



ELITES GRID PRESENTS

**SEPTEMBER**

**Current Affairs FILE**

SEPT • Current Affairs • Important

## SEPTEMBER – CURRENT AFFAIRS

- **International Affairs**

### **1. G-20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting Held in Argentina**

Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu participated in G-20 trade and investment ministerial meeting at Mar del Plata in Argentina. Issues including increasing protectionism challenges to promote global commerce and the new industrial revolution were discussed at the meeting. The members of the G-20 include Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union.

### **2. Nepal to become world's first country to double its tiger population**

Nepal is set to become the first country in the world to double its tiger population as part of the World Wildlife Foundation's (WWF) 'Tx2' programme which aims to double the number of tigers all over the world. The government of Nepal announced on September 23, 2018, on the occasion of National Conservation Day, that there are now an estimated 235 wild tigers in the nation, nearly double the number (235) from around 121 in 2009. The earlier tiger survey in 2013 had estimated the tiger population in the nation to be around 198.

### **3. Argentina Gets Biggest Loan in IMF's History At \$57 billion**

Argentina has received \$57.1 billion from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the biggest loan package ever from the global body aimed at boosting the country's struggling economy. The loan, \$15 billion of which has already been received by Argentina, will be disbursed over the next three years. Argentina had originally secured a \$50-billion loan in June this year.

### **4. Germany Launches World's 1st Hydrogen-Powered Train**

Germany has rolled out the world's first hydrogen-powered train, signalling the start of a push to challenge the might of polluting diesel trains with costlier but more eco-friendly technology. The two Coradia iLint trains were built by French train-maker firm Alstom. It started operating on a 100 km (62-mile) route between Cuxhaven, Bremerhaven, Bremervoerde and Buxtehude in northern Germany.

### **5. 4th BIMSTEC Summit Concludes**

The 4th BIMSTEC Summit has been successfully concluded in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. The Prime Minister of Nepal K.P. Sharma Oli presented draft Kathmandu declaration which was unanimously adopted by the all member states. Sri Lanka has become the new chair of the BIMSTEC.

### **6. UN Declared Nelson Mandela Decade Of Peace 2019-2028**

Unanimously adopting a political declaration at the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit, nearly 100 Heads of State and Government, Ministers, Member States and representatives of civil society committed to redoubling efforts to build a just, peaceful, prosperous, inclusive and fair world, as they paid tribute to the late South African President's (1994-99) celebrated qualities and service to humanity. Recognizing the period from 2019 to 2028 as the Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace, the Declaration saluted Mr Mandela for his humility, forgiveness and compassion, acknowledging as well his contribution to the struggle for democracy and the promotion of a culture of peace throughout the world.

#### **7. Facebook to build first Asian data centre in Singapore**

Facebook has announced it will pour in more than \$1.4 billion to construct its first data centre in Asia in Singapore. The new facility, located at Tanjong Kling (formerly known as Data Centre Park) in the west of Singapore, will span 170,000 sq m and will support hundreds of jobs.

#### **8. Finland Topped In 'Human Capital' Score, India Ranked 158th**

India ranks 158th in the world for its investments in education and health care, according to the first-ever scientific study ranking countries for their levels of human capital. The nation is placed behind Sudan (ranked 157th) and ahead of Namibia (ranked 159th) in the list. The study, published in journal The Lancet, says that India is ranked at 158 out of 195 countries, an improvement from its position of 162 in 1990. The U.S. is ranked 27th, while China is at 44th and Pakistan at 164th.

#### **9. Walmart to invest Rs.180 crore in India to improve farmers livelihood**

Walmart Foundation announced that it is to invest Rs.180 crore in India over the next five years to improve farmers' livelihood. The funds would be used to support farmer organisations to develop knowledge of sustainable farming practices, share business best practices and add value to primary agricultural commodities. The money will also be used to improve access to finance and markets. Walmart India would grow its direct sourcing from farmers to 25% of the products sold in its Cash & Carry stores over the same period.

#### **10. Opening ceremony: INDO-MONGOLIA joint exercise Nomadic Elephant-2018**

Indo-Mongolia joint exercise Nomadic Elephant-2018, commenced at Mongolian Armed Forces (MAF) Five Hills Training Area, Ullanbaatar, Mongolia with a brief but impressive opening ceremony.

- **National Affairs**

#### **11. Homosexuality not A Crime In India Anymore: SC Abolishes Section 377**

The Supreme Court abolished Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the 1862 law which criminalised homosexuality. The Delhi High Court had decriminalised homosexuality in 2009, but the decision was overturned by the Supreme Court in 2013. According to Section 377, consensual sexual acts are also considered unnatural and are punishable.

**Military Ties:** According to US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo, both sides should continue to ensure freedom of the seas and work towards peaceful resolutions of territorial and maritime disputes, seen as an oblique reference to China's expansionist behaviour in the South China Sea.

**Nuclear Deal:** A raft of other important issues like US sanctions on import of Iranian crude oil and India's plan to buy a batch of S - 400 air defence missile systems from Russia were discussed. In May, the US withdrew from the landmark Iran nuclear deal and re-imposed the sanctions that had been suspended in return for curbs on Tehran's nuclear programme.

#### **12. PM Modi inaugurates new airport in Odisha's Jharsuguda**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated a new airport at Jharsuguda, which will attract investors to the mineral-rich area. The Jharsuguda Airport has been developed by the Airports Authority of India in collaboration with Odisha government at an estimated cost of Rs 210 crore, with Rs 75 crore contributions from the state. The airport has been developed under the Centre's UDAN scheme.

#### **13. PM Jan Dhan Yojana To Be Open-Ended Scheme With More Incentives**

The Government has decided to make the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) an open-ended scheme and added more incentives to encourage people to open bank accounts. The Finance Minister Arun Jaitley stated that the overdraft facility has been doubled from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000 under the Yojana. The age limit for availing overdraft facility under it has also been revised to 18 to 65 years from the earlier 18 to 60 years. The accidental insurance cover for new RuPay Cardholders has been raised from Rs. one lakh to Rs. two lakh. PMJDY was launched in August 2014. The first phase of the PMJDY scheme focused on opening basic bank accounts and RuPay debit card with inbuilt accident insurance cover of Rs. one lakh.

#### **14. India-US Hold Maiden 2+2 Talks In New Delhi**

India and the US held the first edition of the two-plus-two talks in New Delhi. The meeting was aimed at further strengthening bilateral defence and security collaboration as well as boosting their global strategic partnership, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman held talks with US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo and Defence Secretary James Mattis.

#### **15. India-US 2+2 Dialogue: India-US Sign COMCASA**

India and US have signed the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) that will facilitate India to obtain critical defence technologies from the US, and access critical communication network to ensure interoperability among the US and the Indian armed forces.

#### **16. Assam observed September 22 as Rhino Day**

The Assam government observed September 22 as Rhino Day to generate public awareness on protection of the one-horned pachyderm.

#### **17. PM Modi launches world's largest healthcare scheme**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana from Ranchi, Jharkhand. Under this scheme, over 10 crore families will be provided health assurance worth five lakh rupees each, every year. This is the world's largest government-funded healthcare program targeting more than 50 crore beneficiaries. The scheme will provide cashless and paperless access to services for the beneficiary at the point of service.

#### **18. Varun Dhawan, Anushka Sharma Signed As Ambassadors of Skill India Campaign**

Actors Varun Dhawan and Anushka Sharma have been signed on to promote and endorse the Skill India Mission, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The actors through their film are saluting India's entrepreneurs and skilled workforce, especially homegrown artisans, craftspeople and weavers.

#### **19. Jharkhand's railway station, town to be renamed after Lord Krishna**

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has cleared the Jharkhand government's proposal to rename a railway station in Garhwa district after Lord Krishna.

#### **20. Adultery No Longer A Criminal Offence, SC Strikes Down Section 497 of IPC**

A five-judge Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice Dipak Misra scrapped the pre-Independence provision of adultery in the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which treats a married woman as a commodity owned by her husband. Section 497 (adultery) gives a husband the exclusive right to prosecute his wife's lover. If found guilty, the adulterer faces five years behind bars. A similar right is not conferred on a wife to prosecute the woman with whom her husband has committed adultery. Secondly, the provision does not confer any right on the wife to prosecute her husband for adultery.

#### **21. India to generate 100 GW solar energy by 2022**

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu said that demand for energy will increase due to rapid development taking place in India and fossil fuel is not going to last forever and therefore there is need for renewable energy

## **22. DAC approves procurement of one thousand engines for T-72 tanks**

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has approved procurement of 1,000 engines for fitment in T-72 tanks of the Army at an approximate cost of over 2,300 crore rupees. According to the Defence Ministry, the engines will enhance mobility, agility and acceleration of T-72 tanks making them more versatile and effective in the battlefield. Post-transfer of technology, most of these engines will be manufactured by Ordnance Factories Board. The DAC has also approved several amendments to Defence Procurement Procedure 2016, the manual governing the defence procurements.

## **23. Suresh Prabhu Launches Technology Initiatives for Coffee Stakeholders**

Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu launched Coffee Connect - India coffee field force app and Coffee KrishiTharanga - digital mobile extension services for coffee stakeholders at a function.

## **24. Health Ministry partners with Dell and Tata Trusts**

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, here today exchanged the MoUs with the Tata Trusts and Dell to provide a technological platform for nationwide prevention, control, screening and management program of Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

## **25. PM Modi Inaugurated Sikkim's First Airport In Pakyong**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Pakyong Airport in Sikkim on September 24, nine years after the foundation stone was laid. The airport is the hilly state's first and only airport. Currently, the nearest airport for the people of Sikkim is 124 kilometre (km) away in Bagdogra, West Bengal. The airport is spread over 201 acres. The foundation stone for the greenfield airport was laid in Pakyong in 2009, which is around 33 km from Gangtok, the state capital. The airport is located around 60 km from the Indo-China border. It is constructed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). The project cost Rs 553 crore.

## **26. Successful Flight Test of Prahar**

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested the indigenously developed surface-to-surface tactical missile 'Prahar', from Launch Complex-III, ITR, Balasore.

## **27. India Sri Lanka Naval Exercise Slinex-18**

Indian Naval Ships Kirch, Sumitra and Cora Divh entered Trincomalee, Sri Lanka to participate in the sixth edition of SLINEX 2018, a bi-lateral Naval Exercise between India and Sri Lanka, from 07 to 13 September 2018.

**28. Uttarakhand ranked best among states in PMGSY**

Uttarakhand has been ranked the best among states in the country for the construction of maximum number of roads under the PMGSY during 2017-2018.

- **BUSINESS AFFAIRS**

**29. GDP Growth Soars To 8.2% In 1st Quarter Of Current Fiscal**

Indian economy grew by 8.2% in the first quarter (April-June) of the current fiscal, the highest in over two years. This announcement was made by Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley. The manufacturing sector grew by 13.5% which signals very good turnaround in the sector.

**30. Centre Proposes To Merge Bank of Baroda, Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank**

The government has proposed amalgamation of Bank of Baroda, Vijaya Bank, and Dena Bank to create India's 3rd largest globally competitive Bank.

**31. Fitch raises India growth forecast to 7.8% this fiscal**

Global research agency Fitch has raised India's growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7.8 per cent from the earlier 7.4 per cent. However, forecast for the next two fiscal, 2019-20 and 2020- 21, have been shaved by 20 basis points (100 basis points means 1 per cent) to 7.3 per cent.

**32. Tata steel to acquire Usha Martin**

Tata Steel has decided to acquire Usha Martin company, one- million-tonne steel business, for Rs.4,700 crore. This acquisition would lift the company's volume of long products by 24% and expand its product mix.

**33. Monetary Limit For Filing Cases In DRT Doubled To Rs 20 Lakh**

The government of India has doubled the monetary limit to 20 lakh rupees for filing loan recovery application in the Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRT) by banks and financial institutions. As per the Finance Ministry, the move is aimed at helping reduce pendency of cases in DRTs. There are 39 DRTs in the country. To make the tribunals more effective and to facilitate fast disposal of debt recovery cases, the government has made several amendments in different laws, including the SARFAESI Act. The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 (also known as the SARFAESI Act) is an Indian law. It allows banks and other financial institution to auction residential or commercial properties to recover loans.

**34. India Ranks 3rd on Family-Owned Business List: CSRI Report**

India ranks third globally in terms of number of family-owned businesses with 111 companies having a total market capitalisation of \$839 billion. India closely follows China with 159 firms and the US with 121 firms, according to the 'Credit Suisse Family 1000 in 2018' study, published by the Credit Suisse Research Institute (CSRI).

**35. Time Magazine Acquired By Salesforce Founders For \$190 million**



Salesforce.com Inc. founder Marc Benioff and his wife Lynne agreed to acquire Time magazine from Meredith Corp. for \$190 million in cash, joining Jeff Bezos among tech billionaires buying venerable print publications. The move thrusts the brash 53-year-old entrepreneur, who helped lead the shift of software to an on-demand model, into a new role: media baron. TIME magazine publisher Time Inc was sold to Meredith for \$1.8 billion in January 2018.

### **36. Infosys Acquires Finnish Company 'Fluido' For Rs 545 crore**

Infosys has acquired Finnish company Fluido, a top consulting partner of Salesforce, for 65 million euros (about Rs 545 crore). This is Infosys's second acquisition under CEO Salil Parekh. Recently, it had acquired US digital creative and consumer insight agency WongDoody for \$75 million.

### **37. Prime Minister Launches India Post Payments Bank**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a payments bank of the Department of Posts that will take banking to the doorstep of every citizen through an unmatched network of post offices and almost 3 lakh postmen and 'Grameen Dak Sewaks'. The India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) will be like any other banks but its operations will be on a smaller scale without involving any credit risk. It will carry out most banking operations like accepting deposits but won't advance loans or issue credit cards. The payments bank will accept deposits of up to Rs 1 lakh, offer remittance services, mobile payments/transfers/purchases and other banking services like ATM/debit cards, net banking and third-party fund transfers. The IPPB would be available through 650 branches and 3,250 access points. Suresh Kumar Sethi is the Managing Director & CEO of IPPB.

### **38. RBI slaps Rs 1 cr fine each on UBI, BoI, Maharashtra Bank**

The Reserve Bank in three separate releases said it has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore each on the three banks of Union Bank of India (UBI), Bank of India and Bank of Maharashtra. The penalty has been imposed taking into account delay on the part of the bank to detect and report fraud in an account, it said.

### **39. FDI in Telecom Sector Jumped Five Times In Three Years**

FDI in the telecom sector has jumped nearly five times in the last three years – from USD 1.3 Billion in 2015-16 to USD 6.2 Billion in 2017-18. According to Union Minister of Communications Shri Manoj Sinha, the draft National Digital Communications Policy, 2018 aims to attract investment of USD 100 billion or about Rs.6.5 lakh crore in the Digital Communications Sector.

### **40. RBI Bars Bandhan Bank From Opening New Branches**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) barred Bandhan Bank from opening new branches and also ordered freezing of the bank's CEO salary over failure to stick to shareholding rules. The Bank was not able to bring down the shareholding of Non-Operative Financial Holding Company (NOFHC) to 40% as required under the licensing condition, general permission to open new branches stands withdrawn. As per the bank's website, it has 937 branches in parts of the country. The Bandhan, a MFI, was given conditional approval by the RBI for setting up universal bank in April 2014.

The bank operational in 2015. Headquartered in Kolkata, Bandhan, which started as a micro-finance company in 2001, received banking licence by Reserve Bank of India in 2014.

#### **41. PM to launch India Post Payments Bank**

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, will launch the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi on September 1st, 2018.

#### **42. India loses "Asia's best stock market" tag to New Zealand**

India has lost its tag as Asia's best-performing stock market this year to New Zealand. Indian equity benchmark Sensex is up 7.6% since the beginning of this year, compared with the 11% gain in the New Zealand Exchange 50 Gross Index.

- **SPORTS**

#### **43. Amit Panghal Wins Gold In Boxing**

India's 22-year-old boxer Amit Panghal defeated 2016 Olympic champion Hasanboy Dusmatov (Uzbekistan) in the men's 49 kg final to bag gold at the Asian Games 2018. Amit was the only Indian boxer who made it to a final at the quadrennial event.

#### **44. Pranab, Shibnath Wins India's 1st Ever Bridge Gold**

India's 60-year-old Pranab Bardhan and 56-year-old Shibnath Sarkar won the men's pair bridge event to bag the country's first-ever gold in bridge at the Asian Games. The card game has been featured as a sport at the Asian Games for the first time, in the 2018 edition. China won silver in this event.

#### **45. India Finishes With Biggest Ever Medal Tally of 69**

The 18th Asian Games came to a close, with India achieving its best-ever medal haul of 69 and equaling its best gold medal haul of 15 after 67 years. Boxer Amit Panghal stunned the Olympic Champion Hasanboy Dusmatov in the men's 49 Kilogram category to win India's only boxing gold.

#### **46. Alastair Cook Announces International Retirement**

England's highest Test run-scorer Alastair Cook announced his retirement from International cricket after final Test against India. He has scored 12,254 runs and made 32 centuries in 160 Tests all England records. He is sixth on the all-time list of Test run-scorers and has made a record 11,627 runs as an opener. He became the first Englishman to reach 10,000 Test runs in 2016.

#### **47. Anjum, Apurvi Becomes 1st Set of Indian Shooters To Secure Quota Places For 2020 Olympics**

Anjum Moudgil and Apurvi Chandela have become the first set of Indian shooters to secure quota places for the 2020 Olympics. Anjum finished second on the podium and won a silver in the women's 10m air rifle event of the International Shooting Sports Federation's (ISSF) World Championship in Changwon, South Korea. Apurvi finished fourth in the same event.

#### **48. Luka Modric Wins 'UEFA Men's Player of The Year Award'**

Real Madrid midfielder Luka Modric has been named UEFA Men's Player of the Year for 2017/18. Modric beat off competition from former Madrid team-mate Cristiano Ronaldo and Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah. The Croatian international received the trophy on stage in Monaco during the UEFA Champions League group stage draw. He was also named UEFA Champions League Midfielder of the Season.

#### **49. Naomi Osaka Beats Serena Williams To Win U.S Open**

Naomi Osaka became the first Japanese woman to win a Grand Slam title after she registered an emphatic win over Serena Williams in the finals of the U.S Open. Osaka got off to an aggressive start in the first set, breaking the six-time U.S Open champion twice.

#### **50. Novak Djokovic Wins Men's Title In US Open Tennis**

In the US Open Tennis, Novak Djokovic of Serbia won the Men's singles final. He defeated Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina in straight sets. It was Djokovic's 14th Grand Slam title and the third US Open title. He is now just three Slams behind Rafael Nadal and six back from the record 20 held by Roger Federer.

#### **51. Croatia's Luka Modric Won FIFA's Best Player Of The Year Award**

Luka Modric broke a decade of award dominance by Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi after being crowned world footballer of the year by FIFA. Modric beat out Liverpool's Egyptian forward Mohamed Salah and Ronaldo. Modric was voted FIFA's best player in the 2017-18 season after winning the Champions League for a fourth time in five seasons with Real Madrid and leading Croatia to its first World Cup final where it lost to France. Messi and Ronaldo were the only winners of world soccer's main individual award from FIFA in various guises since 2008, both winning five titles each.

#### **52. India Defeats Bangladesh To Win 7th Asia Cup Title**

India has defeated Bangladesh to win the Unimoni Asia Cup Title 2018. This was the second successive Asia Cup final where India took on Bangladesh. In 2016, India had decimated Bangladesh in the final (of the Asia Cup T20). Overall, this was India's seventh Asia Cup triumph. Liton Das was the Player of the Match and Shikhar Dhawan was declared as the Player of the Series.

#### **Sports Awards - 2018**

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award

1. Ms. S Mirabai Chanu - Weightlifting
2. Virat Kohli – Cricket

- **APPOINTMENTS**

**53. Mark Read Appointed WPP CEO In Place of Martin Sorrell**

WPP Plc, the world's largest communication services group, announced the appointment of Mark Read as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Executive Director (ED) to the company's board with immediate effect. He has replaced Martin Sorrell.

**54. Arif Alvi Elected Pakistan's New President**

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) candidate Arif-ur-Rehman Alvi was elected as the 13th President of Pakistan, the result data from the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) confirmed. A total of 430 votes were cast in the National Assembly and the Senate, with Alvi bagging 212 of them. President-elect Alvi will succeed outgoing President Mamnoon Hussain and assume office on September

**55. Indian Boxer Mary Kom Signed As Brand Ambassador By BSNL**

State-run telecom firm Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) roped in Indian boxer MC Mary Kom as its brand ambassador for two years. BSNL will run television commercials, print advertisements and tariff plan endorsement with Kom.

**56. Axis Bank Appoints HDFC's Amitabh Chaudhary as MD & CEO**

Axis Bank announced that Amitabh Chaudhary has been appointed as its managing director & CEO from January 1, 2019, for a period of three years. Mr. Chaudhary, the MD & CEO of HDFC Standard Life Insurance Company at present, will take the charge at India's third largest private sector bank after incumbent Shikha Sharma steps down on December 31, 2018.

**57. Hima Das Appointed Sports Ambassador of Assam**

India's ace sprinter Hima Das was appointed as Sports Ambassador of Assam to inspire budding players of north-eastern state to aim big and young generation to take up sports seriously. The announcement came after Hima Das recently became the first Indian woman to win gold at IAAF World U-20 Athletics Championships.

**58. Justice Ranjan Gogoi Appointed Next Chief Justice Of India**

The President of India has appointed Justice Ranjan Gogoi as the next Chief Justice of India. He will assume the office of Chief Justice on 3rd October 2018 after the retirement of the Chief Justice, Justice Dipak Misra. Mr Gogoi is the 46th Chief Justice of India.

**59. Government Appoints New MD & CEOs At 10 PSBs**

Here is the list of people appointed as MD and CEO at various

**PSBs:**

Padmaja Chundru - Indian Bank.

Mrutyunjay Mahapatra - Syndicate Bank.

Pallav Mohapatra - Central Bank of India.

Packirisamy - Andhra Bank.

Karnam Sekar - Dena Bank.

SS Mallikarajuna Rao - Allahabad Bank - He is currently the ED of Syndicate Bank.

AS Rajeev - Bank of Maharashtra - He is currently the ED of Indian Bank.

Atul Kumar Goel - UCO Bank - He is currently the ED at Union Bank of India.

S Harisankar - Punjab & Sind Bank. He is currently the Executive Director of Allahabad Bank.

Ashok Kumar Pradhan - United Bank of India - He is currently the ED of United Bank of India.

**60. Google appoints Keith Enright as its Chief Privacy Officer**

Technology giant Google has appointed its privacy lawyer, Keith Enright, as Chief Privacy Officer as the company proposed policies for potential federal regulation of data.

- **AWARDS**

**61. Aishwarya Rai Bachchan Receives Meryl Streep Award for Excellence**

Actress Aishwarya Rai was honoured with the Meryl Streep Award for Excellence at the Women in Film and Television (WIFT) India Award. The ceremony was established to honour the best female talent in Bollywood and Hollywood.

**62. Anushka Sharma Receives Smita Patil Award**

Union Transport Minister felicitated Bollywood actor Anushka Sharma during the 34th anniversary of Priyadarshni Academy Global Award, in Mumbai. She received the Smita Patil award for best actor.

**63. 'Village Rockstars' Is India's Official Entry To Oscars 2019**

Rima Das' National Award-winning feature Village Rockstars has been chosen to represent India in the Best Foreign Language category at the 91st Academy Awards next year, the Film Federation of India (FFI) announced.

**64. PM Modi Got UN's Highest Environmental Honour**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been awarded with the UN's highest environmental honour, also given to five other individuals and organisations, for his leadership of the International Solar Alliance and pledge to eliminate single use plastic by 2022. Cochin International Airport was given the award for its leadership in the use of sustainable energy. Six of the world's most outstanding environmental change makers have been recognised with the Champions of the Earth Award. French President Emmanuel Macron and Mr. Modi have been jointly recognised in the Policy Leadership category for their pioneering work in championing the International Solar Alliance.

**65. Tourism Minister K J Alphons Presents National Tourism Awards 2016-17**

Tourism Minister K J Alphons presented National Tourism Awards 2016-17 in New Delhi. Andhra Pradesh bagged the first prize in state category for comprehensive development of tourism. Kerala bagged the second prize for comprehensive development of tourism. The Tourism sector has generated 14.62 million jobs in the country in the last four years.

- **IMPORTANT DAYS**

**i. International Literacy Day: 08 September 2018**

Theme: Literacy and Skills Development

**ii. International Day of Democracy: 15 September 2018**

Theme: Democracy under Strain: Solutions for a Changing World

**iii. International Day for Preservation of Ozone Layer: 16 September 2018**

Theme: Keep Cool and Carry On

**iv. World Tourism Day: 27 September 2018**

Theme: Tourism and Digital Transformation

**v. World Maritime Day: 27 September 2018**

Theme: IMO 70: Our Heritage – Better Shipping for a Better Future