turkey and Sri Lanka along with 25 teams from India are participating in the festival

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- China – to launch its own ‘Artificial Moon’ by 2020

- The move aims to replace streetlamps and lower electricity costs in its urban areas
- In China’s ‘Chengdu’ province, "Illumination satellites" are developed - that will shine like a real moon, but eight times brighter
- These satellites are developed by ‘Tian Fu New Area Science Society’ in association with other universities such as Harbin Institute of Technology and China Aerospace Science and Industry Corp
✓ These satellites or ‘Artificial moon’ will be launched from ‘Xichang Satellite Launch Center’ in Sichuan province of Chengdu
✓ 3 more artificial moons will be launched in 2022, if the experimental trial becomes a success
✓ Earlier, in 1990s, Russia used giant mirrors to reflect light from space in an experimental project called ‘Znamya’ (Banner)
✓ China also plans to explore the dark sides of moon through its ‘Chang'e-4’ lunar probe.

DEFENCE

➢ Druzhba-III (Friendship-III) - Joint bilateral military exercise between Pakistan and Russia - begins in Pakistan

The joint drills of units of the Russian and Pakistani armed forces "Druzhba-III" will be held from October 21 until November 4 at the training range of the National Counter-Terrorist Center in Pakistan’s Pabbi region.

✓ The 2 week long exercise will take place in north-western hill region in Nowshera district of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa of Pakistan
✓ The Druzhba military drill was started in Oct 2016 in Northern Pakistan
✓ The 2nd edition of the exercise took place in Russia at Minralney Vody in North Caucasus at an altitude of 2,300 meters above sea level
✓ The 3rd edition to take place now will be at an altitude of 1,400 meters above the sea level

➢ Iron Magic 19 - joint military exercise between United Arab Emirates (UAE) and United States (US) - starts near Dubai
✓ It will be led by a U.S. Naval Force Central Command for a period of two weeks from Oct 21 to Nov 1, 2018
✓ The last IRON MAGIC annual bilateral engagement was held in 2017
Indian Army – to undertake a challenging expedition called 'Round the Indian Peninsula'

- It is a wind sailing expedition from Haldia on the east coast up to Porbandar on the west
- It is organised by EME Sailing Association, Secunderabad
- It intends to spread awareness about Ocean pollution by collecting samples of polluted water from seas
- It is led by Major Alok Kumar Yadav with an expedition team of about 50 sailors
- The expedition has been undertaken for the first time in an Ocean-going ‘Bavaria Class’ 44-feet Sail Yacht
- The team would touch all major parts along the Indian coast line including Vishakapatnam, Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram, Mangaluru, Goa, and Porbandar
- It is expected to be completed in about 45 days

ECONOMY


- It is a QR-based smartphone payment service, aiming to promote the use of cashless payment in Japan
- It allows users to store money from a bank account in their “PayPay” wallet
- With its launch, Yahoo Japan is shutting down its ‘Yahoo! Wallet’ service

AWARDS

Fali S Nariman, eminent Jurist – conferred with the 19th Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration

- Vice President, Venkaiah Naidu presented the award at a function held in New Delhi
- In 2017, Bindeshwar Pathak, founder of Sulabh International, received the award
- Fali S Nariman
- He was the senior advocate to Supreme Court of India since 1971 and also the President of Bar Association of India since 1991
- He was Additional Solicitor General of India from May 1972- June 1975
He was the proud recipient of Padma Bhushan (1991), Padma Vibhushan (2007) and Gruber Prize for Justice (2002)

He was nominated as a member of Rajya Sabha, for a single term (1999–2005)

‘Invest India’ initiative of the Government – wins the ‘United Nations Investment Promotion Award’ – for boosting investments in the renewable energy sector in India

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

Invest India is the official ‘Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency’ of the Union Government

It is the first stop for potential global investors in the country

It is a non-profit venture of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion

**SPORTS**

World Wrestling Championships, Budapest, Belgium

India’s Bajrang Punia – wins Silver medal in the 65kg final after losing the bout to Japan’s 19-year old Takuto Otoguro

This is Bajrang’s second medal in the World championships, after his bronze in 2013 edition

India has a lone gold medal in world wrestling (66 kg) which Sushil Kumar won in Moscow in 2010
INTERNATIONAL DAY

- World Statistics Day – October 20

- It was observed since 2010 (20.10.2010)
- The day is celebrated once in every 5 years (2010, 2015, 2020)
- The celebration of the day was initiated by ‘The United Nations Statistical Commission’
- The day highlights that good data and statistics are indispensable for all the decision-making processes in the society.
- The next World Statistics Day will be celebrated on 20 October 2020

OBITUARY

- Osamu Shimomura, the Nobel Prize winner in Chemistry (90 years)

- Shimomura, a marine biologist, shared the 2008 Nobel Prize for the discovery and development of a ‘Jellyfish protein’ that later contributed to cancer studies
- He shared the Nobel prize with Martin Chalfie, a Columbia University cell biologist and Roger Tsien, a University of California, San Diego, biochemist
- Shimomura, nicknamed ‘Dr Jelly Fish’, was the discoverer of ‘Green Fluorescent Protein’ (GFP) from about 10,000 jellyfish
- He was elected to the ‘US National Academy of Sciences’ and received the ‘Order of Culture’ from the Emperor of Japan
- He had also published 2 books –
  - Bioluminescence: Chemical Principles and Methods and Luminous Pursuit
  - Jellyfish, GFP, and the Unforeseen Path to the Nobel Prize