

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCT 29, 2018

TAMIL NADU

- **Government – to unveil the portrait of S S Ramasami Padayatchi, a famous leader and founder of Tamil Nadu Toilers' Party - in the state assembly**



- ✓ This was announced by the Hon'ble CM, Edappadi K Palaniswami in Chennai
- ✓ He also highlighted the proposed construction of a memorial for the leader with his statue, at Manjakuppam in Cuddalore district
- ✓ A budget of Rs 2.15 crore has been earmarked for the purpose
- **Government – to start Kindergarten classes (LKG) from January 1, 2019 at the Government schools**
- ✓ This was announced by the State's School Education minister, K A Sengottaiyan

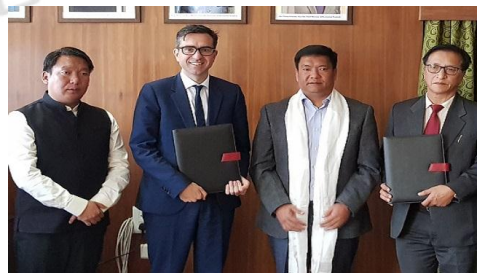
- **R Vinolee of Tamil Nadu – becomes the first woman from the country to finish 2 Ironman events** within the designated time limit



- ✓ Vinolee was the only Indian woman to participate in the Ironman triathlon events held in Spain and Italy
- ✓ Ironman events are organised by the World Triathlon Corporation
- ✓ They involve 180 km of cycling, 42 km of running and 3.8 km of swimming and can take up to 17 hours to complete successfully
- ✓ They are tougher than an Olympic triathlon event (40 km cycle, 10 km running and 1.5 km swimming)
- ✓ Vinolee is a native of Ogalur village in Perambalur district

STATES

- **Arunachal Pradesh – signs MoU with British Council - to strengthen educational and cultural cooperation**



- ✓ It was signed in the presence of the CM, Pema Khandu – on the sidelines of the Tawang Festival at Tawang
- ✓ The agreement celebrates the British Council's 70th anniversary in India
- ✓ As per the agreement, British council will train selected faculty members and the students in the English language skills every year
- ✓ Earlier in 2018, the British Council had launched 'Premier Skills Guwahati' initiative, in which UK Premier League coaches trained 57 Indian football coaches from the Northeast

- **Odisha – The new web portal of ‘Odia Virtual Academy’ to promote the Odia language and literature – was launched by the state’s CM, Naveen Patnaik**
- ✓ The portal is ‘www.ova.gov.in’
- ✓ About 170 books of Odia literature have been placed in the Academy website
- ✓ Earlier, the state had signed MoU with University of Chicago library, CDAC and Centre for Internet and Society, Bengaluru for digitization and development of Odia software
- ✓ This will be helpful in the promotion of Odia language at the international level

NATIONAL

- **IIT, Kharagpur – organized a competition called ‘Young Innovators Programme YIP 2018’**
- ✓ It was a science and technology competition for students of class 8 to 10
- ✓ It was attended by many schools in the country and also from Singapore
- ✓ Kaanger Valley Academy, Raipur, Chattisgarh emerged as the winner of the Young Innovators Programme

- **United Nations – to launch a new project on creating an ‘inventory’ on intangible heritage legacy of India**
- ✓ It has also dedicated a separate ‘UN House’ for preserving the Indian Heritage and Culture
- ✓ The project called ‘A snapshot inventory of intangible cultural heritage’ will be launched to protect the disappearing intangible cultural heritage of India
- ✓ The “Wiki-styled project” will document the country through photographs or other audio-visual medium for a span of 1 year
- ✓ A total of 13 intangible cultural heritage sites from India have been inscribed till date by the UNESCO
- ✓ The UN House has been inaugurated on October 24, 2018 in New Delhi
- ✓ It was designed by noted American architect, Joseph Allen Stein, in Lodhi Estate area

- **The new Web portal of ‘IMPRESS’ scheme – launched by Prakash Javdekar, Minister for HRD**
- ✓ IMPRESS - “Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences”
- ✓ It is launched at a total cost of Rs.414 Cr up to 31.3.2021
- ✓ Under the Scheme, 1500 research projects will be awarded for a period of 2 years
- ✓ Indian Council of Social Science and Research (ICSSR) will be the project implementing agency

- **Mammals of India – a Citizen-Science repository of Indian mammals – launched in September 2018**
- ✓ The website of the repository is ‘www.mammalsofindia.org’
- ✓ It is an online, peer-reviewed, accessible-to-all portal
- ✓ It was developed by scientists from the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) in Bangalore
- ✓ As on date, 768 images of 161 species of mammals, were uploaded
- ✓ It will have individual species pages for all Indian mammals with specific information

- **Airport Authority of India – sets a new record by planting about 48,000 medicinal plants in 36 locations at 21 airports across South India**
- ✓ The record was achieved on October 17, National Ayurveda Day

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India & UK – to collaborate on Research on Ganga delta region and the Bay of Bengal**
- ✓ This was announced by M Rajeevan, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences on the sidelines of a programme launched by the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)

COMMITTEES

- **The Panel of Governors – submitted its report titled ‘Approach to Agriculture : A Holistic Overview’ - on doubling the farmers income by 2022 – to the President Ram Nath Kovind**



- ✓ The committee was headed by Uttar Pradesh Governor Ram Naik
- ✓ It made 21 major recommendations, including the proposal for setting up a KRISHAK SHIKAYAR NIVARAN CELL or farmer’s grievances addressal system in every district
- ✓ The other Governors in the Committee, appointed by the President, are –
 - ✓ Acharya Devvrat, Governor of Himachal Pradesh
 - ✓ Ram Naik, Governor of Uttar Pradesh
 - ✓ Vajubhai Vala, Governor of Karnataka
 - ✓ Anandiben Patel, Governor of Madhya Pradesh

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **6th North East Festival & 15th Indian International Centre Festival – held in New Delhi**



- ✓ Theme 2018 - 'Experiencing the North East'
 - ✓ The festival is conducted by the North Eastern Council, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) as part of 'Destination North East' series
 - ✓ It features various activities showcasing the cultural heritage of North East
- **24th edition of Technology Summit –begins at New Delhi on Oct 29, 2018**



- ✓ The 2-day summit was inaugurated by Dr Harsh Vardhan, Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, Forest & Climate Change
- ✓ The summit has 'Italy' as the Partner country this year for the very first time
- ✓ Italian Prime Minister leads a 200-strong delegation for the Summit
- ✓ Valedictory session of the summit will be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Italian Prime Minister
- ✓ Aerospace, Cleantech, Cultural Heritage, Education, Healthcare, ICT and Renewables are the seven focus sectors for this year's summit
- ✓ The inaugural Technology summit took place in 1995
- ✓ Since the year 2004, CII partners with the Department of Science & Technology in organising these Summits
- ✓ In 2016, the Technology Summit had UK as the partner country and PMs of India and UK had addressed the summit

➤ **2nd edition of Guwahati International Film festival – begins in Guwahati**



- ✓ The one-week festival focus on 'ASEAN' countries with 14 films from 10 countries of ASEAN region to be screened
- ✓ Theme 2018 - 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'
- ✓ ASEAN - Association of Southeast Asian Nations
- ✓ The festival is organized by Assam Government owned 'Jyoti Chitraban' (Film Studio) Society along with Dr Bhupen Hazarika Regional Government Film and Television Institute

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **University of Michigan (United States) – has developed a web-based tool – to monitor 'fake news' in the social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter**
- ✓ The researchers are using a metric called 'Iffy quotient' that is embedded in the tool to track the millions of sites for 2 external entities, 'Fact checker/Media Bias' and 'Newswhip'
- **Russia – successfully launches 'Soyuz-2.1B rocket' carrying a satellite for the Russian military**



- ✓ It is the first soyuz expedition after its recent failed space launch to ISS on October 1, 2018
- ✓ Russia will switch to the Soyuz-2.1 series for launches to the ISS by 2020, replacing the Soyuz-FG

➤ **World's smallest Gyroscope – developed by the Engineers of California Institute of Technology in US**



- ✓ The team led by Professor Ali Hajimiri developed a new optical gyroscope that is 500 times smaller than the current device
 - ✓ A gyroscope is a device used for measuring or maintaining orientation and angular velocity
 - ✓ The new gyroscope uses a new technique called “reciprocal sensitivity enhancement.”
- **China's 1st Private rocket-carrying satellite – fails after the launch**
- ✓ The Beijing-based firm ‘Landscape’ had launched the spacecraft ‘Zbhuque-1’ carrying a satellite named “Future”, built for the state-controlled ‘China Central Television’
 - ✓ However, it failed to reach the orbit on its 3rd stage

ECONOMY

- **SBI – ties up with ‘Hitachi’ – for the establishment of latest card acceptance and future ready digital payment platform for India**
- ✓ SBI will have a majority stake in the proposed joint venture with the Japan-based subsidiary of Hitachi Group, ‘Hitachi Payments Services India’

APPOINTMENTS

- **Michael D Higgins - has been re-elected as Irish president for the Second term**



- ✓ He received 56% of the country's election vote followed by the Businessman, Peter Casey, who came second with 23.1%

AWARDS

- **Benyamin, Novelist and short story writer – wins the inaugural JCB prize for Literature in India**



- ✓ He won the award for his book 'Jasmine Days'
 - ✓ Jasmine Days is a story of a young woman caught up in the Arab Spring protests or the Jasmine Revolution that started in December 2010
 - ✓ The \$34000 prize, funded by UK construction giant JCB, is the country's most valuable literature prize
 - ✓ Shahnaz Habib, who translated the book from Malayalam into English – was awarded with \$6000 for his effort
 - ✓ Benyamin has written 20 books and lives in Kerala
 - ✓ Benyamin had won the 'Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award' earlier for his work, Aadujeevitham.
 - ✓ The JCB award has been modeled on the Man Booker Prize, a prestigious annual award for English language books published in the UK
- **Roopam Sharma, Indian Scientist - won the 'World Health Summit Startup award 2018' at Berlin**



- ✓ The 23 year old scientist received the award for his invention, Manovue
- ✓ Manovue is the world's first intelligent personal assisting system for the visually impaired
- ✓ It eliminates the need for Braille language to decipher a printed text and instead uses Vision intelligence to help the visually impaired people read
- ✓ Manovue was also awarded the 'Microsoft Imagine Cup 2015' and 'Yahoo Accenture Innovation Jockeys season 4'
- ✓ Roopam is also listed in the UNESCO Youth forum and Innovators Under-35
- ✓ He is the youngest person to be recognized as one of the top innovators under-35 by the MIT Tech Review in 2016
- ✓ Roopam was conferred with the National Youth Award by the President of India in January this year

- **European Union – awards the prestigious ‘Sakharov human rights prize’ to jailed Ukrainian filmmaker ‘Oleg Sentsov’**



- ✓ He was awarded the 50,000 euro (\$ 58,000) prize for an “exceptional contribution” to human rights around the world
- ✓ The democratic opposition in Venezuela – was the winner of the 1988-instituted prize for the last year 2017

- **Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) - received the prestigious ‘Top Challengers Award 2018’ for the excellent performance during financial year 2017-18**

- ✓ It had also received the Award for ‘Best Seller in Crawler Equipment’ category
- ✓ Deepak Kumar Hota, CMD of BEML received the award from Construction Economist Mr. Graham D Robinson at New Delhi
- ✓ Bharat Earth Movers Limited is a Mini Ratna Public Sector Undertaking, under the Ministry of Defence
- ✓ The award is instituted by ASAAP Information Global Group

SPORTS

- **Khalin Joshi, Indian Golfer – won his maiden ‘Panasonic Open India’ title in New Delhi**



- ✓ He also became the 7th Indian to win the title in the last 8 editions of the tournament
- ✓ He secured a record-equal winning score of 17-under 271 in the final.
- ✓ He won a cash prize of \$72,000
- ✓ Bangladesh’s Siddikur Rahman finished second with a par on the 18th and won a cash prize of \$44,000

- **Rakshitta Ravi - became India's latest WIM (Woman International Master) – at the age of 13 years, 6 months and 3 days**



- ✓ She had won her 3rd and final norm at the 22nd Hoogeveen Open chess tournament in Netherlands
 - ✓ Her father is International Master TS Ravi who has represented India in numerous Olympiads while her mother, Sai Meera is a WIM herself
 - ✓ Rakshitta won the bronze medal at the Asian youth championships in Sri Lanka in 2012
 - ✓ In 2013, she had won gold at the World youth championships at Dubai in the U-8 rapid blitz category
 - ✓ In 2015, she again won a gold in the girls U-10 category of the World youth championships in Greece
- **World No 1, Simona Halep – becomes the 1st recipient of Chris Evert Women's Tennis Association (WTA) World No.1 Trophy**



- ✓ She is ranked as the World No 1 for the second consecutive year
- ✓ The World No 1 Trophy is named after Chris Evert, who became the first ever WTA World No.1 on November 3, 1975 and stayed on the top spot for 260 weeks

RANKINGS

➤ Top 3 companies in the World as per Market capitalization

- ✓ Apple Inc tops the list at over \$1 trillion after crossing that threshold in September.
- ✓ Microsoft Corp regained its spot as the second most valuable U.S. company surpassing Amazon.com
- ✓ Microsoft has an m-cap of \$823 billion whereas Amazon.com has a worth of \$805 billion

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ World Stroke Day – October 29



- ✓ The Day aims to raise awareness about the prevention, treatment and support of the 'Silent epidemic' called as 'Stroke'
- ✓ The observance of the day was announced on October 29, 2006 in the 5th World Stroke Congress in Cape Town, South Africa
- ✓ Theme 2018 - #UpAgainAfterStroke: Support for life after stroke
- ✓ Stroke is a condition where the blood supply to the brain is disrupted, leading to oxygen starvation, brain damage and loss of function
- ✓ The main signs and symptoms of a stroke can be remembered with the word 'FAST'
 - ✓ Face – Drooping Face
 - ✓ Arms – Numbness in Arms
 - ✓ Speech – Slurred speech
 - ✓ Time – Time to act by calling Emergency

REPORT

➤ TAG (Teen Age Girls) Report – conducted by Project Nanhi Kali



- ✓ This report is touted as the Country's first report about Teenage girls in India
- ✓ It was compiled and published by the Naandi Foundation, with grant support from Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd
- ✓ Mahindra Group chairman, Anand Mahindra founded Project Nanhi Kali in 1996
- ✓ Freestyle wrestler Geeta Phogat, ace shooter Heena Sidhu and mountaineer Purna Malavath were felicitated by Mr. Mahindra as 'Nanhi Kali Icons 2018'
- ✓ The survey covered over 74,000 girls across 30 States and 600 districts by an all-women team of 1000 surveyors
- ✓ Key Points of the Report
 - ✓ Kerala tops the TAG index followed by Mizoram, Sikkim, Manipur and Himachal Pradesh as the top States
 - ✓ Mumbai, Kolkata and Bengaluru are the top 3 cities with the best TAG index
 - ✓ 96% of teenage girls are unmarried
 - ✓ 81% are currently studying
 - ✓ 74% wish to work after their studies
 - ✓ 73.3% girls want to get married after the age of 21
 - ✓ 70% girls wish to pursue higher studies
 - ✓ 52% are anaemic
 - ✓ 50% of teenage Indian girls are underweight
 - ✓ 46% do not use hygienic methods of menstrual protection
 - ✓ 39% still defecate in the open
- ✓ The Tag index compares the performance of each State based on the status of their teenage girls

➤ **QS Asia University Rankings 2019 – Released by Quacquarelli Symonds**



Rankings 2019	University	Country
1	National University of Singapore (NUS)	Singapore
2	University of Hong Kong (HKU)	Hong Kong
=3	Nanyang Technological University (NTU)	Singapore
=3	Tsinghua University	China
5	Peking University	China
6	Fudan University	China
7	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)	Hong Kong
8	KAIST - Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology	South Korea
9	The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)	Hong Kong
10	Seoul National University (SNU)	South Korea

- ✓ This year, QS has increased the number of universities featured in the rankings from 450 to 505
- ✓ National University of Singapore (NUS), an autonomous research university in Singapore, has defeated the last year's first ranker Nanyang Technological University (NTU) from the same country to hold the Top position in Asia
- ✓ Indian presence
- ✓ Indian share of universities has doubled their presence in this edition
- ✓ A total of 75 Indian universities featured in the rankings with 40 new institutions
- ✓ India is also the 3rd largest contributor in the Asia rankings after China and Japan with 112 and 89 universities respectively
- ✓ No Indian institutions are ranked in the Top 20
- ✓ IIT-Bombay remains the highest ranked institution, moving up by one place to the 33rd position
- ✓ IIT Delhi occupied the 40th position, followed by IIT Madras at 48th position and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) at 50th spot

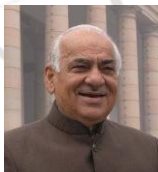
- **7th World Cooperative Monitor 2018 Report** – published by The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and the European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (Euricse)



- ✓ **IFFCO – has been ranked as the Biggest cooperative in the World for the 4th consecutive year since 2016**
- ✓ The ranking is based on the ratio of turnover over gross domestic product (GDP) per capita.
- ✓ In FY 2017-18, IFFCO a turnover of nearly USD 3 billion with a strength of nearly 36,000 member co-operatives
- ✓ Additionally, in the agriculture and food industries sector, IFFCO has bagged the top position among the top 20 co-operatives in the world
- ✓ IFFCO - Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (Headquarters – New Delhi)

OBITUARY

- **Madan Lal Khurana, former CM of Delhi (82 years)**



- ✓ Madan Lal Khurana was born on October 15, 1936 in Lyallpur, Punjab Province (which is now part of Pakistan)
- ✓ He served as the Chief Minister of Delhi from 1993 to 1996
- ✓ He founded the Delhi chapter of the Jan Sangh along with Vijay Kumar Malhotra, Kedar Nath Sahani and Kanwar Lal, which was then transformed into BJP
- ✓ Khurana was the Jan Sangh's general secretary from 1965 to 1967
- ✓ He was hailed as 'Dilli Ka Sher' (Lion of Delhi) for reviving BJP in New Delhi
- ✓ He also served as the Union Minister of Parliamentary affairs and Tourism in the late Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government, before resigning in January 1999
- ✓ He also served as the Governor of Rajasthan from January 2004 to October 2004

