

IIT-Madras creates 'Shakti', India's first microprocessor

- India's first indigenous microprocessor may soon power your mobile phones, surveillance cameras and smart meters.
- 'Shakti', designed, developed and booted by Indian Institute of Technology Madras, and with a microchip fabricated in the Semi-Conductor Laboratory of Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) at Chandigarh, will reduce dependency on imported microchips and the risk of cyber attacks making it ideal for communication and defence sectors.

India, Botswana agree to act tough on terror

- India and Botswana on Thursday strongly condemned against terrorism and agreed to take determined and credible steps to eradicate the global menace.
- The vice presidents of both the countries "unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stressed the importance of international efforts to prevent and fight the scourge of terrorism", according to an official statement from the Ministry of External Affairs.
- The two leaders witnessed the signing of the agreement on the exemption of visa requirement for holders of diplomatic passports.

Railways rolls out Unreserved Mobile Ticketing facility

- Railway passengers can now book unreserved general tickets online from today (November 1).
- To avail the facility passengers have to download UTS on the mobile app from the google play or window store. After registering by providing the required details, the passengers will be given user ID and password through which the user can login and book the ticket.
- With this facility, passengers will not have to stand in long queues to buy tickets from the reservation counter window.

KJ Alphons presides over the Program and Budget Committee meeting of UNWTO

- The Minister of State for Tourism, KJ Alphons along with a delegation of senior officials attended the 109th session of United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Executive Council in Manama, Bahrain.
- The three day Session of UNWTO Executive Council began on October 30, 2018.
- Alphons chaired the 'Programme and Budget Committee' meeting of UNWTO.
- The Minister highlighted the role of tourism in socio-economic development through job creation, enterprise and environment development and foreign exchange earnings.
- As the chair of the Committee, the Minister informed the session that for the first time, UNWTO had a surplus budget and most of the arrears due have been paid.

Live-in partner can seek maintenance: Supreme Court

- The Supreme Court on October 31, 2018 ruled that a live-in partner can seek maintenance under the Domestic Violence Act, 2005.
- The bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Justices U.U. Lalit and K.M. Joseph observed that the 2005 Act provides an "efficacious remedy" for maintenance even if the victim is not a legally wedded wife.

Satyajit Ray's film 'Pather Panchali' included in BBC's 100 best foreign language films list

- Satyajit Ray's epic masterpiece film 'Pather Panchali' has been included in BBC's 100 best foreign language films list.
- The list was formed from a poll where over 200 critics from 43 countries picked their best foreign language film. The list was brought down to 100 films from 67 different directors, 24 countries and in 19 languages.
- Ray's film, released in 1955, was placed at number 15 in the list, which has been topped by Akira Kurosawa's 'Seven Samurai'.

Netherlands will be the Partner Country for the 25th DST – CII Technology Summit

- The Kingdom of Netherlands will be the Partner Country for the 25th DST - CII Technology Summit.
- The Summit will be organised in 2019.
- The first CII Technology Summit was organised in 1995 with an aim to facilitate global technology collaborations.

Andhra Pradesh govt to launch awareness drive about swine flu

- The Andhra Pradesh government on Tuesday decided to launch an awareness drive about the precautionary measures to prevent spread of swine flu in the backdrop of likelihood of higher occurrence of the seasonal influenza due to onset of winter.
- Special chief secretary to the chief minister, Satish Chandra, held a tele-conference with district collectors and senior health officials and directed them to conduct a mass awareness campaign to help people secure themselves against the flu.

Cabinet approves signing of MoU between India and S Korea

- The Cabinet has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between India and South Korea.
- The main objective of the MoU is to expand bilateral cooperation in tourism and to increase the exchange of information and data related to the sector.
- India and South Korea have enjoyed a strong diplomatic and long economic relationship and now desire to strengthen and further develop the established relationship for strengthening cooperation in the field of tourism.

Cabinet apprised of India-Russia MoU and MoC in railways

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, was informed about two memoranda signed with Russia last month.
- The two countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) respectively.

Delhi government, Indian Railways sign MoU for Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana

- The Delhi government signed a memorandum of understanding with the railways on Thursday to cater to pilgrims availing the Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana, an official statement stated.
- It stated the MoU was inked by officials of the Delhi government and the railways in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia at the Delhi Secretariat in New Delhi.
- A tourism department official said as per the agreement, Railways will provide separate coaches to pilgrims who are selected under the Yojana.

Kerala signs MoU for implementation of Ayushman Bharat

- The Kerala government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the National Health Agency on November 1 for the implementation of the Centre's flagship health insurance scheme -- Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana Abhiyan (AB-PMJAY) -- in the state.
- With Kerala signing the MoU, total 33 states and union territories have become a part of the scheme, said Ayushman Bharat CEO Indu Bhushan.
- Punjab, Delhi and Telangana are yet to join the scheme.

CRPF launches bike ambulance in Jharkhand

- The Jharkhand sector of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has launched an ingeniously designed bike ambulance in order to provide health facilities to people in the interior areas of Latehar district.
- The bike ambulance was launched at the Matlong Campo of 133 Battalion of the CRPF on Thursday.
- The vehicle consists of a foldable canopy with a backrest, hand rest and seat extension for patients. It also has wheel guards on both sides, along with a footrest with grip.

CJI establishes in-house 'Think Tank' for research & planning

- The Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogi established an in house 'think tank' to strengthen the knowledge infrastructure of Supreme Court of India.
- To this end, the CJI redefined the mandate of Centre for Research and Planning (CRP) to meet the "fast expanding knowledge needs of judiciary".
- The in-house think tank in the SC will complement the vibrant network of national and state judicial academies that have been built over 15 years ago.

MHA approves Rs 194.44 crore Safe City Project for Lucknow

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) approved a Safe City project for Lucknow at a total cost of Rs. 194.44 crore under the Nirbhaya Fund Scheme.
- The project would be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with Centre and State sharing the funding in 60:40 ratio.
- The Safe city proposal for Lucknow will be implemented by Uttar Pradesh Police, assisted by the Municipal bodies and city transport authorities.

10-day long Clean Air Campaign launched in Delhi and four major NCR Cities.

- A ten day long Clean Air Campaign from November 1- 10, 2018 was launched in Delhi by Union Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan.
- To monitor and report polluting activities as well as to ensure quick action, 52 teams were jointly flagged off.
- These teams will be visiting different parts of Delhi and adjacent towns of Faridabad, Gurugram, Ghaziabad and Noida.

Indo - Japan joint military exercise Dharma Guardian 2018 begins

- Exercise Dharma Guardian - 2018, a joint military exercise between Indian and Japanese Armies, commenced at Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School, Vairenge, Mizoram, India on November 1, 2018.

- Being first of its kind, the 14 days long joint exercise is being conducted from November 1, 2018 to November 14, 2018.

Cabinet approves renaming of 'Jharsuguda Airport, Odisha' as 'Veer Surendra Sai Airport, Jharsuguda'

- The Union Cabinet approved renaming of Jharsuguda Airport, Odisha as "Veer Surendra Sai Airport, Jharsuguda"
- Veer Surendra Sai is a well-known freedom fighter of Odisha.
- Renaming of the Jharsuguda airport in his name will fulfill long-pending demand of the Odisha Government, which reflects the sentiments of the local public of the respective area.

India and Japan for the first time to cooperate in Yoga, Ayurveda

- India and Japan on Monday decided to cooperate for the first time in the areas of Indian traditional medicinal systems such as Yoga and Ayurveda to provide holistic healthcare and wellness in both the countries.
- The Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between India's Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) and the Kanagawa Prefectural Government was signed during the ongoing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan.

Japan backs India's membership bid for Nuclear Suppliers Group

- Japan on Monday backed India's membership bid to join the elite Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), which is opposed by China.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe during their summit talks also sought "expeditious and meaningful" reforms of the United Nations.

Central Rlys' 1st 'Utkrisht rake' starts on Nov 4 between Mumbai & Pune

- The Central Railways will press into service the first Utkrisht rake of Pragati Express, running between Pune and Mumbai with upgraded features, from November 4, 2018.
- This Railway Board has sanctioned a project of upgrading existing rakes covers, upgradation of toilets, vinyl wrapping in interiors, upgraded interior amenities and fresh PU paint of each coach.

Signature Bridge, India's 1st asymmetrical cable-stayed bridge, is double the height of Qutub Minar

- Signature Bridge, connecting Wazirabad across the Yamuna to the inner city, was inaugurated on November 4, 2018, by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.
- The new landmark is double the height of Qutub Minar and has been delayed for over 14 years.
- The bridge will be thrown open for public today onwards and is expected to significantly reduce traffic in areas of north and northeast Delhi.

India, Malawi sign MoUs in Extradition Treaty, Atomic Energy and VISA Waiver

- India and Malawi have signed three MoUs on Extradition Treaty, cooperation in the field of Atomic Energy for peaceful purposes and VISA Waiver for Diplomatic and Official Passports.
- This was informed by Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, T S Tirumurti, at a press briefing about Vice President Venkaiah Naidu visit in Malawi today.

India, South Korea sign MoU to boost tourism

- Ministry of Tourism on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Tourism of South Korea for strengthening cooperation in the field of tourism in New Delhi.
- An official release said, the main objectives of the MoU are to expand bilateral cooperation and increase Exchange of information and data related to tourism.

FSSAI and Japan's health ministry ink MoU to cooperate on food safety

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), India's apex food safety regulator, and Japan's Food Safety Commission, its Consumer Affairs Agency and its Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to further cooperation between the agencies of the two nations in the area of food safety during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Japan.

INS Arihant: India's first indigenous nuclear-powered submarine completes Nuclear Triad

- The indigenous INS Arihant India's first nuclear-powered submarine successfully completed its first deterrence patrol. The ship submersible ballistic, nuclear (SSBN) submarine is part of Indian Navy's India's Eastern Naval Command.
- The name Arihant derives from two words – Ari meaning enemy and Hanth meaning destroy. The second SSBN under the project, INS Aridhaman, is undergoing sea trials.

Odisha Government launches Saura Jalnidhi scheme

- Odisha Government launched Saura Jalnidhi scheme to encourage use of solar energy in irrigation by farmers.
- Under this scheme, farmers will be given 90 percent subsidy and 5000 solar pumps.
- This will provide irrigation benefits in 2500 acres of the state.
- The beneficiary of this scheme will be farmers who have valid farmer identity cards and have minimum 0.5 acres of agricultural land.

Maharashtra Government approves conversion of aircraft carrier INS Viraat into floating museum

- Maharashtra State Cabinet approved conversion of Indian Navy's longest-serving aircraft carrier INS Viraat into India's first-ever maritime museum-cum-marine adventure centre.
- At present, INS Viraat is at Mumbai's Naval dockyard after it was decommissioned (retired) in 2017.
- As per state government's plan, INS Viraat's conversion will be on public private partnership (PPP) basis.

Mizoram Speaker Hiphei resigns

- Mizoram Speaker Hiphei resigned from his post from the House as well as the Congress.
- He would join the BJP, just three weeks ahead of the Assembly elections.
- The seven-time Congress legislator submitted his resignation letter to Deputy Speaker R. Lalrinawma who accepted it.

UP CM Yogi Adityanath renames Faizabad as Ayodhya

- After renaming Allahabad as Prayag Raj, UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday rechristened Faizabad as Ayodhya, in a move that experts said could potentially give the ruling BJP a further push ahead of Lok Sabha elections due next year. He also announced that the airport in Ayodhya would be named after Lord Ram.
- The announcement comes days after the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) demanded that Faizabad be named Sri-Ayodhya. Speaking on the eve of Diwali, Yogi said that no injustice can be done to Ayodhya, amid repeated chants of 'Yogi Ji Mandir Ka Nirman Karo'.

Manipur govt inks MoU to implement smart city project

- Manipur Government Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with IL&FS Township and Urban Assets Limited and Pricewaterhouse Coopers Pvt. Ltd. as a project management consultant for implementation of smart city project in Imphal at Chief Minister's Secretariat.
- The company will design, develop, manage and implement smart city projects under Smart City Mission in Imphal which is expected to be completed within three years.

India's nuclear submarine INS Arihant completes first 'deterrence patrol'

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 5, 2018 announced that India's first indigenous nuclear submarine INS Arihant has successfully completed its "first deterrence patrol".
- The development signifies that the underwater warship has completed its maiden long-range mission with "live" nuclear-tipped missiles. On the occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated all those involved in the process, especially the crew of INS Arihant for the great accomplishment.

Tourism Minister inaugurated Tourist Facilitation Counter at IGI airport

- Tourism Minister K J Alphons on November 5, 2018 inaugurated the Tourist Facilitation and Information Counter at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi.
- The facilitation counter is located at the terminal-3 arrival gates of the IGI Airport.
- The centre is aimed at helping the tourists who will visit the country. The counter will be connected to the 24x7 Helpline - 1363 of the Tourism Ministry.

HAL to roll out more Tejas fighters from new facility

- State-run aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) will roll out more Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas from its new production facility at Nashik in Maharashtra.
- The company is investing Rs 1,300-crore for the Tejas fighter production augmentation.
- The defence company has two production units in Bengaluru where the advanced fourth generation multi-role light fighters are built for the Indian Air Force (IAF) combat fleet.

'BhubaneswarMe Wi-Fi' launched

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on November 5, 2018 launched the 'BhubaneswarMe Wi-Fi' by Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited to make the city accessible across its major happening places.
- On the first day 100 hotspots located in major locations with 275 access points (APs) went live.
- One wi-fi hotspot would be able to handle 150 users at a given point of time and the Internet speed will be available at 2 mega bytes per second (MBPS).

BSNL launches alternate digital KYC process for new connections across circles

- State-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) has launched an alternate digital KYC process for issuing new connections across various circles, a top official has said.
- The telecom PSU has informed the Department of Telecom (DoT) about the new system which has been rolled out, Chairman and Managing Director Anupam Shrivastava told PTI.
- Earlier this week, large private telecom operators including Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel said they have begun rolling out 'alternate digital KYC (know your customer) process for new connections, which will replace Aadhaar-based electronic verification process.

India elected as Member of ITU Council for another 4-year term: Manoj Sinha

- India has been elected as a Member of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Council for another 4-year term (2019-2022), Union Communications Minister Manoj said on Tuesday.
- The elections to the Council were held during the ongoing ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 at Dubai, UAE.

Defence minister inducts 3 major artillery gun systems into Army

- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on November 9, 2018 inducted three major artillery gun systems, including the globally combat proven M777 A2 Ultra Light Howitzers, K-9 Vajra-Tracked Self Propelled Guns and 6x6 Field Artillery Tractors into the Army.
- The 155mm, 39 Calibre Ultra light Howitzers have been procured from the US under Government to Government Foreign Military Sales and will be assembled in India by BAE Systems in partnership with Mahindra Defence.
- The Gun System is versatile, light weight and can be heli-lifted, thereby providing the much needed flexibility in deployment in various terrains. The Howitzer is currently in service in the US, Canadian, Australian and some other armies of the world.

Bihar approves funds worth Rs 25000 for graduate girls

- The state cabinet of Bihar on November 8, 2018 approved a proposal to pay Rs 25000 to every girl graduating in 2018 and onwards.
- The decision was taken at the cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. As per the decision, the one-time payment will be made to every girl who graduated from the colleges of the state on or after April 25, 2018, irrespective of the pass division, community or region.

Cabinet approves setting up of Central Tribal University in Andhra Pradesh

- The Union Cabinet has approved setting up of a Central Tribal University in Andhra Pradesh.
- The "Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh" will be set up in Relli village of Vizianagaram District as provided under the Thirteenth Schedule to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.

India, Singapore bilateral naval exercise ' SIMBEX 2018' begins

- The 25th edition of SIMBEX, "Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise" is scheduled to be held from November 10- 21, 2018 in the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.
- The 2018 edition marks the silver jubilee of SIMBEX. To mark the historical occasion, the navies of both nations are undertaking exercises over an extended geography.
- The 2018 edition of the bilateral maritime exercise will be the largest edition since 1994 in terms of scale and complexity.

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates first India-built war memorial in France

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu Saturday inaugurated the first India-built war memorial in northern France to pay tribute to thousands of Indian soldiers who fought selflessly and made supreme sacrifices during the World War I.
- Naidu, who is on a three-day visit to Paris starting Friday, also interacted with French armed forces veterans and children at the inauguration of the Indian War Memorial at Villers Guislain.

CIMAP signs pact with RIFM to standardize fragrant oils

- The Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP) on Friday signed an agreement with US-based Research Institute for Fragrant Materials (RIFM) for improving the quality of fragrant oils, a spokesman of the institute said.
- The pact was signed by Anil Kumar Tripathi, Director CSIR-CIMAP and Jim Romane, President of the RIFM at the conclusion of the two-day annual conference of the International Fragrance Association in Paris.

ISRO to launch its GSAT-29 communication satellite on November 14

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is planning to launch its GSLV MkIII-D2 mission, carrying India's high throughput communication satellite GSAT-29, on November 14, subject to weather conditions.
- GSLV MkIII-D2 is the second developmental flight of Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mark III. In this flight, the vehicle will carry the 3,423 kg GSAT-29 satellite and place it in Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).

Goa government bans fish imports for 6 months

- The Goa government on November 10, 2018 announced a ban on import of fish into the state for six months.
- The move comes against the backdrop of a scare in the coastal state that formalin, a potential cancer-causing chemical, was being used to preserved fish.
- Goa Health Minister Vishwajit Rane announced the ban and said that its duration could be extended by another six months, if needed, till measures to check the quality of fish are in place in the state.

Army dedicates 2018 to welfare of Disabled Soldiers

- Army Chief Gen. Bipin Rawat said on November 12, 2018 that the Indian Army has dedicated the Year 2018 to the welfare of Disabled Soldiers who have been disabled in the line of duty, while serving the Nation.
- The Army Chief was speaking at a function organised by Indian Army to observe year 2018 as the Year of the Disabled Soldier, at Mammon Cantt in Pathankot.

India, Morocco sign Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters

- India and Morocco on November 12, 2018 signed an Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters in Delhi.
- The agreement was signed by Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State for Home on behalf of the Union Government and Mohamed Aujjar, Minister of Justice on behalf of the Moroccan Government.

Largest apparel manufacturing unit of Meghalaya becomes operational

- Meghalaya's largest apparel manufacturing unit near Ampati has started production after remaining idle for nearly two years.
- Located at Hatisil in South West Garo Hills and covering an area of 45,000 sq feet, the apparel factory was originally set up at a cost of Rs 14.26 crore by the Union Ministry of Textiles.

Three-day event of Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities concludes

- The three-day event of Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities- 2018 concluded in New Delhi today.
- This year 96 youth with disabilities from 18 countries including India, Indonesia, China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Philippines, UK and UAE participated in it.

Narendra Singh Tomar given charge of Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

- Rural Development Minister Narendra Singh Tomar will now hold the charge of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs following the demise of Union Minister Ananth Kumar.
- President Ram Nath Kovind has assigned the charge to Mr Tomar.
- While Minister for Statistics and Programme Implementation D V Sadanand Gowda has been given the charge of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, in addition to his existing portfolio.

HRD Ministry launches Leadership for Academicians Programme

- Minister of State for Human Resource Development Satya Pal Singh launched the Leadership for Academicians Programme, LEAP and Annual Refresher Programme In Teaching, ARPIT in New Delhi on Tuesday.
- Addressing the gathering, the Minister said that developing good teachers is an arduous task and if teachers show enough commitment, ARPIT will go a long way in empowering the teaching faculty.
- He said, committed teachers, will develop confidence and competence. He also added that combining the qualities of a good teacher and an effective leader is very difficult.

Government sets up National Data Repository

- The Union Government has set up a state of -the- art National Data Repository. The information was shared by Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan while speaking at the DG Carbons Roadshow programme in Abu Dhabi.
- The Minister said that the repository is a database of all the geo-scientific data of hydrocarbon resources in the country. He added that it is equipped with cutting-edge technology and will provide ready access to interested companies.
- With the introduction of the National Data Repository, India has joined the league of countries like UK and Norway which have a National Data Repository for the upstream sector.

Rs 75 commemorative coin to mark 75th anniversary of Tricolour hoisting by Bose

- The government Thursday decided to release a Rs 75 commemorative coin on the occasion of 75th anniversary of the hoisting of Tricolour for the first time by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at Port Blair.
- A notification has been issued by the Ministry of Finance in this regard.
- This coin will bear the portrait of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose saluting the flag on the background of cellular jail.

- The 35-gram coin will be composed of 50 per cent silver, 40 per cent copper and 5 per cent each of nickel and zinc.

Indian Navy - Indonesian Navy bilateral exercise ‘Samudra Shakti’ begins

- The inaugural edition of Indian Navy -Indonesian Navy Bilateral Exercise ‘Samudra Shakti’ began on November 12, 2018 at Surabaya, Indonesia. The exercise will conclude on November 18, 2018.
- The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Rana of the Eastern Fleet based at Visakhapatnam under the Eastern Naval Command arrived at the port of Surabaya to participate in the exercise.
- The exercise aims to strengthen bilateral relations, expand maritime co-operation, enhance interoperability and exchange best practices.

Government approves constitution of new boards of Governors for IIMs

- The Union Government on November 12, 2018 approved the process of constitution of new boards of Governors for 20 IIMs as per the IIM Act 2017.
- Speaking on the same, Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar said that the process of constitution of boards for the IIMs, which have been given full powers of running the institutions, is a major development which signals complete autonomy of quality institutions in higher education and will ensure a quality expansion of higher education.

India’s Department of Biotechnology, Wellcome Trust of UK complete 10 year of partnership

- The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under the Union Ministry of Science and Technology and the Wellcome Trust (WT) of the United Kingdom on November 12, 2018 celebrated 10 years of their joint partnership at an event in New Delhi.
- The DBT and Wellcome Trust jointly support a three-tier fellowship programme on biomedical research at post-doctoral level.
- While speaking on the occasion of 10 years of their joint partnership, President Ram Nath Kovind suggested four frontlines in the battle to safeguard planet, species and future.

India, Morocco sign agreement for assistance in legal and commercial matters

- India and Morocco on November 13, 2018 signed an agreement to further mutual legal assistance in Civil and Commercial Courts. The agreement will enhance co-operation in the service of summons, judicial documents, letters of request and the execution of judgments decrees and arbitral awards.
- The agreement was signed in the presence of Union Minister of Law and Justice and Electronics & IT, Ravi Shankar Prasad and his Moroccan Counterpart Mohammed Auajjar.

ISRO launches communication satellite GSAT-29

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on November 14, 2018 launched the communication satellite GSAT-29 aboard ISRO’s heavy-lift rocket GSLV Mark-III.
- The launch took place at 05.08 hours from the second launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. The countdown for the launch had begun at 2.50 pm on November 13. The GSLV Mark-III rocket weighs around 640 ton and has a height of 43.4 metres.
- With the launch, GSLV Mark-III will put India’s second high-throughput communication satellite GSAT-29 into its planned geostationary transfer orbit just over 16 minutes into its flight.

NITI Aayog, UNICEF launche UNICEF- Atal Tinkering Lab Hackthon

- NITI Aayog and UNICEF on November 14, 2018 launched the UNICEF- Atal Tinkering LabHackthon to encourage children towards making new innovations.
- The Hackthon is a 72-hour problem solving quest. The winners of the competition will be announced on November 20, 2018.
- Speaking on the occasion NITI Aayog vice chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar said, Atal Tinkering Labs and Atal Innovation Mission are a bridge between innovation and schools across the country, providing solutions to grassroot problems.

India, Russia conduct joint military exercise 'INDRA 2018'

- The joint military exercise between India and Russia, 'INDRA 2018' aimed at combating insurgency under the aegis of United Nations (UN) began on November 18, 2018 in India.
- The joint exercise is being conducted at Babina Field Firing Ranges, Babina Military Station in Uttar Pradesh.
- The training exercise that will span across eleven days will see participation from company-sized contingents of the 5th Army of the Russian Federation and a Mechanised Infantry Battalion of India including induction and de-induction of the Russian contingent.

Ministry of Renewable Energy prepares draft of Indian Wind Turbine Certification Scheme

- The Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), in consultation with National Institute of Wind Energy Chennai, has prepared a draft of a new scheme called Indian Wind Turbine Certification Scheme (IWTCS), which incorporates various guidelines of the Turbine Certification Scheme.
- The scheme is a consolidation of all relevant national and international standards, technical regulations and requirements issued by Central Electricity Authority (CEA), guidelines issued by MNRE and other international guidelines.

Delhi Air Pollution: NGT forms committee to check air quality during functions at hotels, banquets

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on November 13, 2018 formed a committee to stop activities that lead to degradation of the environment, taking note of pollution and traffic congestion during functions at banquet halls, farmhouses and hotels in Delhi.
- Delhi's air quality has been deteriorating rapidly and continues to be in the 'severe' category.
- The green panel formed a joint committee with representatives of municipal corporations, the Central Ground Water Authority, the Delhi Jal Board, the Delhi Police and the Delhi Pollution Control Committee.

IIT Madras signs MoU with Japanese firms to set up joint research cell

- The Indian Institute of Technology Madras or IIT Madras has said that it was going to establish a joint research cell in collaboration with two Japanese manufacturing firms.
- It signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Japan's alfaTKG Co. Ltd. and OKABE Manufacturing Co. Ltd. for collaborating in the core areas of the manufacturing sector including research and development (R&D).

Delhi Police launches e-learning portal 'NIPUN' for training its personnel

- Delhi Police launched e-learning portal 'NIPUN' to impart training and provide up to date information to police officers.

- The initiative is aimed at imparting in-service online training and information to police personnel through specialised courses available online.
- The online courses on NIPUN portal have been designed in collaboration with University Grant Commission (UGC), FICCI, NHRC, NCPCR and Janaki Devi Memorial College, Delhi University under project CLAP “The Collaborative Learning and Partnership”.

Department of Biotechnology, Cancer Research UK sign MoU for India-UK Cancer Research Initiative

- The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) of India and Cancer Research UK on November 14, 2018 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the India-UK India-UK Cancer Research Initiative.
- The India-UK Cancer Research Initiative is a collaborative 5-year bilateral research initiative by the Department of Biotechnology under Union Ministry of Science and Technology and Cancer Research UK (CRUK).
- The Initiative was launched at the Inaugural Researchers’ Summit, which was held in New Delhi from November 14 to November 16, 2018.

India, China hold 9th Annual Defence & Security Dialogue after one-year gap

- Top officials of India and China held the ninth Annual Defence and Security Dialogue here after a one-year gap due to the Doklam standoff, as both countries agreed to enhance military exchanges and interactions.
- The dialogue on November 13 was held between the two defence delegations headed by Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra and China's Deputy Chief of Joint Staff Department of the Central Military Commission.

Delhi Government to have 13 fitness testing centres for autos

- The State Transport Department proposed to decentralise the lone auto-rickshaw testing unit in Delhi.
- This comes after Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal pulled up officials for not having enough anti-corruption measures in place.

WCD Ministry approves 3 proposals under Nirbhaya Fund

The Empowered Committee of Officers under Nirbhaya Fund, under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Women and Child Development Ministry on November 16, 2018 approved the following three major proposals:

1. Law Ministry’s proposal to set up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) to dispose of pending cases of rape, and POCSO Act across the country. The project has a total financial implication of Rs 767.25 crores. In the First phase, 777 FTSCs may be set up in 9 states and in second phase 246 FTSCs will be set up.
2. The Proposal of Home Ministry for procurement of forensic kits for sexual assault cases to kick start usage of such kits in States/UTs through TOTs (Training of Trainers), capacity building/training for forensics in sexual assault cases and strengthening of State FSLs under Nirbhaya Fund with a total financial implication of Rs 107.19 crores.
3. The Proposal from Konkan Railway Corporation Limited for setting up video surveillance system at 50 Railway Stations with a total Project cost of Rs 17.64 crores that will be utilised for surveillance hardware and accessories, local connectivity equipment and power supply devices.

India’s first specialised hospital for elephants opens in Mathura

- India's first specialized hospital for elephants was on Friday formally opened by Agra Divisional Commissioner Anil Kumar at Farah block's Churmura village.
- The unique medical centre offers wireless digital X-ray, laser treatment, dental X-ray, thermal imaging, ultrasonography, hydrotherapy and quarantine facilities.
- Located close to the elephant conservation and care centre, the hospital is designed to treat injured, sick or geriatric elephants and is equipped with a medical hoist for lifting elephants, as also an elephant restraining device with a dedicated indoor treatment enclosure for long duration medical procedures.

ICF despatches DEMU coaches to Sri Lanka

- Integral Coach Factory on Monday despatched a set of 'Made in India' Diesel Electric Multiple Units (DEMU) – used for short and medium distance travel in non-electrified sections – to Sri Lanka.
- The first rake of 13-car DEMUs for the Sri Lanka Railways was handed over to senior officials of RITES Ltd at ICF and will be shipped to the island nation from the Chennai port in a few days.

Government to refund employers for seven weeks of maternity leave given to employees

- The Union Women and Child Development Ministry announced on November 15, 2018 that the government will refund the employers the salaries for the first seven of the 26 weeks of maternity leave for women earning more than Rs 15,000 a month.
- The Ministry's decision came in the wake of complaints that many companies were reluctant to hire pregnant women after maternity leave was extended from 12 to 26 weeks and some were even firing women employees.

Rural Jharkhand declared ODF

- The rural Jharkhand was declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) on November 15, 2018 during a regional review meeting of the eastern states held in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- The workshop comprised discussions on sustaining Open Defecation Free (ODF) status, Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM), and rural water supply. It saw participation from teams belonging to West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar and Odisha.

Commerce Minister launches AirSewa 2.0 to make air travel hassle-free

- Union Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu and Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Jayant Sinha on November 19, 2018 launched the upgraded version of AirSewa 2.0 web portal and mobile app in New Delhi.
- Speaking on the occasion, the Civil Aviation Minister said that a need was felt for development of an upgraded version of AirSewa to provide a superior user experience with enhanced functionalities.
- The major improvements in the upgraded version of the web portal include features such as secure sign-up and log-in with social media, chatbot for travellers support, improved grievance management including social media grievances.

India's Statue of Unity visible from space: Commercial satellite network 'Planet'

- Commercial satellite network 'Planet' on November 17, 2018 revealed that India's Statue of Unity, the world's tallest statue, is visible from the space. The network Planet photographed the statue from the space on November 15.

- The memorial was inaugurated on October 31, 2018 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Kevadia in Gujarat's Narmada district to honour India's first Deputy Prime Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his 143rd birth anniversary.

MoS for Health flags off Organothon to support, pledge for organ donation

- An Organothon, to support and pledge for organ donation, was flagged off at Connaught place in New Delhi on November 18, 2018 by Minister of State for Health Ashwini Kumar Choubey.
- Speaking on the occasion, Choubey said, organ donation gives a chance of life to others and is like living after death.

Delhi Government forms committee to revise auto fares

- The Delhi Government has formed a committee to revise auto fares, in an attempt to woo autorickshaw drivers ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.
- The 11-member fare revision committee chaired by Special Commissioner (Transport) Anil Banka will submit its report to the government in 30 days. The auto fares were last revised by the Sheila Dikshit government in 2013.

Cyber "war room" to be set up BIT in Sathyamangalam

- Lucideus Technologies, an IT Risk Assessment and Digital Security Services provider is setting up a "cyber war room" at Bannari Amman Institute of Technology in Erode district, for grooming students to combat increasing cyber crime.
- The "war room", claimed to be the first such in India, would be launched by the next academic year.

Google begins rolling out 'Neighbourly' Q&A app across Indian cities

- Tech giant Google will roll out its 'Neighbourly' app, which aims to help people source local information from their neighbours, across India starting today.
- In May, Google had launched the beta version of the app in Mumbai and later expanded to Jaipur. In September, it expanded the availability of the app to five more Indian cities, including Ahmedabad, Coimbatore and Mysore.

Bengal to come out with interactive app for restaurants

- The West Bengal Tourism Department has decided to launch an interactive mobile app next month, listing all the good restaurants in Kolkata and other places across the State.
- The move comes as tourists visit the Department website for locating restaurants.
- The restaurants already listed on the Department's website will find a place in the app.
- More restaurants will be added gradually.

Govt asks Twitter to ensure 24x7 mechanism for prompt removal of objectionable content

- The Union Government has asked the social media platform, Twitter to ensure 24x7 mechanism for prompt removal of objectionable content from their platform as per requirement of law enforcement agencies.
- According to an official release, Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba had held a meeting with Twitter officials in New Delhi for effective action against objectionable content.

Patients save around Rs 15,000 cr under govt's initiative of ensuring 'Affordable, Quality Medicines for All'

- Patients across the country have saved around Rs 15,000 crore under government's initiative of ensuring 'Affordable, Quality Medicines for All'.
- The Union Chemicals and Fertilisers Ministry has taken the step of fixation of ceiling prices and Maximum Retail Prices of essential and lifesaving drugs. This has resulted in patients saving over Rs 5,000 crore since then.
- This is in addition to approximately 10 lakh heart patients saving around Rs 8,000 crore since fixation of ceiling prices of coronary stents.
- Around 1.5 lakh knee patients saved around Rs 2,000 crore since price fixation of knee implants.

Sikkim increases forest cover by over 4 per cent since 1993: CM

- A plethora of initiatives for preserving biodiversity in Sikkim such as spreading mass awareness and adopting an eco-friendly policy has led to an increase of its forest cover by over four percent since 1993, as per the state's Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling.
- The green cover in the tiny north-eastern state has risen to 47.62 per cent in 2017 from 43.95 per cent in 1993.
- The state is "very committed" about conserving biodiversity by spreading mass awareness and necessary legislation.

Gujarat launches intensive project to conserve Gir lions

- Gujarat government on November 20, 2018 launched a Rs 351-crore project for the conservation of the Gir lions. The project is launched in the backdrop of the Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) outbreak that claimed 23 Asiatic lions lives in their only dwelling Gir National park in Saurashtra.
- This intensive project will also include an emergency ambulance van akin to the 108 emergency services.

WB passes bill to give land rights to enclave dwellers

- To end an era of undecided future for the people residing West Bengal (WB) enclaves, the WB Assembly unanimously passed a bill to provide land rights to enclave dwellers in north Bengal.
- The bill was moved by Minister of State for Land and Land Reforms Chandrima Bhattacharya, the West Bengal Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill, 2018, was passed in the House unopposed.
- The WB Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee termed it as a "historic Bill" that would help the enclave dwellers to get full-fledged status as citizens of India, along with all civic amenities and citizenship rights.

Reliance Jio launches India's first VoLTE international roaming

- Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. (Jio) on Wednesday announced the launch of VoLTE-based inbound international roaming between India and Japan.
- With this, Jio has become India's first 4G mobile operator to provide VoLTE-based international roaming services in India, whereby international roammers will be enjoying HD voice and LTE high-speed data.

HRD Minister launches 'Institution's Innovation Council' programme

- The Union HRD Minister, Prakash Javadekar launched the Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) programme under Innovation cell of the Ministry of Human Resource Development through video conferencing in New Delhi on November 21, 2018.

- The HRD Ministry has established an 'Innovation cell' at AICTE to systematically foster the culture of Innovation in all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the country. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that it is a significant step in institutionalising innovation and developing a scientific temperament in the country.

President Kovind unveils the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Parramatta in Sydney

- President Ram Nath Kovind on November 22, 2018 unveiled the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Parramatta in Sydney, Australia.
- A large number of people from the Indian community were present on the occasion to welcome the Indian President. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison was also present on this occasion.

Cabinet approves setting up of Medical College at Silvassa

- The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of Medical College at Silvassa in the Union Territory (UT) of Dadra and Nagar Haveli.
- The medical college is expected to be set up at a capital cost of Rs 189 crore to be incurred in two years, 2018-19 – Rs 114 crore and 2019-20 – Rs 75 crore with yearly intake of 150 students.

Cabinet approves continuation of nine sub schemes under umbrella scheme 'ACROSS'

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved continuation of the nine sub-schemes of the umbrella scheme "Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS)" during 2017-2020 at an estimated cost of Rs 1450 crore.
- It will be implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences through its institutes namely India Meteorological Department (IMD), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Service (INCOIS).

Allied and Healthcare Council of India to be set up: Cabinet approval

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 22, 2018 approved the Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill, 2018 for regulation and standardisation of education and services by allied and healthcare professionals.
- The Bill provides for setting up of an Allied and Healthcare Council of India and corresponding state allied and healthcare councils, which will play the role of a standard-setter and facilitator for professions of allied and healthcare.
- The bill provides for the establishment of central and corresponding state allied and healthcare councils and 15 major professional categories including 53 professions in allied and healthcare streams.

WCD Ministry links 'SHe-Box' to central, state ministries for speedy disposal of cases

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has linked the sexual harassment complaints portal 'She-Box' with all the Central Ministries, Departments and 653 districts across 33 states and union territories.
- SHe-Box is an online portal, which has been created by the WCD Ministry to report complaints of sexual harassment at the workplace.

- With the linkage of the SHe-Box with central and state governments, once a case is reported on the portal, it will go directly to the concerned central and state authority having jurisdiction to take action in the matter, in order to enable prompt disposal of complaints.

80-feet Buddha statue planned in Gujarat

- After the 182-meter tall 'Statue of Unity' of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Gujarat may get a gigantic Buddha statue.
- Sanghakaya Foundation, a non-profit Buddhist organisation, said on November 22, 2018 that it has demanded land from the government for installing an 80-feet high statue of Lord Buddha in Gandhinagar district.
- It has roped in Ram Sutar, the sculptor behind the Statue of Unity, for the project.

India-UAE Strategic Conclave to be held in Abu Dhabi

- The second edition of the India-UAE Strategic Conclave will be held in the capital city of Abu Dhabi on November 27, 2018.
- The day-long conclave will initiate a dialogue to widen the scope of bilateral investments.

IMD develops new technology to monitor impact of rain & deal with natural disasters

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has developed a new technology to assess the rise of water level in rivers and reservoirs by rain.
- The technology, called 'Impact Based Forecasting Approach', which shows pre-event scenario, can help state governments to minutely monitor the impact of rain and take real-time decisions.

U.P. to build 221-metre Ram statue on the banks of Saryu

- BJP government in Uttar Pradesh has cleared a 221-metre-tall statue of Lord Ram, to come up on the banks of the Saryu in the temple town.
- While the government did not reveal the details of cost, funding, or exact location, it announced the expected size of the statue, which seems to outdo the 182-metre Sardar Patel statue in Gujarat.
- The Lord Ram statue would consist of a 151-metre statue, a 20-metre umbrella overhead, and a 50-metre pedestal; the total being 221 metre, a government spokesperson said.

United Nations selects Noida to participate in Global Sustainable Cities 2025 plan

- The United Nations Sunday selected Uttar Pradesh's Noida and Greater Noida to participate in its Global Sustainable Cities 2025 initiative, officials said.
- The twin-cities in Gautam Buddh Nagar district, adjoining the national capital, have been selected in the "University City" category ahead of Mumbai and Bengaluru as the only invitee from India, a senior UN official said.

UP Govt launches Women empowerment resolution campaign

- Uttar Pradesh Government launched the Women Empowerment Resolution Campaign to develop abilities in women for leadership and rights on November 20, 2018.
- The campaign was launched by the incumbent Chief Minister Yogi Aditya Nath.
- The Women Empowerment Resolution Campaign will help to ensure the women empowerment in the state

Uttarakhand cabinet ratifies renaming Jolly Grant airport after Vajpayee

- The Uttarakhand cabinet has ratified a proposal to rename the Jolly Grant airport in the state capital after late prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, an official said on Sunday.
- The proposal will now be sent to the Airports Authority of India and the Union Civil Aviation Ministry for approval.
- Built by the Birla industrial group in the early 80s, the Jolly Grant airport is now used to operate several flights everyday.

Delhi government launches portal for spotting location of cluster buses

- Delhi bus commuters will now be able to spot locations of cluster buses at intervals of 10 seconds with the help of open transit data (OTD) which will be shared on a dedicated portal launched by the Delhi government Friday.
- Delhi becomes the first city in the country to open up transit data of city buses, that will provide static and real time data through the website — www.otd.delhi.gov.in — including geo-coordinates of bus stops, route maps, timetables, and real time GPS feeds of bus locations every 10 seconds, said a government statement.

WCD Ministry empanels 223 Institutes to conduct awareness programmes on Sexual Harassment at Workplace

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has empanelled institutions and organisations to conduct awareness exercises on the provisions of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, in order to ensure security of women at all workplaces.
- Around 223 institutes and organisations have been empanelled from across the country to impart training in local languages as of November 2018.
- The empanelled institutes will be required to submit quarterly reports through SHe-Box, an online complaints portal, of all the training programmes and workshops conducted by them under the SH Act.

Venkaiah Naidu lays down foundation stone of Dera Baba Nanak - Kartarpur Sahib Corridor

- The Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on November 26, 2018 laid the foundation stone for the construction of Dera Baba Nanak - Kartarpur Sahib Road Corridor at a function in Mann village in Gurdaspur district of Punjab.
- The foundation stone was laid in the presence of Union Minister for Road Transport Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Food Processing Harsimrat Kaur Badal, and Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amrinder Singh.

Bihar CM unveils 70 ft tall Lord Buddha's statue in Rajgir

- Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar unveiled a 70-feet tall statue of Lord Buddha at Rajgir in Nalanda district on November 25, 2018.
- It is the second tallest statue of Buddha in the country. It was unveiled in the presence of Mahabodhi temple's chief monk Bhante Chalinda amid the chanting of hymns.

AAI cancels Air Odisha's UDAN license for poor performance

- The Airport Authority of India has served a termination clause to Air Odisha for failing to operate 70 per cent of its scheduled flights over the last three months, as per the Director of Biju Patnaik International Airport (Bhubaneswar) Suresh Chandra Hota on Friday.
- Last month, the Civil Aviation Ministry had issued a show cause notice to the airline operator.

World-class township for autistic children, adults to be built in Kolkata

- The India Autism Centre (IAC), a world-class autism township is being planned to be built near Kolkata, where children and adults suffering from the developmental disorder would receive training, treatment and boarding facilities.
- The one-of-its-kind initiative is a joint effort between a private firm and the state government. It is expected to come up over a 52-acre plot at Sirakol in South 24 Parganas in the next five years.

Kerala Water Resources minister Mathew Thomas resigns

- Kerala Water Resources Minister Mathew T Thomas, a nominee of the Janata Dal (Secular) in the CPI (M)-led LDF government, submitted his resignation to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on November 26, 2018.
- The move comes after the JD(S), a key partner in the LDF, decided to replace Thomas with Chittur MLA K Krishnankutty.

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.

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

- Andaman & Nicobar Islands are to 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Uttarakhand CM Rawat launches India's first hi-tech State Data Centre

- Chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat on Monday launched the "country's first hi-tech" State Data Centre (SDC) stating online data repository of all departments would help check leakages of funds besides speeding up delivery and generating employment for local youth.
- Amit Sinha, director ITDA, said the three-tier State Data Centre was developed by Information Technology Development Agency.
- He dubbed the SDC as the first such centre in the country with 100% software based on the Hyper Converged Infrastructure technology.

UGC to set up a consortium for approved journals

- University Grants Commission, UGC has decided to set up a Consortium of Academic and Research Ethics (CARE) which will prepare a fresh list of credible quality journals in the non-science disciplines.
- The commission said the percentage of research articles published in poor quality journals is reported to be high in India which has adversely affected its image. CARE will be headed by the UGC Vice Chairman.
- Members of CARE will prepare lists of quality journals in their respective disciplines within a defined timeframe. These lists will be critically analysed and curated for quality by a special cell at the entrusted institution using defined criteria. Reference List of Quality Journals' will be maintained by the CARE and this will be used for all academic purposes.

PM to inaugurate International conference on maternal, newborn and child health

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate a two-day international conference on Maternal, newborn and child health in New Delhi on December 12, 2018.

- The heads of state from 16 countries and about 1200 participants from across the world are expected to attend the fourth Partners' forum.

WCD Minister inaugurates sports meet for children living in child-care institutions

- The Minister for Women and Child Development, Maneka Gandhi on November 28, 2018 inaugurated a sports meet for children living in child-care institutions at JLN stadium in New Delhi.
- The event was organised as a part of the National Festival for Children of Child Care Institutions, Hauz Khas 2018. It saw participation from the contingents of 18 states with over 600 children.

BPRD to organise 2nd National Conference of Heads of Investigating Agencies

- The 2nd National Conference of Heads of Investigating Agencies will be organised by the Bureau of Police Research and Development in New Delhi on November 29, 2018.
- The two-day Conference will deliberate on various legal aspects, procedures and use of technology in investigation to improve its quality and secure effective prosecution.

Southern Railway to introduce weekend premier train services between Coonoor and Mettupalayam in Udhagamandalam

- The Southern Railway has decided to introduce weekend premier train services between Coonoor and Mettupalayam in Udhagamandalam (Ooty), which is a part of the world-renowned Nilgiri Mountain Railway that has been awarded the Heritage Railway Status by United Nations.
- The premier trains will run from Mettupalayam, on the foothills of the Western Ghats on all Saturdays from December 8, 2018, while the return trip will run on all the Sundays.

Government launches 'Bhasha Sangam' to introduce school students to 22 Indian languages

- The government launched a unique initiative called Bhasha Sangam to introduce school students to 22 Indian languages.
- The initiative, under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, was launched on November 22 and will continue till December 21, 2018.
- Bhasha Sangam is a programme for schools and educational institutions to provide multilingual exposure to students in Indian languages.

Delhi Commuters using Common mobility card will get 10% discount on DTC buses

- Delhi Commuters using common mobility card in DTC buses will be given a 10 percent discount in fares from November 30.
- DTC will provide 10 percent discount in fares on usage of "Delhi Metro Card/Common Mobility Card" for purchasing tickets.

Himachal Pradesh becomes first state to launch Single Emergency Number '112'

- Himachal Pradesh on November 28, 2018 became the first Indian state to launch a single emergency number '112' which will connect to police, fire, health and other helplines through an Emergency Response Centre (ERC) in the state.
- The emergency number was launched by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh under the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS).
- For this purpose, state established an ERC in Shimla along with 12 District Command Centres (DCCs) covering the entire state.

- The ERC has been integrated with police (100), fire (101), health (108) and women helpline (1090) services to provide emergency services via single emergency number 112.

India's first indigenous film festival to be hosted in Odisha

- India's first international indigenous film festival will take place in February next year in Odisha.
- An initiative of activist film collective Video Republic, that has been campaigning for indigenous communities in the State, the three-stop event will kick off in Bhubaneswar on February 19 and 20, moving on to Puri from February 21 to 23 to eventually culminate in an interaction with the adivasi communities at Niyamgiri.

IAF, US air force to conduct joint exercise 'Cope India 2019'

- The air forces of the United States and India are scheduled to participate in a 12-day-long joint exercise 'Cope India 2019' at two air force stations in West Bengal in December 2018.
- The exercise will be held from December 3-14 at Air Station Kalaikunda and Air Station Arjan Singh in Panagarh airbase. It showcases efforts and commitment of the two nations to build a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

DAIC, JNU sign MoU to enhance research activities for sustainable development

- Dr Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC) and the Jawaharlal Nehru University on November 30, 2018 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate and enhance research activities and policy formulation aimed at socio-economic transformation and sustainable development.
- The MoU was signed by Prof M Jagadesh Kumar, Vice Chancellor of JNU and Atul Dev Sarmah, Director of DAIC.

NITI Aayog organises dialogue on health system for New India

- The Indian Government's policy think tank, NITI Aayog organised a conference on "Health Systems for A New India: Building Blocks" on November 30, 2018.
- The event is a part of a series of Development Dialogues that NITI Aayog aims to organise to engage experts, thought leaders and government stakeholders across key avenues of long-term social and economic development.

Jharkhand to provide free mobile phones to 28 lakh farmers, says CM

- Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das on November 29, 2018 announced that the government will provide free mobile phones to 28 lakh farmers and a separate electric feeder for them for agriculture purpose by 2019/2021.
- The information was shared by the Chief Minister while speaking at the inaugural function of the two-day Agriculture and Food Summit in Ranchi. The CM said that a separate electric feeder would be set up by May 2019 for farmers for agriculture purpose, providing them six hours of uninterrupted electricity.