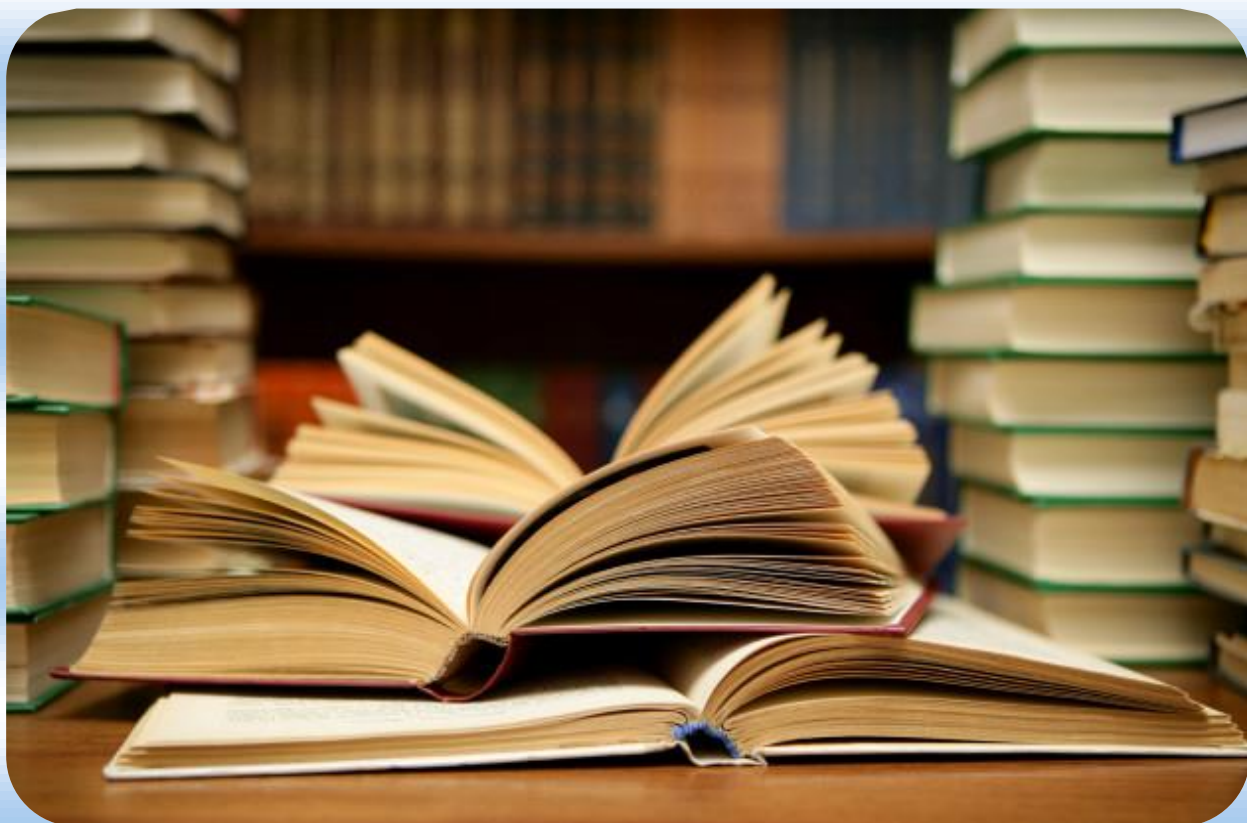


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GENERAL KNOWLEDGE MONTHLY



NOVEMBER-2018

NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

UNICEF appoints Singer Nahid Afrin as first Youth Advocate of NE region to fight for child rights

Popular singer Nahid Afrin of Assam has been appointed as the first 'Youth Advocate' of the north eastern region by the UNICEF to fight for child rights. The UNICEF engages 'Youth Advocates' to harness their voice as agents of change in society. 17-year-old Nahid was appointed as 'Youth Advocate' in the North East at an event here Thursday, UNICEF's India representative Yasmin Ali Haque said. "UNICEF believes that the voice of the young population makes more impact as they have a unique power to galvanise their peers around issues they are passionate about", Haque said.

Arvind Saxena appointed as Chairman of Union Public Service Commission

President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Arvind Saxena as the Chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). The tenure of Saxena will commence from the date he enters upon the office of Chairman, UPSC," read an official statement on Wednesday, adding he would hold the post till August 7, 2020, or till further orders whichever is earlier. Saxena joined UPSC as a Member on May 8, 2015, and has been performing duties of the post of UPSC Chairman since June 20, 2018. Prior to joining UPSC as a Member, Saxena was working as Director of the Aviation Research Centre (ARC).

Government appoints AM Naik as Chairman of National Skill Development Corporation

AM Naik has been appointed as Chairman of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Currently, Naik is the Group Chairman of India's biggest engineering and construction conglomerate - Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T). His years of successful stewardship have resulted in building L&T as one of the strongest global businesses. What Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas said: His standing in the community of industrial leaders will strongly enhance the industry connect.

Himachal Pradesh becomes first state to launch single emergency number 112

Himachal Pradesh Wednesday became the first state to launch a pan-India single emergency number '112' where all kinds of immediate help can be sought in urgent matters. Under this project, an Emergency Response Centre (ERC) has been established in Shimla along with 12 district command centres (DCCs), covering the entire state, a Home Ministry statement said. The ERC has been integrated with police (100), fire (101), health (108) and women (1090) helpline numbers to provide emergency services through the emergency number '112'.

RBI relaxes rules for NBFCs to sell or securitise their loan books to ease persistent stress in sector

Reserve Bank of India(RBI) on Thursday relaxed rules for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) to sell or securitise their loan books, in a bid to ease persistent stress in the sector. NBFCs can now securitise loans of more than five-year maturity after holding those for six months on their books, the Reserve Bank of India said. Earlier, they had to hold these assets for at least one year, a banker said. However, the relaxation on the minimum holding period will be allowed when the NBFC retains 20 percent of the book value of these loans, the RBI said.

Akhilesh Ranjan appointed as Convenor of Task Force drafting New Direct Tax Legislation

The government on Monday appointed the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) member Akhilesh Ranjan as convenor of New Direct Tax Law Task Force that is drafting a new tax law, an official statement said. He will replace Arbind Modi who retired in September this year. The Task Force will submit its report to the to the government by February 28, 2019. "The government has appointed Akhilesh Ranjan, Member (Legislation), Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) as convenor of the task force.

India and ADB sign \$200 Million Loan to improve State Highways in Bihar

The Indian government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Monday signed a \$200-million loan agreement for improving Bihar's state highways. A Finance Ministry release said that under the agreement signed here, ADB would provide the loan to finance the widening and upgrading of about 230 km of state highways in Bihar to all-weather standards with road safety features. It said this loan will aid the efforts of the Bihar government.

Constitution Day celebrated on 26th November to mark 69th anniversary of adoption of Constitution

Constitution Day is celebrated on November 26 every year to mark the day on which the Indian Constitution was adopted by the Constituent Assembly. The Constituent Assembly met for its first session on December 9, 1947, and was attended by 207 members. The Drafting Committee of the Constitution was headed by B R Ambedkar who is often referred to as the 'architect of the Indian Constitution'. Over the course of the next two years, the committee took important decisions regarding the objectives, principles and other aspects of the Constitution.

Nageshwara Rao Guntur appointed as Chairperson of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board

Renowned scientist Nageshwara Rao Guntur has been appointed as chairperson of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), the Personnel Ministry said in an order issued Monday. Guntur is the chairman, Project Design Safety Committee, Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor and former distinguished scientist Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. His appointment as the AERB chairperson will be for three years, the order said.

Foundation stone laid for Kartarpur Sahib corridor in Gurdaspur

Vice-president M Venkaiah Naidu will today lay the foundation stone for the construction of a road corridor linking Dera Baba Nanak in Punjab's Gurdaspur district with Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur in Pakistan, which will help lakhs of Indian Sikh pilgrims to visit the holy place throughout the year. Kartarpur Sahib in Narowal district of Pakistan's Punjab province is located across the Ravi River and is about four km from the Dera Baba Nanak shrine. The demand to build a corridor linking India's border district of Gurdaspur.

Government launches PAISA Portal under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission

A portal for processing interest subvention on bank loans to beneficiaries under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs here on Monday. The centralised electronic platform named 'PAiSA – Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access' has been designed and developed by the Allahabad Bank, which is the nodal bank. "PAiSA is yet another effort by the government to connect directly with the beneficiaries, ensuring that there is greater transparency.

Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti launched to boost IPR culture in indigenous defence industry

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday inaugurated an ambitious mission, "Raksha Gyan Shakti", to promote self-reliance in Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in defence. "The DRDO should introspect to make themselves more nimble towards innovation," Ms. Sitharaman said, after formally launching the mission. She observed that there is a "pre-conceived" notion that defence sector is difficult to break in as it has a long gestation.

Gender wage gap highest in India, women are paid 34% less than men: ILO

Women are paid the most unequally in India, compared to men, when it comes to hourly wages for labour. On average, women are paid 34 per cent less than men, a recent report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) has found. This gap in wages, known as the gender wage gap, is the highest among 73 countries studied in the report. The trend holds true globally as well, but with lower levels of inequality among the sexes, where on average, hourly wages of women are 16 per cent less than those of men.

38th India International Trade Fair (IITF) held at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi

The 38th edition of the India International Trade Fair (IITF) kicked off for the general public on Sunday. Though the space allotted to the fair at Pragati Maidan has been reduced to 22 % of its size due to the ongoing redevelopment work, the fair managed to attract more than 30,000 visitors on the first day. The fair was open only for business visitors for the first four days. This is the second time that the fair was organised at a reduced scale owing to major redevelopment.

Government to release Rs 75 commemorative coin to mark 75th anniversary of Tricolour hoisting by Bose

With an aim to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Tricolour hoisting for the first time by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at Port Blair, the central government on Tuesday announced a release of Rs 75 coin. "The coin of seventy-five rupees denomination shall only be coined at the Mint for issue under the authority of the central government on the occasion of '75th Anniversary of Hoisting of Tricolour' for the first time by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at Port Blair," PTI reported citing a notification released by Ministry of Finance.

Sri Ramayana Express flagged off from Safdarjung railway station in Delhi

The Shri Ramayana Express, a special tourist train to run on the Ramayana circuit to cover major spots related to the Hindu epic was flagged off on Wednesday from Safdarjung Railway Station here, officials said. "The Shri Ramayana Express departed from Safdarjung railway station today with 800 passengers," a senior railway ministry official told IANS. The train will complete its journey till Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, in 16 days covering all important destinations associated with the life of Lord Shri Ram.

Indian Navy completes refit of Maldivian Coast Guard Ship Huravee in Visakhapatnam

Maldivian Coast Guard Ship (MCGS) Huravee successfully completed refit at the naval dockyard and it was handed over to its Commanding Officer Major Mohamed Jamshad, here on Thursday. The MCGS Huravee was originally commissioned as INS Tillanchang, a Trinkat-class patrol vessel built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata in March 2001. Subsequently, it was gifted to Maldives by the Government of India.

India's first specialized hospital for elephants opened in Mathura

India's first specialized hospital for elephants was opened by Agra Divisional Commissioner Anil Kumar at Farah block's Churmura village, Mathura. The facility, armed with facilities such as wireless digital X-Ray, thermal imaging, ultrasonography, tranquilization devices and quarantine facilities, has not only come as a respite to the elephants but is also attracting local and foreign tourists. Located close to the elephant conservation and care centre.

Sanjay Kumar Mishra appointed Director of Enforcement Directorate

IRS officer Sanjay Kumar Mishra was on Saturday appointed the new chief of the Enforcement Directorate in an additional capacity, a government order said. Mishra, a 1984-batch Indian Revenue Service officer of the Income Tax cadre, has been appointed as the Principal Special Director in the agency and has been entrusted with the additional charge of ED Director for three months. Mishra will take over from incumbent Karnal Singh whose tenure at the agency ends on Sunday. Singh, a 1984-batch IPS officer of Union Territories cadre.

BSE to cut ties with S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC; develop own in-house indices

The Bombay Stock Exchange has decided to end its partnership with S&P Dow Jones (SPDJI) to manage the benchmark Sensex from December 31. The two had formed a joint venture in 2013, but BSE reckons that the partnership could not do much in terms of expanding the index to global markets. The BSE has said that it will not renew its agreement with S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, which expires on December 31, 2018.

Government launches chatbot loaded AirSewa digital platform for air passengers

Chatbots will now help air travellers in addressing their grievances, as the government Monday launched an upgraded version of AirSewa digital platform. Besides, passengers can have access to real-time flight status and schedule for both domestic and international flights, according to the Civil Aviation Ministry. AirSewa 2.0, the upgraded version of the web portal and mobile app, provides chatbot support for a faster resolution and personalised traveller experience. Also, passengers can sign up using their Facebook and Google accounts.

Sulabh International introduces India's first sewer cleaning machine to end unsafe manual scavenging

In order to reduce sewer deaths and put an end to the unsafe practice of manual scavenging, the Sulabh International on Monday introduced India's first "sewer cleaning machine". The machine, Sulabh International founder Dr Bindeshwar Pathak said, "will do away with 99 per cent of manual scavenging" in the country, where at least one worker has died while cleaning sewers or septic tanks every five days since the beginning of 2017. "With the machine, a worker won't have to enter the sewers.

Four new horned frogs discovered in Northeast Himalayas

A team of biologists from Delhi University, University College Dublin (Ireland) and the National Museum (UK) have discovered four new species of horned frogs from the Himalayan regions of Northeast India. The team also comprised S D Biju from DU's Department of Environmental Studies, known as the 'Frogman of India'. PhD research work carried out by Stephen Mahony at DU under Biju, as well as at UCD under Professor Emma Telling, led to the discovery.

West Bengal Assembly passes Bill to give land rights to enclave dwellers in north Bengal

The West Bengal Assembly on Monday unanimously passed a Bill to give land rights to enclave dwellers in north Bengal, ending an era of uncertain future for the people residing in those enclaves. Bangladesh and India had exchanged a total of 162 enclaves on Aug 1, 2015, ending one of the world's most-complex border disputes that had lingered for seven decades since Independence. Moved by Minister of State for Land and Land Reforms Chandrima Bhattacharya, the West Bengal Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

49th International Film Festival of India opens in Panaji, Goa

IFFI 2018 will also feature Retrospective of Swedish filmmaker Ingmar Bergman on his 100th birth anniversary. IFFI 2018 will showcase 7 of best films of his career. Israel is the focus country at this year's movie extravaganza. 10 Israeli films that will be screened at the festival as part of the country focus package. Jharkhand has been selected as the State of Focus for IFFI 2018 and Jharkhand Day will be celebrated on the 24th of this month as part of the festival.

Former JNU Professor S.P. Ganguly awarded Mexican Order of Aztec Eagle

In a first for an Indian academic, Professor Shyama Prasad Ganguly, a well-known Hispanist who has headed the Centre for Spanish and Latin American Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University five times, has been awarded the Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle, the highest civilian honour given to a foreigner by Mexico. Ganguly was decorated with the striking gold-yellow insignia by Mexican Ambassador Melba Pria at a ceremony in the India International Center (IIC) on November 19.

ICMR releases Antimicrobial Stewardship Guidelines to ensure judicious use of antibiotics in hospitals

To ensure judicious use of antibiotics in healthcare facilities, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) released on November 20, Antimicrobial Stewardship Guidelines to advise hospitals in setting up Antimicrobial Stewardship Programmes (AMSP) for the purpose. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a major public health challenge, and with very few new antibiotics in the pipeline, it is important to use the existing drugs judiciously.

IIT-Hyderabad researchers develop smartphone-based system to detect adulteration in milk

NEW DELHI: Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Hyderabad, have developed a smartphone-based system to detect adulteration in milk. The detector system measures acidity in milk using an indicator paper that changes colour according to acidity. They have also developed algorithms that can be incorporated on to a smartphone to accurately detect the colour change. IIT Professor Shiv Govind Singh, heading the research team, said.

IIM Calcutta Innovation Park, ICC sign MoU for energising startup ecosystem in East and Northeast India

IIM Calcutta Innovation Park and Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Wednesday signed a MoU for energising the startup ecosystem in East and Northeast India. The MoU will bring incubator and industry together in a more formal way, IIMC Innovation Park CEO Subhrangshu Sanyal said. "We have certain strength while ICC has wide industry connect which will help us a lot to promote the startups whom we are incubating," he said. ICC Director General Rajeev Singh said the eastern and north eastern region need greater attention in the startup growth story of the country.

UP Government launches Women Empowerment Resolution Campaign

Uttar Pradesh Government launched the Women Empowerment Resolution Campaign to develop abilities in women for leadership and rights on November 20, 2018. The campaign was launched by the incumbent Chief Minister Yogi Aditya Nath. SHOCKING: More than 65 per cent of women in India don't know that eve teasing is legally a crime! Sections 294 and 509 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) prohibit any individual or group of people pass any kind of offensive comment or execute any such gesture towards a girl of any age.

PM Narendra Modi lays foundation stone of City Gas Distribution Projects

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday laid foundation stones to mark the beginning of work for CNG supply to automobiles and piped cooking gas to kitchens in 129 districts of 18 states, covering over a quarter of India's population. Keen to cut emissions through a greater share of environment friendly natural gas as auto and cooking fuel, Modi also launched the 10th round of bidding for award of city gas licenses in 124 new districts, which have been clubbed into 50 Geographical Areas (GAs).

Andhra Pradesh Government launches Bhuseva and Bhudaar web portal

Andhra Pradesh Tuesday launched a web portal which makes land records available to people with unique identification numbers just like Aadhar number. The "Bhudaar" is an 11-digit unique identification code assigned to each agriculture land holding and rural and urban properties in the state. Launching the Bhuseva and Bhudaar web portal at Amaravati, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said, "The integration of verified and updated land records will end litigation and corruption in land records and prevent tampering."

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women: November 25

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is one of the most widespread, persistent and devastating human rights violations in our world today remains largely unreported due to the impunity, silence, stigma and shame surrounding it. In general terms, it manifests itself in physical, sexual and psychological forms, encompassing: intimate partner violence (battering, psychological abuse, marital rape, femicide).

70-feet tall statue of Lord Buddha unveiled at Rajgir in Nalanda district

PATNA: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar today unveiled a 70-feet tall statue of Lord Buddha at Rajgir in Nalanda district. Mr Kumar unveiled the statue of Lord Buddha, the second tallest statue of Buddha in the country, in the presence of Mahabodhi temple's chief monk Bhante Chalinda amid the chanting of hymns, an official release said. The statue has been installed above a 16

metre radius pedestal in the middle of the lake Ghora Katora and has been made from 45,000 cubic foot pink sand stone, it said.



Sashastra Seema Bal to patrol Dudhwa tiger reserve

Dudhwa Tiger Reserve and Sashastra Seema Bal have joined hands to provide security to Dudhwa forests and its rich wildlife. "A consensus was reached among all security agencies including SSB on the border and the Dudhwa field staff to strengthen the patrolling in and around Dudhwa to check forest and wildlife crimes," DTR Field Director Ramesh Kumar Pandey said. Mr. Pandey along with Deputy Director Mahavir Kaujlagi on Saturday held a meeting with the SSB.

Punjab becomes 3rd state to ban hookah bars or lounges

Hookah bars have been permanently banned in Punjab as President Ram Nath Kovind has given assent to a Bill from the state to check use of tobacco. Punjab is the third state in the country after Gujarat and Maharashtra where hookah bars or lounges were banned through law. The President has given assent to the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2018 recently, a Home ministry official said. The Punjab assembly had passed the Bill in March. The objective of bringing the law is to check the use of tobacco in various forms and prevent diseases caused by the use of the tobacco products.

Lucknow's Ekana cricket stadium renamed after Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Continuing with its name changing exercise, the Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh government today renamed the newly-constructed Ekana International Stadium in Lucknow after former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The stadium will now be known as 'Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee International Cricket Stadium', a government release said. The stadium, with a seating capacity of around 50,000, will host its first international match at the stadium on Tuesday when India play West Indies in the second T20 International match.

Sunil Arora appointed as new Chief Election Commissioner

New Delhi: Sunil Arora is learnt to have been appointed as the next chief election commissioner, highly-placed sources in the Law Ministry said Monday. Though a formal notification announcing his appointment is yet to be issued, his name has been cleared by the Centre and sent to Rashtrapati Bhawan, the sources said. "Yes. His name has been cleared. He is the next CEC. A notification will follow," a senior functionary said.

Jalaj Srivastava appointed Chairman of Inland Waterways Authority of India

Jalaj Srivastava, a 1984 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, has been appointed the chairman of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI). The IWAI comes under the Union Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, currently headed by Nitin Gadkari. Srivastava, presently working as Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, is expected to take charge of his new responsibility on Tuesday. Earlier he had also served as chairman of New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) and Principal Secretary, Department of VAT, Delhi government.

Wipro Chairman Azim Premji conferred with highest French Civilian Honour

IT czar and philanthropist Azim Premji was bestowed with the highest French civilian distinction Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour) here Wednesday. Premji, who is the chairman of Bengaluru-headquartered IT major Wipro, received the distinction from the Ambassador of France to India Alexandre Ziegler here, Wipro said. "The award was bestowed on Azim Premji for his outstanding contribution to developing the information technology industry in India.

Infosys Prize 2018: 6 professors awarded for science and research

Six eminent professors have been awarded the Infosys Prize 2018 across different categories of science and research, the software major's science foundation announced on Tuesday. The annual award includes a pure gold medal, a citation and a prize purse worth \$100,000 (or its equivalent in Indian rupees), the Infosys Science Foundation (ISF) said in a statement. "India needs to cement its place as a hub for innovations across various fields of science," said Narayana Murthy, Trustee ISF and Founder, Infosys. "The Infosys Prize seeks to honour the efforts of some of the brightest scientists and researchers and highlight the country's ongoing quest for science excellence," Mr. Murthy said.



Jawahar Lal Sarin presented with France's highest civilian honour

Jawahar Lal Sarin, president of the Alliance française de Delhi's governing body, was on Friday presented with the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, France's highest civilian honour. The award was presented to Sarin by Ambassador of France Alexandre Ziegler in recognition of his outstanding contribution to enhancing Indo-French cultural cooperation and promoting the French language. Sarin studied French for five years at the Punjab University, Chandigarh, and later at the Sorbonne University, Paris.

UP cabinet approves renaming of Faizabad as Ayodhya, Allahabad as Prayagraj

The state Cabinet on Tuesday cleared the proposal to rename Faizabad and Allahabad divisions as Ayodhya and Prayagraj respectively. The decision was taken on the basis of a proposal submitted by the Faizabad district magistrate on November 10. The reason cited was that Ayodhya was the capital of the 'Ikshvaku dynasty', to which the Hindu god Ram belonged, and that it is popularly known as his birthplace. The proposal further said that Ayodhya has been the capital of many estates and dynasties in different time periods. Moreover, a government spokesperson said that as the headquarters of Allahabad division falls in Prayagraj district.

Nuclear submarine INS Arihant completes first deterrence patrol

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that India's first nuclear armed submarine INS Arihant had successfully completed its first deterrence patrol, heralding India's entry into an exclusive club of powers with land, air and sea-based nuclear weapons delivery platforms. At the moment it is dubbed a technology demonstrator, showing the world that India has acquired this technology but that it will take some time before India gets a deployable fleet of such submarines. However, analysts said the 6,000-tonne vessel with a range of about 750km sends a powerful signal to Pakistan and China that New Delhi's underwater nuclear deterrence is "credible", potent and functional.

INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

NASA retires Kepler space telescope

After nine years in deep space collecting data that indicate our sky to be filled with billions of hidden planets - more planets even than stars - Nasa's Kepler space telescope has run out of fuel needed for further science operations. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) has decided to bench its Kepler space telescope. The space agency has decided to retire the Kepler which discovered more than 2,600 planets. Working in deep space for nine years, Kepler discovered planets from outside the solar system.

SpiNNaker: Largest brain-mimicking supercomputer switched on

The world's largest supercomputer designed to work in the same way as the human brain has been switched on for the first time. The Spiking Neural Network Architecture machine is capable of completing more than 200 million million actions per second, with each of its chips having 100 million transistors. SpiNNaker, built at the University of Manchester in the U.K., can model more biological neurons. Biological neurons are basic brain cells present in the nervous system that communicate by emitting 'spikes' of pure electro-chemical energy.

Mohammed VI-B: Morocco launches its second earth observation satellite

Morocco launched its second earth observation satellite, Mohammed VI-B, from French Guiana early on Wednesday, the second in a year. Its first satellite, Mohammed VI-A, was launched on November 8, 2017, by the Vega rocket from the same Kourou space centre, Morocco's official MAP news agency said. Both satellites can take very high-resolution images, the agency said.

30 African countries launch joint initiative to save 4 carnivore species

More than 30 countries hosting the African wild dog, cheetah, leopard and the lion met here to establish the African Carnivore Initiative, it was announced on Wednesday. The initiative constitutes the first Africa-wide commitment towards saving these carnivores. Habitat loss and fragmentation, prey depletion, retaliatory killing of carnivores by owners of livestock and increasing trade in lion specimens and live cheetah are the main reasons for these animals' rapid decline across most of Africa.

Angad Vir Singh Bajwa wins gold in Men's Skeet at 8th Asian Shotgun Championship

Angad Vir Singh Bajwa created history on Diwali eve by shooting a gold in the men's skeet final of the 8th Asian Shotgun Championship registered a world record score. With the win, Bajwa became the first Indian skeet shooter to win a gold medal at any continental or world level event. It was perfect shooting from Bajwa on the night as she shot 60 out of 60 in the final round to grab the top spot defeated Chinese Di Jin's 58. Saeed Al Maktoum of UAE won the bronze medal with a score of 46.

Sameer Verma wins Syed Modi International Badminton title 2018

Syed Modi International final Highlights: Sameer Verna ended a poor day for India on a happy note as he beat China's Guangzu Lu to retain the title. Former champion Saina Nehwal failed to produce her best, losing in straight games to young Han Yue of China in a one-sided women's singles summit clash at the Syed Modi International World Tour Super 300 in Lucknow on Sunday. Men's doubles player Satwik Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty and women's doubles player Ashwini Ponnappa-Sikki Reddy also went down in their respective finals.

Bangladesh elected IORA Chairman for 2021-23

The 18th Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers' Meeting has elected Bangladesh as the Vice Chairman of the organisation for the period of 2019-21 and eventually as the IORA Chairman for 2021-23. As per the practice, IORA is led by Chair and Vice Chair on behalf of the Member States, said the Foreign Ministry in Dhaka. The stint of the posts is two years. The Current Chair is South Africa and the Vice Chair is UAE.

World Tsunami Awareness Day: November 5

Tsunamis are rare events, but can be extremely deadly. In the past 100 years, 58 of them have claimed more than 260,000 lives, or an average of 4,600 per disaster, surpassing any other natural hazard. The highest number of deaths in that period was in the Indian Ocean tsunami of December 2004. It caused an estimated 227,000 fatalities in 14 countries, with Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand hardest-hit.

US exempts India from imposition of sanctions development of Chabahar Port in Iran

The United States has exempted India from the imposition of certain sanctions for the development of the strategically-located Chabahar Port in Iran, along with the construction of the railway line connecting it with Afghanistan, a State Department spokesperson said. The decision by the Trump administration, which a day earlier imposed the toughest ever sanctions on Iran and is very restrictive in giving exemptions, is seen as a recognition.

Poor-Quality diet greater public health threat than malaria, tuberculosis or measles: FAO

The report, entitled "Preventing nutrient loss and waste across the food system: Policy actions for high-quality diets", concludes that regularly eating poor-quality food has become a greater public health threat than malaria, tuberculosis or measles. Meanwhile, approximately one-third of food produced for human consumption never reaches the consumer's plate or bowl. Nutrient-rich foods, such as fruits, vegetables, seafood and meats are highly perishable, rendering them susceptible to losses throughout increasingly complex food production systems.

Sri Lankan PM leaves Presidents Party, joins newly-formed Sri Lanka People's Party

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan strongman Mahinda Rajapaksa, who was appointed prime minister in a controversial move by President Maithripala Sirisena, on Sunday ended his five-decade-long association with the SLFP and joined the newly-formed Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP). Rajapaksa's move signalled that he would contest the snap polls, to be held on January 5, under his own party banner and not that of Sirisena's Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP).

Kim Jong-yang of South Korea elected as new President of Interpol

Interpol has elected Kim Jong-yang of South Korea as its new president, according to the international police body. Jong-yang, who had been serving as acting president, was elected for a two-year term at the body's annual congress in Dubai on Wednesday, finishing the four-year term of his predecessor who was arrested in China this year. "Our world is now facing unprecedented changes which present huge challenges to public security and safety.

Salome Zourabichvili elected as first female President of Georgia

TBILISI: Georgia's newly elected President Salome Zourabichvili on Thursday (Nov 29) hailed her victory as a step forward for women and a move closer to Europe for the ex-Soviet republic. With all votes counted, the country's election commission said the French-born ex-diplomat, backed by the ruling Georgian Dream party, had taken 59.52 per cent of the second-round vote. Her rival Grigol Vashadze, from an alliance of 11 opposition parties led by exiled ex-president Mikheil Saakashvili's United National Movement (UNM), took 40.48 per cent.



Casio launches world's first GST calculator

New Delhi: The maiden Indo-Russian Strategic Economic Dialogue will be held in St Petersburg on November 25-26 to explore new areas of partnership including artificial intelligence (AI), transport and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to expand strategic economic ties between the two countries, said officials. NITI Aayog vice chairman Rajiv Kumar will lead the Indian side at the dialogue, which was scheduled after Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

First-ever India Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue held at St. Petersburg

Germany has rolled out the world's first hydrogen-powered train, signalling the start of a push to challenge the might of polluting diesel trains with costlier but more eco-friendly technology. Two bright blue Coradia iLint trains, built by French TGV-maker Alstom, on Monday began running a 62 mile (100km) route between the towns and cities of Cuxhaven, Bremerhaven, Bremervoerde and Buxtehude in northern Germany – a stretch normally plied by diesel trains.

Lakshya Sen wins bronze medal in men's singles at World Junior Badminton Championships

India's top junior shuttler Lakshya Sen settled for a bronze medal at the Li Ning BWF World Junior Badminton Championships 2018 at Markham, Canada after losing in the boys singles semi-final on Saturday night. Lakshya Sen was up against the top seed and world junior number one Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand and could not overcome the huge challenge 22-20, 16-21, 13-21 and bowed out with a bronze.

Joyce Msuya appointed as acting Executive Director of UNEP

Ms. Joyce Msuya was appointed by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres to United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) on 15 August 2018. Prior to joining UN Environment, Ms. Msuya served as Adviser to the World Bank Vice President, East Asia and Pacific Region in Washington, D.C. She brought to the position more than 20 years of extensive experience in the field of international development spanning corporate.

Mary Kom wins record sixth gold medal at World Boxing Championships

The 'magnificent' Mary Kom struck her record 6th gold medal at the World Boxing Championships as she defeated Ukraine's Hanna Okhota via a 5-0 unanimous decision on Saturday. In doing so, the Manipur boxer became the joint most successful boxer (Men and Women) in the history of World Championships, tied with the Cuban legend Felix Savon, who had also won six gold medals at the World Championships. It is Kom's 7th medal overall in the tournament – 6 gold and 1 silver. It was an easy bout for the 35-year-old boxer.

Marathon: Roscosmos to venture into Internet of things (IoT) with the launch of new satellite system

Roscosmos, or Russia's state space corporation, has planned to venture into the Internet of things (IoT) with the launch of a new satellite system named 'Marathon'. A report released by the Moscow-based space agency on Sunday stated that the new satellite system will be a part of Russia's Sphere satellite constellation, which will be fully established by 2026. The federation's GLONASS navigation, a satellite communication system and a data relay satellite set-up will be the other equipment in the constellation.

RIMES terms Titli cyclone 'rarest of rare'

The Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) for Africa and Asia, a 45-nation international organisation on disaster warning, has termed 'Titli', the severe cyclonic storm that devastated Odisha in October, as 'rarest cyclone'. "More than 200 years of cyclone track history in the Odisha coast reveals that the Titli cyclone is the rarest of rare in terms of its characteristics such as recurvature after landfall and retaining its destructive potential after landfall and recurvature away from the coastal areas for more than two days," says RIMES in its latest report.

Harvard University selects Malala Yousafzai for 2018 Gleitsman Award for promoting girls' education

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS: Nobel Prize Winner Malala Yousafzai is being honoured by Harvard University for her work promoting girls' education. Harvard's Kennedy School says Yousafzai will be awarded the 2018 Gleitsman Award at a Dec. 6 ceremony.



India-Indonesia naval exercise 'Samudra Shakti' begins in Indonesia

NEW DELHI: The first bilateral naval exercise named "Samudra Shakti" between the Indian and the Indonesian Navies was inaugurated on Tuesday in Surabaya, Indonesia giving further momentum to bilateral strategic partnership. These bilateral naval exercises will be conducted in Java Sea and would last until 18 November. Rear Admiral Mintoro Yulianto, S.Sos, M.Si, Commander of the Second Fleet Command at Puslatkaprang (from the Indonesian Navy) along with H.E. Ambassador Pradeep Kumar Rawa

