

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCT 23, 2018

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

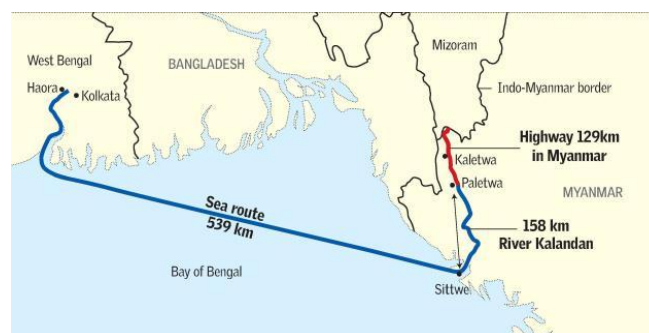
- **Green Climate Fund (United Nations) has approved over \$1 billion funds for 19 new projects for the developing countries to tackle climate change**
- ✓ This was announced at the four-day meeting of GCF in Manama, Bahrain
- ✓ The projects to be covered include those related to geothermal energy in 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 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-foot Sail Yacht
- ✓ The team would touch all major parts along the Indian coast line including Vishakhapatnam, Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram, Mangaluru, Goa, and Porbandar
- ✓ It is expected to be completed in about 45 days

ECONOMY

- **PayTM – launches 'PayPay' service in Japan – in association with SoftBank and Yahoo Japan Corporation**
- ✓ 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

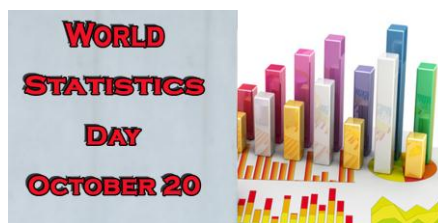
- **World Wrestling Championships, Budapest, Belgium**
- ✓ **India’s Bajrang Punia – wins Silver medal** in the 65kg final after losing the bout to Japan’s 19-year old Takuto Otoguro



- ✓ 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