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OCTOBER

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TNPSC

நடப்பு நிகழ்வுகள்

(CURRENT AFFAIRS)

OCTOBER – 20.10.2018



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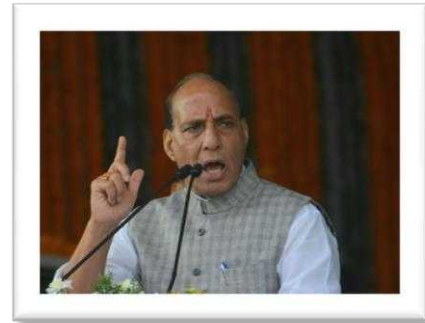
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NATIONAL NEWS

- The General Manager **Rajiv Chaudhry** of **North Central Railways (NCR)** launched two mobile apps, 'NCR RASTA' and 'Yatri RASTA'. The 2 apps are: **NCR RASTA (Railway assets Summerised Tracking Application)** and **Yatri RASTA (Railway Approach to Station Tracking Application)**. The 'NCR RASTA' app is for the use of railway officers and staff and has exact mapping of all railway assets.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has reiterated government's aim to ensure that all the homeless get shelter **by 2022**, when India celebrates **75** years of Independence. He was speaking at a function marking the launch of several projects **at Sai Mandir Complex at Shirdi in Maharashtra**.
- To make the state smoke-free, **Kerala** became the **first** state in the country to have 100% penetration of LPG in public sector oil companies. With three bottling plants **at Kochi, Kozhikode, and Kollam**, LPG is being brought to 49.79 lakh customers through 308 distributors.
- **Assam** celebrated its **3rd** Bihu festival known as **the 'Kati Bihu'** festival across the state. The name of the other 2 Bihu festivals are: **Rongali and Bohagi Bihu**. The festival derives its name from the Assamese month of Kati.
 - The festival is held at this time of the year since the granaries of the farmers usually remain empty and therefore it is known as **Kongali (poor) Bihu**.
- Sri Lankan Prime Minister **Ranil Wickremesinghe** is arriving in New Delhi this evening on a three-day visit to India. He will hold wide-ranging talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his stay. Both leaders are likely to review the status of the India-assisted housing projects in Sri Lanka's Jaffna.
 - The investments are in diverse areas including petroleum retail, IT, financial services, real estate, and telecommunication.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** chaired the **sixth** meeting of **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** at **New Delhi**. Other delegates present in the meeting were: Home Minister **Rajnath Singh**, Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley** and Agriculture Minister **Radha Mohan Singh** and officials of **NDMA**.

- The 4-day **4th International Film Festival of Shimla “IFFS 2018”** concluded in **Shimla, Himachal Pradesh**. It was organised by the **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** in collaboration with **Himalayan velocity, Department of Language & Culture (LAC) & Department of Tourism & Civil Aviation**, Government of Himachal Pradesh.
- **India and Tanzania** has signed **two Memoranda of Understandings (MoUs)** in presence of External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** and Tanzanian Foreign Minister **Dr. Augustine Mahiga** in New Delhi. The MoUs are between Foreign Service Institute of India and Centre for Foreign Relation, Tanzania and National Research Development Corporation and Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Corporation
 - The agreements were signed following India-Tanzania **9th Session of Joint Commission on Economic, Technical and Scientific Cooperation in New Delhi**.
- Government has announced **100 crore rupee award for states** that would complete the household electrification early **under the Saubhagaya scheme**.
 - Apart from discoms, employees would also collectively get **50 lakh rupees award** for completing the task of electrifying households under the scheme which was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September last year.
- **India** is the world's most depressed country, closely followed by China and the US. According to a **World Health Organization report**, India is the world's most depressed country, closely followed by China and the US. According to the 2015-16 National Mental Health Survey (NMHS), every sixth person in India needs mental health help of some sort.
- **India** will host the **fourth edition of Global Partners' Forum** in December 2018 in New Delhi. The **Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH)** will unite over 100 countries' representatives to discuss issues, strategies and solutions to women's, children's and adolescents' health.
 - It will be co-hosted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and PMNCH. Dr Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile is the chair of PMNCH.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- **The Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa (DNT)** will form **new government in Bhutan**. The party has won 30 seats in 47 member National Assembly, the lower house of the parliament. The Druk Phuensum Tshogpa (DPT) has got remaining 17 seats. The **Election Commission of Bhutan has formally announced the results** of the parliamentary elections
 - According to the commission, **71.46% polling was recorded** in the third general election.
- The **3-day 8th European Congress on SMEs** concluded in **Kotawice, Poland**. The motto of the Congress was: **“Science- Business-Self Government TOGETHER FOR ECONOMY”**. It would see participation from representatives of Science, Politics and Economy as well as various foreign delegates.

APPOINTMENTS

- The **HMD Global, which designs and sells phones under the Nokia brand**, has appointed Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt as the **‘face of Nokia phones’** in India. As part of the partnership, a print campaign with Bhatt has been initiated already to mark the festive season.
- **Yemen’s** newly appointed **Prime Minister Maeen Abdulmalik** was sworn in to lead the internationally-backed government in the war-torn Arab country.
 - Maeen was appointed as Prime Minister by Yemen’s President Abdu-Rabbu Mansour Hadi earlier this week, replacing his sacked predecessor Ahmed Obeid bin Daghr.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- China successfully **launched twin BeiDou-3 navigation satellites** into space to

strengthen its satellite navigation network being built to rival the US' Global Positioning System (GPS).

- The satellites were launched from a **Long March-3B carrier rocket from Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in Sichuan province**. It will work with the 14 BeiDou-3 satellites already in orbit.
- European and Japanese space agencies stated that an **Ariane 5** rocket successfully lifted a spacecraft carrying two probes into orbit for a joint mission to **Mercury**, the closest planet to the sun. The unmanned **BepiColombo spacecraft** successfully separated and was sent into orbit from **French Guiana** as planned to begin a **seven-year** journey to Mercury.

SPORTS

- **World Wrestling Championship** has begun in **Budapest, Hungary**. Asian Games gold medallist **Bajrang Punia** will be India's best bet for a medal as a 30-member team seeks a strong performance in the flagship event.
 - Already a bronze winner at the 2013 World Championship, Bajrang has come a long way in last five years, establishing himself as a force to reckon with in the 65-kilogram category.

AWARDS

- **Jalandhar's Arshdeep Singh**, 10, has won the **Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year (Asia) Award** for his photograph '**Pipe Owls**'. The award ceremony was held **at the Natural History Museum, London**.
 - Shot outside Kapurthala city, the winning photograph with two owlets closely sitting inside a pipe, was taken while Arshdeep was travelling with his father.