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Daily Current Affairs 10th August, 2018

NATIONAL NEWS

- **UNESCO designated World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)** included **Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve** in its list. This decision was taken at the 30th Session of International Coordinating Council (ICC) of Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme of UNESCO held at Palembang, Indonesia, from July 23-27, 2018.
 - It is India's **11th** Biosphere Reserve that has been included so far.
- The **Ministry of HRD** has embarked on a major and new initiative Project called **'Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds' (SWAYAM)**, which will provide one integrated platform and portal for online courses. This covers all higher education subjects and skill sector courses.
 - The objective is to ensure that every student in the country has access to the best quality higher education at the affordable cost.
- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Aviation Suresh Prabhu launched **'Niryat Mitra' – mobile App** in New Delhi. The app is developed by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO).
 - It **provides wide range of information required to undertake international trade** right from the policy provisions for export and import, applicable GST rate, available export incentives, tariff, preferential tariff, market access requirements – SPS and TBT measures.
- **The Global Innovation Index 2018** was launched in New Delhi by **Ratan P Watal**, Principal Adviser, NITI Aayog & Member Secretary of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister. The event was organized by the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** – one of the founding partners of GII along with the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**, in collaboration with the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).
 - India's rank on the Global Innovation Index (GII) has improved from 60 in 2017 to 57 in 2018. India has been consistently climbing the GII ranking for

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the past two years.

- The agriculture minister **Radha Mohan Singh** announced that government would implement **Swaminathan Committee's report** to improve living standards of farmers and upliftment of farm sector.
 - In **2006**, President of the **National Commission on Farmers (NCF)** Swaminathan had recommended the following:
 1. reformatory schemes for welfare of farmers,
 2. transparency in the market, increase productivity and eliminate malnutrition.
 3. improving the infrastructure.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- To develop common communications operating procedures to enable military forces in the Asia Pacific region to work together in times of disaster, Pacific Endeavor-2018 (PE-18), a communication exercise under the **Multinational Communications Interoperability Program (MCIP)** begun in Kathmandu, Nepal.

ECONOMY

- **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has projected India's **GDP** (Gross Domestic Product) to grow at **7.5 %** in the **2019-2020** fiscal year.
 - India's GDP forecast is **7.3 %** in fiscal year **2018/19** and **7.5 %** in 2019/20.
- **International Monetary Fund (IMF):**
 - CEO – Christine Lagarde
 - Headquarters – Washington, D.C., United States

APPOINTMENTS

- NDA candidate and JD(U) member **Harivansh** was elected as **Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman**.
 - The election process in Rajya Sabha was initiated by Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu. Harivansh secured 125 votes and **defeated Congress MP B K Hariprasad** who got 105 votes.

AWARDS

- **Indian-American high school student Avi Goel** has won the world championship at the **International Geography Bee's junior varsity division** which was held in Berlin, Germany. 14-year old Avi is a tenth grader at Silver

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Creek High School in Evergreen, San Jose, California.

BOOKS

- **Actress Manisha Koirala** has penned her first book titled “**The Book of Untold Stories**”. Manisha, who was diagnosed with cancer in 2012, will reportedly be authoring the book about the experience of surviving the illness.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- On **9th August 2018**, the **76th anniversary of Quit India movement** named as **August Kranti Day** was observed in India.
 - On 9th August 1942, father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi started the **Do or Die** campaign to drive away Britishers from India. The movement started from Gawalia Tank in Mumbai. This day is observed as August Kranti Day every year.



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