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Current Affairs related to India and states

NITI Aayog, IBM India jointly design Student Internship Programme

- The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of the NITI Aayog and the IBM India Private Limited on October 11, 2018 announced a first-of-its-kind Student Internship Programme for students selected under the mission.
- The IBM internship program is focussed on enhancing the skills of the students via various innovative activities like design thinking approach, developing prototypes and solution for community issues.
- Under the internship programme, 38 students will receive a two-week paid internship and 14 teachers from Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) across the length and breadth of the country to ideate, collaborate and innovate.
- These students will be equipped with the skills for new collar careers in areas like artificial intelligence, Internet-of-Things, cybersecurity, cloud computing and blockchain.

Cyclone Titli makes landfall in Odisha, crosses coast

- Two people have been killed in Andhra Pradesh's Srikakulam as cyclone Titli uprooted trees and electric poles and damaged hutments in the region and in Odisha's Ganjam and Gajapati districts after making landfall on October 11, 2018.
- The cyclone also triggered heavy rainfall in at least three districts and caused minor damage to power and communication.
- Power supply and telephone links got disrupted and road communication snapped due to uprooted trees at many places of Gajapati district.
- Road communication between Paralakhemundi and Mohana and some other block headquarters in Gajapati had been disrupted under the impact of the cyclone.

Centre sets minimum river flows for the Ganga

- In a first, the Central Government notified the minimum environmental flows for River Ganga that has to be maintained at various locations on the river.
- The upper stretches of the Ganga from its origins in the glaciers and until Haridwar would have to maintain 20 percent of the monthly average flow of the preceding 10-days between November and March 2018.
- Environmental flows are the acceptable flow regimes that are required to maintain a river in the desired environmental state or predetermined state.

Japanese Prime minister Shinzo Abe offers support to Swachh Bharat Mission

- Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe offered his Government's support to the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- In a written message, Abe said that Japan will cooperate to promote the Clean India initiative under Prime Minister Modi's leadership.
- He congratulated India on the success of the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention.
- The Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (MGISC) was a four-day international conference that brought together Sanitation Ministers and other leaders in WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) from around the world.

President to inaugurate the 13th Annual Convention of Central Information Commission

- President Ram Nath Kovind will inaugurate the 13th Annual Convention of Central Information Commission (CIC) on October 12, 2018.
- The Annual Convention on the topic "Data privacy and Right to information, Amendment in the RTI Act and Implementation of the RTI Act" is aimed at recommending measures for improving the transparency and accountability with a view to improve governance.
- The Convention shall deliberate on three specific subjects- "Data privacy and Right to Information", "Amendment in the RTI Act" and "Implementation of the RTI Act."
- All the present and former Chief Information Commissioners and Information Commissioners of the Central Information Commission (CIC), State Information Commission, Central public information officers as well as the other government officers will participate.

Home Ministry exempts Sikh women from wearing helmet in Chandigarh

- The Union Home Ministry advised the Chandigarh Administration to follow the notification issued by Delhi Government giving an exemption to Sikh women from wearing protective headgear (helmet) while driving two wheelers in UT Chandigarh.
- This is in response to the representation received by to the Union Home Minister from representatives of Sikh bodies.
- The Department of Transport, Delhi Government, vide its notification issued on June 4, 1999, carried out the amendment in Rule 115 of Delhi Motor Vehicle Act 1993, making it optional for women whether riding on pillion or driving motorcycle to wear a protective headgear.

NITI Aayog organises workshop on Best Practices in International Arbitration

- The inaugural 'Workshop on Best Practices in International Arbitration' was organised by NITI Aayog and the ICC International Court of Arbitration in New Delhi on October 10, 2018.
- The workshop was inaugurated by the chief guest, Justice AK Sikri, who is a judge at the Supreme Court of India and was presided over by PP Chaudhary, MoS in the Law Ministry. NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant was also present on the occasion.

'India for Humanity' initiative launched

- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) recently launched the 'India for Humanity' initiative.

- Under the initiative, the MEA will partner with a charitable organisation for holding artificial limb fitment camps in various countries.
- The camps will initially be held in 12 countries identified through Indian missions.
- MEA partnered with Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti known for its 'Jaipur Foot' under the initiative.

Current Affairs related to Finance

WEF launches Centre for Fourth Industrial Revolution in India

- The World Economic Forum on Thursday announced its new Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution in India, which would aim to bring together the government and business leaders to pilot emerging technology policies.
- The centre, which was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a function here, would be based in Maharashtra and it has selected drones, artificial intelligence and blockchain as the first three project areas, the World Economic Forum (WEF) said.
- Geneva-based WEF, which describes itself as an international organisation for public-private cooperation, said the new centre will work in collaboration with the government on a national level to co-design new policy frameworks and protocols for emerging technology alongside leaders from business, academia, start-ups and international organizations.
- NITI Aayog will coordinate the partnership on behalf of the government and the work of the centre among multiple ministries.

Current Affairs related to Index and Rankings

World Bank launches 'human capital' rankings based on health, education

- The World Bank Group unveiled a new system on October 11 to rank countries based on their success in developing human capital, an effort to prod governments to invest more effectively in education and healthcare.
- India ranked 115 in the index.
- The bank's "Human Capital Index," showed poor African countries fared the worst in the rankings, with Chad and South Sudan taking the two lowest spots, while Singapore topped the list, followed by South Korea, Japan and Hong Kong.
- The rankings, based on health, education and survivability measures, assess the future productivity and earnings potential for citizens of 157 of the World Bank's member nations, and ultimately those countries' potential economic growth.

Japan's passport most powerful: 2018 Henley Passport Index

- According to the 2018 Henley Passport Index, the Japanese passport is the strongest in the world.

- India's rank remained same with 81 in the ranking.
- Japanese citizens can travel without a visa or gain a visa on arrival in 190 destinations.
- The Singapore passport, which allows travel to 189 destinations without a prior visa, is at second rank.
- Germany, South Korea and France are placed at third rank.

Current Affairs related to Appointments

Tushar Mehta appointed as Solicitor General of India

- Senior Advocate Tushar Mehta was on October 10, 2018 appointed as the Solicitor General of India with effect from the date of assumption of charge of the office for a period till June 30, 2020 or until further orders.
- His appointment was approved by the Appointment Committee of Cabinet. Presently, Mehta is serving as the Additional Solicitor General (ASG) of India. He was appointed ASG in 2014 after the Modi government came to power.
- The post of the Solicitor General of India has been lying vacant for the last 11 months after Senior Advocate Ranjith Kumar resigned on October 20, 2017. The Solicitor General is the second highest ranking law officer of the Union Government after the Attorney General.

Bank of Baroda CEO P.S. Jayakumar gets one-year extension

- The government on Thursday extended by one year the tenure of Bank of Baroda managing director and chief executive officer P.S. Jayakumar. His term was to end on 12 October 2018.
- This extension comes at a time when Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank are set to merge into a single entity.

Current Affairs related to Sports

Anil Kumble launches Microsoft-powered batting performance tracking device

- Technology giant Microsoft Corporation and former cricketer Anil Kumble's technology startup, Spektacom Technologies, along with broadcast partner Star India, announced the launch of a batting performance tracking device called Power Bat.
- The Power Bat provides players, coaches, commentators, fans and viewers with a unique way to engage with the sport and help improve their game powered by the Microsoft Azure cloud platform using AI and Internet of Things (IoT) services.

Youth Olympic Games 2018: Saurabh Chaudhary bags Gold in 10-m air pistol

- Pistol shooter Saurabh Chaudhary bagged the Gold Medal in the 10-metre air pistol event in the ongoing Youth Olympic Games in Argentina.

- Chaudhary blew the field away in the final as he finished a massive Seven and a half points ahead of his closest rival.
- It is India's third gold medal in the history of Youth Olympic Games and all three have come in this edition in Buenos Aires.

Asian Para-Games 2018: Archer Harvinder Singh clinches seventh gold for India

- Archer Harvinder Singh clinched seventh gold for India in the men's individual recurve category, while track-and-field athletes added a silver and a bronze to India's tally in the Asian Para-Games in Jakarta.
- Harvinder defeated China's Zhao Lixue 6-0 in the W2/ST category final to claim the top honours and took India's gold tally to seven.

Current Affairs related to Days

International Day of the Girl Child observed

- The International Day of the Girl Child was observed across the world on October 11, 2018. The day aims to highlight and address the needs and challenges faced by girl children while promoting their empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights.
- The 2018 theme of the International day is 'With Her: A Skilled GirlForce'.

Current Affairs related to World

Malaysian government agrees to abolish the death penalty

- Malaysia has decided to abolish the death penalty, a senior minister said on Thursday, with more than 1200 people on death row set to win a reprieve following a groundswell of opposition to capital punishment.
- Executions are currently mandatory for murder, kidnapping, possession of firearms and drug trafficking, among other crimes, and are carried out by hanging — a legacy of British colonial rule.
- Human Rights Watch hailed the "fabulous news", with its deputy director for Asia Phil Robertson saying the move would increase pressure on other countries in the region to follow suit.

Current Affairs related to Obituaries

G D Agrawal, fasting for 4 months to protect river Ganga, passes away

- Veteran environmentalist, a professor of engineering and a Hindu ascetic, G D Agrawal, fasting in protest to save river Ganga for more than four months in Haridwar passed away on October 11.
- He was 86. He had fasted demanding that the government stop construction of all hydropower projects on the tributaries of Ganga in Uttarakhand, pass a law protecting and managing the river and ensure that the river does not run dry.
- He had said the Union and Uttarakhand state government had not responded to his several pleas in writing leading him to take to fasting.