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OCTOBER

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We Shine Study Circle

TNPSC

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(CURRENT AFFAIRS)

OCTOBER - 06.10.2018



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Main Office @

Weshine Study Circle

Chromepet, Chennai

Phone: 8939144344, 8939244344

Branch Office @

Weshine Study Circle

A-90, 3rd Street (Near K3 Police Station),
Annanagar East
Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600102.

3rd Floor, West Wing, Gokul Arcarde,
No.2, Sardar Patel Road, Adyar
Chennai, Tamilnadu 600020.

<https://weshineacademy.com>

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NATIONAL NEWS

- In a historic day for India, **Northeast and Assam Petro-chemicals**, a state-owned company for launched **Asia's first cannisters based and India's first "Methanol Cooking Fuel Program"**. The program was inaugurated by Dr V K Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog and Chairman at Namrup.
 - 500 households inside the Assam Petro Complex will be the first pilot project, scaling it to 40,000 households in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana, Goa and Karnataka.
- The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, Shri Suresh Prabhu released **"Digi Yatra", a policy on biometric based digital processing of passengers at airports**. DigiYatra Central Platform will be operational by end of **February, 2019**.
 - **Bangalore & Hyderabad** International Airports are the first **2** to implement it by the end of February 2019. . Airport Authority of India (AAI) will roll out the programme initially at **Kolkata, Varanasi, Pune & Vijayawada by April, 2019**.
- **Alphonso** from **Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Palghar, Thane** and **Raigad** districts of **Maharashtra**, got registered as Geographical Indication (GI). The king of mangoes, Alphonso, better known as **'Hapus'** in Maharashtra.
 - It is one of the world's most popular fruit and is exported to various countries including Japan, Korea and Europe. The first GI tagged product of India was the **Darjeeling tea** in **2004**.
- After wide-ranging talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Vladimir Putin, Indian and Russia signed the **USD 5.4 billion S-400 air defence system** deal in New Delhi.
 - Modi and Putin also signed **eight** pacts, including on cooperation on India's ambitious human space mission project Gaganyaan, at the **19th India-Russia annual bilateral summit**.
- **India and Russia** signed a document for cooperation on a new nuclear power project in India with the latest VVER-1200 type reactors powered by advanced fuel. The action plan document was signed by India's Department of Atomic Energy Secretary Kamlesh Vyas and Rosatom Director General Alexey Likhachev on the sidelines of 19th India-

Russia annual bilateral summit in New Delhi.

- The fourth edition of the **India International Science Festival (IISF)** began in **Lucknow**. A number of conferences and exhibitions showcasing of the work of young scientists were held. He will inaugurate the Mega Science Expo on 6 October.
 - The four-day festival with focal theme **“Science for Transformation”** features 23 special events.
- The 46th edition of **Cervantino International Festival**, to be held in **Mexico**, will see **India** participating as a **guest of honour**, with an elaborate programme of performing arts. The nearly three-week long festival will kick off on October 10 in the heritage city of Guanajuato in Mexico.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- **Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** completed her 3-day visit to **Astana, Kazakhstan**. She visited Kazakhstan at the invitation of Minister of Defence of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr. **Nurlan Yermekbayev**.
 - India and Kazakhstan jointly completed a company level joint military exercise **‘KAZIND-2018’** in South Kazakhstan in September 2018. The two countries had renewed the Memorandum of Cooperation on defence in January 2017. Both countries are ‘strategic partners’ since 2009.
- The world’s first full-sized **Hyperloop passenger capsule** has been unveiled in **Spain** giving those in attendance a glimpse of the future. California based company Hyperloop Transportation Technologies (Hyperloop TT) revealed the slimline capsule, which can reach speeds of **1,220** kilometres per hour.

ECONOMY

- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (**UNCTAD**) in its **Trade and Development Report** predicted the GDP growth of India for 2018 to be at **7%**. Previously in 2017, it was 6.2%.

- Developing countries of the **East Asia and Pacific region** will grow at **6.3** per cent in 2018, the World Bank has said. The outlook for the region remained positive despite a lower growth prospect than in 2017 owing to a moderation in China's growth.
 - The October 2018 edition of the **World Bank East Asia and Pacific Economic Update** also warned of uncertainty in the region owing to trade tensions.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Pankaj Sharma** has been appointed as the ambassador and **India's permanent representative to the United Nations Conference on Disarmament (UNCD) in Geneva, Switzerland. Mr Sharma will replace Amandeep Gill.** He is currently the joint secretary (Disarmament and International Security Division) in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- **Sanjay Verma** was appointed as **India's Ambassador to Spain.** Sanjay Verma is a 1990 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer. He is currently the Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

AWARDS

- **Congolese** doctor **Denis Mukwege** and **Yazidi** campaigner **Nadia Murad** won the **2018 Nobel Peace Prize.**
 - Dr Mukwege, a 63 year-old gynecologist has been associated with treatment of various sexual assault victims in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
 - Ms Murad, 25, became a victim of war crimes herself and became the first UN goodwill ambassador for survivors of human trafficking.
- **Ruhaan Rajput**, a multi-talented young actor bagged an award at the recently concluded **Mid-day Young Achiever Icons Award 2018.** The event took place at the Grand Hyatt, Mumbai. The award was presented to him in the film and television category for his work in the industry in a short span of time.

SPORTS

- The **3rd Youth Olympic Games** has officially begun at **Buenos Aires, Argentina.** India is represented with a contingent of **68 members**, including 46 athletes, will compete in

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13 sports during the prestigious event. 16-year-old **Manu Bhaker** is leading the Indian team in the opening ceremony as the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for the games.


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