

CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2018

Awards

The Indian scientist who has been awarded the World Health Summit Startup award, 2018 for his invention, Manovue – the world's first intelligent personal assisting system for the visually impaired. – **Roopam Sharma**

The Malayalam author who has been chosen to be awarded the first JCB Prize for Literature for his book Jasmine Days – **Benyamin**

The Indian agricultural scientist who has been chosen for the first World Agriculture Prize instituted by Indian Council of Food and Agriculture – **MS Swaminathan**

The US based Dalit writer who has been chosen for the 2018 Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize for her book Ants Among Elephants: An Untouchable Family and the Making of Modern India – **Sujatha Gidla**

The British writer who has been awarded the 2018 Man Booker Prize for her novel Milkman – **Anna Burns**

The veteran music composer who has been chosen for the 2018 Hridaynath Mangeshkar Award – **Khayyam**

The Indian State which has won the Food and Agricultural Organisation's Future Policy Gold award for become the world's first fully organic State – **Sikkim**

The French author who has been awarded the alternative Nobel Prize for literature created to replace the Nobel Prize for literature which has not been awarded this year – **Maryse Conde**

Defence

The large scale military exercise being conducted by the NATO in Norway with participation from 29 countries is named – **Exercise Trident Juncture**

The venue of India-Japan bilateral maritime exercise JIMEX-2018 commencing from 07 Oct 2018 – **Visakhapatnam**

The country with which India has signed a deal for the purchase of S-400 Triumf missile system at a cost of 5 billion dollars – **Russia**

Persons

The former President of Sri Lanka who has been appointed its Prime Minister by the President Maithripala Sirisena – **Mahinda Rajapaksha**

The former Chief Minister of Delhi, Governor of Rajasthan and Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism who passed away on 27 Oct 2018 – **Madan Lal Khurana**

The former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand and former Governor of Andhra Pradesh who passed away on 18 Oct 2018 – **Narayan Datt Tiwari**

The new Chairperson of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights appointed to replace Ms Stuti Kacker – **Priyank Kanoongo**

The co-founder of Microsoft who passed away on 15 October 2018 – **Paul Allen**

The renowned surbahar player of Hindustani classical music, daughter of Allauddin Khan and wife of Pt Ravi Shankar, who passed away on 13 Oct 2018 – **Annapurna Devi**

The Indian environmental engineer, religious leader, monk, professor, and Patron of Ganga Mahasabha, who died after fasting for 111 days urging the govt to clean the Ganga – **GD Agarwal** (Swami Gyan Swaroop Sanand)

The Additional Solicitor General of India who has been appointed as the Solicitor General of India to succeed Shri Ranjeet Kumar – **Shri Tushar Mehta**

The Managing Director and CEO of ICICI Bank who has resigned from her post six months prior to her retirement – **Ms Chanda Kochhar**

The Indian-American economist who has been appointed the Chief Economist at the International Monetary Fund – **Gita Gopinath**

The new President-elect of Iraq – **Barham Salih**

The veteran harmonium player and recipient of Padma Shri and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards who passed away on 29 Sep 2018 – **Pt Tulsidas Borkar**

Places

The venue of Krishi Kumbh 2018 (International Conference and Exhibition) held from 26 to 28 Oct 2018 – **IISR, Lucknow**

The venue of International Arya Mahasammelan 2018 held from 25 October to 28 October 2018 – **New Delhi**

The venue of International Dance Festival 'Udbhav Utsav 2018' with participants from Sri Lanka, Bulgaria, Turkey and India held from 20 to 25 Oct 2018 – **Gwalior, M.P.**

The venue of International Arya Mahasammelan 2018 held from 25 October to 28 October 2018 – **New Delhi**

The place in Maharashtra where the President Shri Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the Vishwashanti Ahimsa Sammelan – **Mangi Tungji, Maharashtra**

The country which has become the second in the world (after Uruguay) to legalize recreational cannabis – **Canada**

The city in which the first India-Israel Innovation Centre has been launched – **Bengaluru**

The venue of 4th Youth Olympic Games to be held in 2022 as announced by the International Olympic Committee – **Dakar, Senegal**

The place in Haryana at which the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi unveiled a statue of Sir Chotu Ram – **Rohtak**

The place in Haryana at which the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Rail Coach Refurbishing Karkhana – **Sonepat**

The venue of India International Science Festival 2018 with the focal theme Science for Transformation being held from 05 to 08 Oct 2018 – **Lucknow**

The place in Madhya Pradesh where setting up of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation(NIMHR) has been approved in place of Bhopal – **Sehore**

The place at which the FIRST assembly of the International Solar Alliance was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi – **Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi**

The place in South Africa where the sixth edition of IBSAMAR, a joint Multi – National Maritime Exercise between the Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies, is being held from 01 to 13 Oct 18 – **Simons Town**

Sports

The teams which have been declared joint winners of Asian Champions Trophy men's hockey at Muscat, Oman after rain washed out the final match – **India and Pakistan**

The Indian sportsperson who has won the 2018 World Billiards Championship defeating Peter Gilchrist of Singapore – **Sourav Kothari**

The West-Indian cricketer who has announced his retirement from all forms of international cricket – **Dwayne Bravo**

The Indian cricketer who has become the fastest batsman in the world to score 10,000 runs in one-day internationals (by doing it in 205 innings surpassing Sachin's record of 259 innings) – **Virat Kohli**

The team which has won the Vijay Hazare Trophy defeating Delhi in the finals at Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru – **Mumbai**

The team which has won the Sultan of Johor Cup 2018 defeating India in the finals at Taman Daya Hockey Stadium, Malaysia – **Great Britain**

The team which has won the U-19 Asia Cup title defeating Sri Lanka in the finals at Dhaka, Bangladesh – **India**

The team which has won the 24th Senior Women's National Football Championship defeating Odisha in the finals at Barabati Stadium, Cuttack – **Manipur**

Themes

The theme of Vigilance Awareness Week observed from 29 Oct to 03 Nov by the Central Vigilance Commission – **Eradicate Corruption - Build a New India**

The theme of the 11th Global Agriculture Leadership Summit and Awards 2018 held in New Delhi from 24 to 25 October 2018 – **Connecting Farmers to Market**

The theme of the second India Mobile Congress 2018 held in Aerocity, Delhi from 25 to 27 October 2018 – **New Digital Horizons, Connect. Create. Innovate**

Miscellaneous

The world's largest cargo drone capable of carrying a payload of 1.5 tonnes successfully tested by China is named – **Feihong-98**

The Group of Ministers (GoM) set up by the Central Govt to strengthen the legal and institutional frameworks to deal with and prevent sexual harassment at workplace is headed by – **Shri Rajnath Singh**

The fruit grown predominantly in Bihar which has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Govt – **Shahi Litchi**

The new artificial intelligence based assistant powered by CoRover launched by IRCTC for its website is named – **Ask Disha**

The initiative launched by the Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti to conduct a year long series of artificial limb fitment camps in several countries is named – **India for Humanity**

The university with which Indian Space Research Organisation has signed an MoU to set up a Space Applications Centre – **Central University of Jammu**

The cyclone which hit the coasts of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha causing extensive damage was named – **Titli**

The mobile health app developed and launched by the IAF for the citizens of India on Air Force day i.e. 08 Oct 2018 is named – **MedWatch**

The railway zone which has become free of all unmanned level crossings by eliminating over 1000 such crossings – **Southern Railway**

The variety of mango from Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Palghar, Thane and Raigad districts of Maharashtra which has been granted the GI tag by the government – **Alphonso**

The policy on biometric based digital processing of passengers at airports released by Shri Suresh Prabhu is named (the policy will be implemented at Hyderabad and Bangalore by February 2019 – **Digi Yatra**

The National Level Entrepreneurship Awareness Campaign, launched by Small Industries Development Bank of India in 115 Aspirational Districts identified by NITI Aayog in 28 States and reaching to around 15,000 youth is named – **Udyam Abhilasha (उद्यम अभिलाषा)**

The MSP for wheat for the 2018-19 season to be marketed in 2019-20 has been fixed by the Govt at – **Rs. 1840/- per quintal**

Important Days of October

<p>International Day of Older Persons: 01 October Established by : United Nations General Assembly First Observed in: 1991 Theme: Celebrating Older Human Rights Champions</p>
<p>World Habitat Day: 1st Monday of October (01 October) Designated by: United Nations General Assembly First observed: 1986 Theme: Municipal Solid Waste Management</p>
<p>International Day of Non-Violence: 02 October Established by : United Nations General Assembly First Observed in: 2007</p>
<p>World Teacher's Day: 05 October Established by : UNESCO Theme: The Right to Education Means the Right to a Qualified Teacher First Observed in: 1994</p>
<p>World Post Day: 09 October Established by : Universal Postal Union First Observed in: 1969</p>
<p>World Mental Health Day: 10 October Established by : World Health Organisation Theme: Young People and Mental Health in a Changing World First Observed in: 1992</p>
<p>International Day of the Girl Child: 11 October Established by : United Nations General Assembly Theme: With Her: A Skilled Girl Force First Observed in: 2012</p>
<p>World Sight Day: 12 October (2nd Thursday of October) Established by : International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness Theme: Eye Care Everywhere First Observed in: 2000</p>
<p>International Day of Disaster Reduction: 13 October Established by : United Nations General Assembly Theme: Reducing Disaster Economic Losses First Observed in: 2010</p>
<p>International Day of Rural Women: 15 October Established by : United Nations General Assembly Theme: Sustainable infrastructure, services and social protection for gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls First Observed in: 2008</p>
<p>World Food Day: 16 October Established by : Food and Agricultural Organisation Theme: Our actions are our future – A zero hunger world by 2030 is possible. First Observed in: 1980</p>

<p>International Day for Eradication of Poverty: 17 October Established by : United Nations General Assembly Theme: Coming together with those furthest behind to build an inclusive world of universal respect and dignity First Observed in: 1993</p>
<p>World Development Information Day: 24 October Established by : United Nations General Assembly First Observed in: 1972</p>
<p>United Nations Day: 24 October The day marks the coming into effect of the UN Charter (the founding document of UNO) in 1945. UN Day Concert in the General Assembly Hall, featuring sarod virtuoso Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, accompanied by his sons Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash, and the Refugee Orchestra Project conducted by Lidiya Yankovskaya. The theme of this year's concert was "Traditions of Peace and Non-violence" and was sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the India to the United Nations.</p>
<p>World Day for Audiovisual Heritage: 27 October Established by : UNESCO First Observed in: 2005</p>
<p>World Cities Day: 31 October Established by : UN General Assembly Theme: Innovative Governance, Open Cities First Observed in: 2014</p>

Statue of Unity - World's tallest statue

Inaugurated by: PM Shri Narendra Modi

Location: Sadhu Bet island, Kevadia, Dist Narmada (Gujarat)

Height of Statue: 182 meters

Built by: Larsen and Toubro

Designer: Ram Vanji Sutar

World's longest sea crossing bridge

From Zhuhai (mainland China) to Hongkong.

Length: 55 km

Cost: \$20 bn.

Runs over: sea portion of Pearl River delta

Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony

2014: Shri Rajkumar Singhajit Singh (Manipur dance exponent)

2015: Chhayanaut (cultural organization of Bangladesh)

2016: Shri Ram Vanji Sutar (Sculptor)

Main Nahin Hum portal and app

Launched by: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi.

Theme: Self4Society

Purpose: To enable IT professionals and organizations to bring together their efforts towards social causes, and service to society, on one platform.

Seoul Peace Prize 2018

Awarded by: Republic of Korea (South Korea)

Instituted in: 1990 to commemorate the success of the 24th Olympic Games held in Seoul, Korea.

Award frequency: 2 years

First recipient: Dr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of International Olympic Committee

First Indian recipient: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2018, his contribution to international cooperation and fostering global economic growth.

Champions of the Earth Award

Awarded by: United Nations

Winners

1. Lifetime Achievement Award: **Joan Carling** (Philippines).
2. Science and Innovation category: **Beyond Meat and Impossible Foods**, for their revolutionary development of a popular, plant-based alternative to beef
3. Policy Leadership category: **Emmanuel Macron**, President of France and **Narendra Modi**, PM of India for their pioneering work in championing the International Solar Alliance.
4. Inspiration and Action for Transformation: Zhejiang's Green Rural Revival Programme (China)
5. Entrepreneurial Vision: **Cochin International Airport**, the world's first fully solar-powered airport
6. Young Champion of the Earth for Asia Pacific: **Arpit Dhupar**, Chakr Innovation

Power Bat

What is it: A unique tool to provide real-time data on a player's performance based on different parameters such as speed of the ball, twist on impact and quality of the shot.

Developed by: Spectacom in association with Microsoft.

Spectacom is a company owned by **Anil Kumble**

Powered by: Microsoft's Azure Cloud platform and its Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) services.

How it works: A light weight sticker which is stuck on the shoulder of the bat. As soon as the batsman hits the ball, data on different parameters are captured in a new unit of measurement titled Power Speks. Using advanced analytics and AI services on Azure, real-time insights are captured through the stump box and displayed via the broadcaster.

Human Capital Index 2018

Released by: World Bank

Rank	Country	Rank	Country
1.	Singapore	115	India
2.	South Korea	106	Bangladesh
3.	Japan	102	Nepal
4.	China, Hong Kong	74	Sri Lanka
5.	Finland	134	Pakistan

2018 United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights

The 2018 winners of the prestigious United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights are:

1. **Ms. Rebeca Gyumi** - activist for the rights of women and girls (Tanzania)
2. **Ms. Asma Jahangir** (posthumously) - human rights lawyer (Pakistan)
3. **Ms. Joênia Wapichana** – activist for the rights of indigenous communities (Brazil)
4. **Front Line Defenders** – organization advocating and working for the protection of human rights defenders (Ireland)

International Conference on Status and Protection of Coral Reefs (STAPCOR-2018)

Organised by: Zoological Survey of India

From 22 to 24 Oct 2018

Venue: Bangaram island, UT of Lakshadweep

Theme: Reef for Life

Summer Youth Olympics 2018

Held at : Buenos Aires (Argentina)

From : 06 October to 18 October 2018

Medals Tally

#	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	Russia	29	18	12	59
2.	China	18	9	9	36
3.	Japan	15	12	12	39
-	Mixed-NOCs	13	13	13	39
4.	Hungary	12	7	5	24
5.	Italy	11	10	13	34
17.	India	3	9	1	13

Points to remember

- No. of participating countries: 206
- Motto: Feel the Future
- Mascots: Pandi (a Yaguareté, a southamerican animal, very similar to the Jaguar)
- Next Summer Youth Olympics at: Dakar, Senegal in 2022

Global Competitiveness Index 2018

Released by: World Economic Forum

Rank	Country	Rank	Country
1.	United States	58	India
2.	Singapore	85	Sri Lanka
3.	Germany	103	Bangladesh
4.	Switzerland	107	Pakistan
5.	Japan	109	Nepal

Asian Para Games 2018

Held at : Jakarta (Indonesia)

From : 06 October to 13 October 2018

Medals Tally

#	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	China	172	88	59	319
2.	South Korea	53	45	46	144
3.	Iran	51	42	43	136
4.	Japan	45	70	83	198
5.	Indonesia	37	47	51	135
9.	India	15	24	33	72

Points to remember

- No. of participating countries: 43

- Motto: The Inspiring Spirit and Energy of Asia
- Mascots: Momo (a Bondol eagle) (Momo stands for motivation and mobility)
- Emblem: Harmony - Energy of Asia
- Next Asian Para Games at: Huangzhou, China in 2022

Swachh Survekshan Grameen Awards 2018

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave awards to top Ranked State, District and State with maximum citizen participation based on the National Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018 commissioned by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation at the concluding session of Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention at Rashtrapati Bhawan Cultural Centre.

Top 3 States: 1) **Haryana**, 2) **Gujarat** 3) **Maharashtra**

Top 3 Districts: 1) **Satara**, Maharashtra 2) **Rewari**, Haryana 3) **Pedapalli**, Telangana

States with maximum citizen participation 1) Uttar Pradesh 2) Gujarat 3) Maharashtra

Districts with maximum citizens' participation 1) Nashik, Maharashtra 2) Solapur, Maharashtra 3) Chittorgarh, Rajasthan

Nobel Prizes 2018

#	Field	Winners	Contribution
1.	Medicine	James P Allison Tasuku Honjo	for their discovery of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation.
2.	Chemistry	Frances H Arnold George P. Smith Sir Gregory P. Winter	for directed evolution of enzymes.
3.	Physics	Arthur Ashkin Gerard Mourou Donna Strickland	for groundbreaking inventions in the field of laser physics.
4.	Peace	Denis Mukwege Nadia Murad	courageously combating war crimes and seeking justice for victims.
5.	Economic Sciences	William D. Nordhaus	for integrating climate change into long-run macroeconomic analysis.
		Paul M. Romer	for integrating technological innovations into long-run macroeconomic analysis.
6.	Literature	No one has been awarded this year	

Books in News

Brief Answers to the Big Questions - **Stephen Hawking**