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OCTOBER

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TNPSC

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NATIONAL NEWS

- The country's biggest skill competition, '**India Skills 2018**' has concluded in **New Delhi**. The 164 winners were awarded by Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Anant Kumar Hegde.
 - **India Skills 2018** was the **second** edition of the nationwide competition organized by the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** to identify, recognize, promote and reward the best talents in various skills.
- **Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) Ships Kaga**, an Izumo Class Helicopter Destroyer and Inazuma – a Guided Missile Destroyer arrived at Visakhapatnam to participate in Maritime Exercise Between Japan and India '**JIMEX 18**'.
 - The JMSDF Ships would be participating in the third edition of Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX) with the ships of Eastern Fleet of the Indian Navy. JIMEX-18 is aimed to enhance interoperability, improve understanding and imbibe the best practices of each other.
- To devise strategies and programs for bettering conditions of Women Prisoners and upholding their Fundamental Rights, the **Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Acharya Devvrat** inaugurated the **2-day First ever Regional Conference on 'Women in Detention and Access to Justice'** at **Shimla**, Himachal Pradesh.
 - It was organized by the **Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), Ministry of Home Affairs** in collaboration with **Prison Department, Himachal Pradesh**. This will further help in better implementation of Prison Reform and Rehabilitation Program.
- The Maharashtra Government has launched a website and an application '**Maha Madat**' for **collectively analysing the rainfall, crop situation and underground water level using modern technology**.
 - The website has been created by the Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry with the help of the Maharashtra Remote Sensing Application Centre (MRSAC).
- To increase farmer's income, the **Rajasthan** government launched a scheme aimed to provide **free electricity** to farmers of the state having electric connections in general category for specific limit.
 - According to the scheme, more than **12 lakh** farmers of the state will receive free electricity up to **Rs 10,000** for a year on their agricultural electricity connection. It will be effective from **November 2018**.

- The Objective is to deliver sustainable development and social welfare which will **identify, mentor, and promote young entrepreneurs from the SC/ST communities**, Karnataka state government, unveils the **Unnati scheme**, which will invest up to **Rs 20 crore** to create end-to-end support infrastructure for startups and entrepreneurs from a marginalised background.
 - The government, under the scheme, will identify the problems dogging society and solve them by identifying companies, working on products and solutions for related problems
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **first Uttarakhand Investors Summit in Dehradun**. All the leading business firms and industrial houses participated in the two-day event to explore investment opportunities in the hill state in **12 major sectors, including tourism and hospitality**.
 - PM stated that, in Uttarakhand any **MSME loan up to 1 crore** will be sanctioned fast. Mr Modi introduced a new meaning to SEZ, that is Spiritual EcoZone and said Uttarakhand Government should focus in this Sector.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- In USA, President Donald Trump's controversial nominee **Brett Kavanaugh** was sworn in as the **114th Justice of the Supreme Court**.
 - Kavanaugh was officially sworn by **outgoing Chief Justice John Roberts** who administered the Constitutional Oath, hours after the 53-year-old judge was confirmed by a bitterly divided Senate by 50-48 votes.
- The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** signed an MoU with the **UN Environment** for **coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development**. The agreement aims to cover all major areas of interest common to both **CII and UN Environment**.
 - It aims to provide a framework of cooperation and facilitate cooperation in areas including environment, climate change, renewable energy, energy efficiency, resource conservation and management, water sanitation, smart cities and urban infrastructure.

ECONOMY

- RBI issued norms for operating **Electronic Trading Platforms** to enable transactions in eligible instruments. The directions are thus called: **'The Electronic Trading Platforms**

(Reserve Bank) Directions, 2018’.

- As per the norms, ETPs will strictly mean any electronic platform except the stock exchange, where transactions of eligible instruments would take place. These come into force with effect from **October 05, 2018**.

APPOINTMENTS

- The government appointed former **Canara Bank** managing director **Rakesh Sharma** as head of **IDBI Bank** for a period of six months.
 - This comes after the tenure of B Sriram who was appointed as the chief executive of IDBI Bank for three months ended in September 2018.

AWARDS

- **Richie Benaud** will be posthumously honoured as **‘Legend’ by Sport Australia Hall of Fame**. Benaud, a former Australia captain who became one of the most loved voices of cricket after his playing days.
 - He will be the **40th Legend of Australian Sport and the third cricketer** to be bestowed the prestigious annual honour.

SPORTS

- India’s **Keerthana Pandian** has won the girls’ title in the **IBSF World Under-16 Snooker Championships**, her maiden international crown. Keerthana won the girls’ title by outclassing Belarussian rival Albina Leschuk 3-1 in the final.
- **Deborah Herold** won the **gold** medal in the elite **women’s 40 kilometre competition** at Saksham Pedal Delhi, India’s Premier Cyclothon.
 - The honour in **men’s 50 kilometres** was bagged by **Shreedhar Savanur**. Both were criterium races at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi.