

Daily Current Affairs 27 November 2018 with PDF

Current Affairs related to Banking and Finance

India, ADB sign USD 200 million loan agreement to improve highways in Bihar

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Union Government on November 26, 2018 signed a USD 200 million loan agreement to finance widening and upgrading of about 230 kilometers state highways in Bihar to all-weather standards with road safety features.
- This loan agreement for the Bihar State Highways III Project (BSHP-III) was signed by Sameer Kumar Khare, Additional Secretary (Fund Bank and ADB), Union Ministry of Finance and Rajeev P Singh, Officer in-Charge of ADB's India Resident Mission.
- The Bihar State Highways III Project agreement was signed by Vipin Kumar, Resident Commissioner of Bihar and Chandra Shekhar, Chief General Manager of Bihar State Roads Development Corporation Limited.

Government launches 'PAiSA' Portal under National Urban Livelihoods Mission

- The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on November 26, 2018 launched the 'PAiSA' - Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access, a centralised electronic platform for quicker processing of loans under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM).
- PAiSA is yet another effort by the government to connect directly with the beneficiaries, ensuring that there is greater transparency and efficiency in delivery of services.
- All 35 States and Union Territories (UTs) & all scheduled commercial banks, RRBs and Cooperative Banks are expected to be on board the PAiSA portal the year end.
- The web platform was designed and developed by Allahabad Bank, the nodal bank under the scheme.

ADB to provide 75 mn loan for water supply project in Karnataka

- The Asian Development Bank ADB will provide a 75 million dollar loan for a water supply project in four coastal towns of Karnataka.
- The project would ensure round the clock water supply in four towns Kundapura, Mangalore Puttur and Udupi.
- An agreement regarding the tranche 2 loan of the programme was signed in New Delhi today.
- An official released said that the fund will also be used to improve sanitation infrastructure for Mangalore town.
- The programme, approved by ADB Board in 2014, aims to improve urban water resource management in selected river basins in Karnataka through modernisation and expansion of urban water supply and sanitation infrastructure.
- Around 75 million tranche 1 loan is helping strengthen urban water supply and sanitation services in three other towns of the State Byadagi, Davangere, and Harihar.

NPCC conferred with the status of 'Miniratna'

- The National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC) was conferred with the status of Miniratna : Category –I by the Union Government.
- The empowerment of Miniratna Status to NPCC will help the company in taking speedy decisions by enhancing the delegation of powers to the Board.
- NPCC, a schedule 'B' CPSE under the administrative control of Union Ministry of Water Resources RD & GR, has also been awarded ISO 9001:2015 Certification.
- The Corporation, incorporated in 1957, is a premier construction company having mandate with creation of infrastructure to provide impetus for economic development of the country.

India, China sign protocol to amend Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement

- India and China signed protocol to amend Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) for the avoidance of double taxation and for prevention of fiscal evasion.
- Under Section 90 of Income-tax Act, 1961, India can enter into agreement with foreign country or specified territory for the avoidance of double taxation of income.
- The Protocol to amend DTAA with China updates existing provisions for exchange of information to latest international standards.
- It incorporates changes required to implement treaty related minimum standards under the Action reports of Base Erosion & Profit Shifting (BEPS) Project.

Current Affairs related to India and states

Defence Minister launches 'Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti'

- The Union Defence Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman on November 27, 2018 formally launched 'Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti' in New Delhi.
- During the event, salient inventions and innovations achieved by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and Ordnance Factories (OFs) that have resulted in successful filing of Intellectual Property Right (IPR) applications were showcased.
- On the occasion, the Defence Minister also felicitated some of the scientists, who invented and innovated useful products for the nation.
- A panel discussion was held with participation of Chairman and Managing Directors of all DPSUs to formulate a strategy for the future in this regard.

Andaman & Nicobar Islands home to 10% of India's fauna species: ZSI

- Andaman & Nicobar Islands are home to tenth of India's fauna species and hosts 1067 endemic faunal species found nowhere else, as per the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) publication titled 'Faunal Diversity of Biogeographic Zones: Islands of India'.

- The publication has come up with database of all faunal species found on the island. It has database of species found in particular category of animals and also highlights most vulnerable among them.
- The Andaman & Nicobar Islands comprises only 0.25 percent of India's geographical area but is home to more than 10 percent of country's fauna species.
- Tourism, illegal construction and mining are posing threat to the islands' biodiversity, which is already vulnerable to volatile climatic factors.

ISRO to launch new imaging satellite 'HysIS'

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will soon launch 'HysIS', the country's first hyperspectral imaging satellite for advanced Earth observation.
- About 30 small satellites of foreign customers will be its co-passengers on the PSLV launcher, numbered C-43.
- PSLV-C43 mission will launch 31 satellites in two orbits. It will be ISRO's third longest mission.
- Main payload HysIS, all of 380 kg, is built to work for five years. It will aid detailed, high-definition study of Earth surface.

Health Ministry launches modern Information Platform to monitor public health surveillance

- The Union Health Ministry launched the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) segment of Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) in seven states.
- The path-breaking initiative will provide near-real-time data to policy makers for detecting outbreaks, reducing the morbidity and mortality and lessening disease burden in the populations and better health systems.
- The first one-of-its-kind initiative by India, IHIP uses the latest technologies and digital health initiatives.
- For effective implementation of the platform, 32000 people at the block level, 13000 at the district level and 900 at the state level have been trained.

SSB to patrol Dudhwa tiger reserve

- Dudhwa Tiger Reserve and Sashastra Seema Bal have joined hands to provide security to Dudhwa forests and its rich wildlife.
- It was agreed that joint long route patrolling comprising SSB, STPF and DTR field staff would be held at regular intervals.
- Dudhwa tiger reserve is located in Uttar Pradesh.

CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurates 7-day long National Tribal Craft Mela 2018

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the 7-day-long National Tribal Crafts Mela-2018 at Schedule Caste & Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute (SCSTRTI) in Odisha's Bhubaneswar on November 24.
- The event is organised under the aegis of Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

- Over 200 tribal artisans from 14 states participated in the event.
- The handicrafts items included handloom, bamboo products, pottery, lacquer craft, tribal jewellery, tribal textiles, embroidery, tribal painting and many more.
- The main objective of the National Tribal Crafts Mela is to preserve, promote and popularise tribal traditional art and crafts and help the artisans to look for better opportunities to develop their skills through cross-cultural interaction for commercial viability.

Current Affairs related to World

NASA's InSight Mars explorer lands safely on the Red Planet

- NASA's InSight explorer successfully touched down on Mars on November 26, 2018, after an almost seven-month journey through deep space.
- This is the eighth time in human history that NASA has executed a successful landing on the red planet and the first in six years.
- The landing kicks off a two-year mission for the InSight lander to study Mars' deep interior. Operated by NASA, the explorer is built by scientists in the United States, France and Germany.
- InSight stands for Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport. It has been designed to study the "inner space" of Mars: its crust, mantle, and core.

Nepal launches Social Security Scheme

- Nepal government launched a Social Security Scheme for formal sector workers of the country. Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli unveiled the scheme in Kathmandu.
- The scheme aims to strengthen the system in which the government is accountable to its people. People of all ages and categories would be included in the scheme.
- The new social security scheme is contribution based and it will cover health and medical facilities, safe motherhood, accident and physical incapacity security, security to dependent family members and security at old age.

Current Affairs related to Sports

Netherlands wins FIH Women's Hockey Champions Trophy

- The Netherlands outclassed Australia 5-1 to win its seventh Women's Hockey Champions Trophy at the Wujin Hockey Stadium here on Sunday.
- With the win, the reigning world champion has kept its record intact during the tournament and extended its winning streak to 43 matches.
- Apart from the team trophy, the Dutch players also reaped three individual awards of the tournament. Eva de Goede was crowned Best Player, Marijn Veen as Best Scorer and 22-year-old Marijn Veen as Rising Player.

Croatia win Davis Cup 2018 final by defeating France

- Croatia won the final Davis Cup title of the old system on Sunday. Marin Cilic, the world No 7, was far too good for his French opponents throughout, and overcame Lucas Pouille in straight sets to complete a 3-1 victory.
- It was the Frenchmen, however, whose response may come to define the tie.
- The home-and-away element of the Davis Cup has been greatly reduced by the new model, but not eliminated.
- There will be 12 matches over the first two days of February, shortly after the end of the Australian Open. The winners will go through to the 18-team finals event in Madrid from Nov 18 to 24.

Current Affairs related to Days

NDMA's 14th Formation Day observed

- 14th Formation Day of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) was observed on 27th November, 2018.
- Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju, inaugurated the 14th Formation Day of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).
- The theme of this year's Formation Day is Early Warning for Disasters.

NOTTO organizes 9th Indian Organ Donation Day

- 9th Indian Organ Donation Day was organized by the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) in Delhi recently.
- Anupriya Patel, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. C. Vijaya Baskar, Minister of Health, Government of Tamil Nadu, Preeti Sudan, Secretary (Health), Dr. R.K. Vats, Addl. Secretary and Dr S. Venkatesh, DGHS, were also present at the event.