The World Food Day (WFD) is held annually on 16th October by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN (United Nations). It is celebrated to remember the creation of FAO.

➤ Theme: “Our Actions are our Future Healthy Diets for a Zero Hunger World”

The greater Chennai Corporation’s smart parking system is ready for launch this month. It will facilitate automated parking of vehicles in 4375 slots in 80 locations across the city.

➤ The app “GCC Smart Parking” can be downloaded from Google Play store.
➤ Booking followed by Digital Payment.

Union Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey unveiled plans to set up 14 Authorized World Skills India Training Centres across 9 cities in country for media and entertainment sector.

➤ The new institutes will be set up for advanced skill training of candidates in media and entertainment sector and to further develop skilling eco-system for training candidates for international market.
➤ Nine Cities are – Chandigarh, New Delhi, Chennai, Trivandrum, Indore, Pune, Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Shillong.

Indian Railways has launched 10 ‘Sewa Service’ trains, in a bid to improve last-mile connectivity. These Sewa Service trains will connect small towns with their closest major cities and ease the hassle of travelling for daily passengers. These trains will also help divert short distance traffic from roads to the railways.

➤ The railways introduced Sewa Service trains to ensure congestion free roads and faster ease of movement for public.

The 10 ‘Sewa service’ Trains are-

➤ Vadnagar to Mahesana DEMU train- It will be operational 6 days a week, and it will have commercial stoppages at all stations enroute.

➤ Asarva (Ahmedabad) to Himmatnagar DEMU- It will run 6 days a week, and it will have commercial stoppages at all stations enroute.
➢ **Karur to Salem DEMU**- It will run 6 days a week (except for Sundays). The train will have commercial stoppage at Mohanur, Vangal, Namakkal, Puduchtram, Rasipuram, Mallur and Kalangani.

➢ **Murkongselek to Dibrugarh passenger train**- It will be operational on all days, and it will have commercial stoppages at all stations enroute.

➢ **Yesvantpur to Tumkur DEMU**- It will run on all days (except Sundays) and will have commercial stoppages at all stations enroute.

➢ **Delhi to Shamli daily passenger train**- It will have commercial stoppages at Delhi Shahdara, Khekra, Noli, Baraut, Qasimpur Kheri, Kandhla and Baghpat Road.

➢ **Bhubaneswar to Nayagarh Town Express**- It will have stoppages at Bhubaneswar, Khurda Town, Khurda Road Jn, Rajsunakhala, Begunia, Nayagarh Town and Bolagarh Road.

➢ **Kota to Jhalawar City Passenger train** - It will have halts at Dakaniya Tala, Dadhdevi, Alniya, Dara, Kanwalpura, Ravtha Road, Ramganj Mandi Jn, Julmi and Morak.

➢ **Palani to Coimbatore Passenger train**- It will have halts at Pushpattur, Udu malaiipetti, Madattukulam, Pollachi Jn, Gomangalam, Podanur and Kinattukkadavu.

➢ **Coimbatore to Pollachi Passenger train**- It will run daily (except for Sundays) and will have stoppages at Kinattukkadavu and Podanur.

- **World Economic Outlook** is a biennial report that is released in April and October. According to the report released recently on October 15, 2019, the global economy is at its slowest pace of growth at 3%. This is a serious climb down from 3.8% in 2017
  ➢ The Global growth rate is projected to improve to 3.4% by 2020.
- **The Indian Air Force** will be carrying out a joint military exercise called ‘Shinyuu Mai tri’ with **Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF)** from 17 to 23 October 2019. The jo
int exercise will be held at Air Force Station, Arjan Singh in Panagarh town, West Bengal.

- **Objective:** To undertake Joint Mobility and Tactical interoperability among two forces.

- The **Reusable Launch Vehicle Program** was launched by **ISRO in 2016**. It aims to cut down the launch cost by reusing the spacecraft. So far, the RLV (Reusable Launch Vehicle) has been tested over water. **For the first time, ISRO will test in land.** The RLV will function as a space shuttle that will carry a payload to space and glide back to the earth. While returning, it is to land like a normal aircraft. The landing of the RLV is to be tested at **Challakere in Chitradurga district in Karnataka**.

- **The Global Hunger Index (GHI)** is jointly published by Concern worldwide and Welthungerhilfe. The score of the index is calculated by the **International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)**. It measures and tracks hunger at regional, national and global levels. The 2019 Global Hunger Index measures hunger of 117 countries. **India was ranked 102nd** and was **the lowest ranked** among ranked among South Asian countries. The rest were ranked 66, 94, etc. Especially, India was far behind as compared to the BRICS nations.

- **The GOAL (Going Online As Leaders) program** aims to inspire, guide and encourage tribal girls across India to become village level digital leaders for their community. The program was **launched by Facebook** to empower women by providing digital literacy, leadership, life skills and entrepreneurship skills. In order to become a beneficiary of the program the girls should be above 18 years of age and should have dropped out of school. Also, it is important that the girl is of tribal origin. The Union Minister of Tribal Affairs recently announced the second phase of the program. The first phase of the program was **launched in March 2019**.

- **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)**, India’s nodal national agency responsible for administering Central Excise, Service Tax, Customs, GST, &Narcotics has
launched a revamped and streamlined programme to attract investments into India and strengthen Make in India through manufacture and other operations. The programme is launched under bond scheme of Customs Act, 1962 as this section enables conduct of manufacture and other operations in a customs bonded warehouse.

- The 48th Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair (IHGF) organized by the Ministry of Textiles began in Greater Noida on October 16, 2019. More than 3,200 Indian exhibitors are participating in the fair. Around 110 overseas buyers from 110 countries are participating in the event as well.


  ➢ Theme: “Acting together to Empower Children, their families and Communities to END POVERTY”

- The Culture Department of Uttar Pradesh government is going to organise the country’s first training and performance programme of world famous KHON (खोन) Ramlila.

  ➢ KHON Ramlila of Thailand is included in the list of UNESCO’s Intangible cultural heritage and it’s a form of masked dance depicting the scenes of Ramlila.

  ➢ It has no dialogues and background voices narrate the whole story of Ramanjan.

  ➢ KHON Ramlila’s performance is also a visual delight famous for its beautiful attire and golden masks.

- To mark World Food Day, on October 16, 2019, the Health and Family Welfare Ministry launched the Food Safety Mitra Scheme.

  ➢ Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the ‘Food Safety Mitra (FSM)’ scheme, along with the ‘Eat Right Jacket’, and ‘Eat Right
- **The London Zoo** has used plants to power camera traps and sensors in the wild. This they achieved by installing microbial fuel cells in Pete, a fern.
  - They are devices that use bacteria as the catalysts to oxidize organic and inorganic matter and generate current.
  - Electrons produced by the bacteria are transferred to the negative terminal and flow to the positive terminal.
  - Plants naturally deposit biomaterial as they grow which in turn feeds the natural bacteria present in the soil.
  - This creates energy that can be harnessed by fuel cells and used to power a wide range of vital conservation tools remotely, including sensors, monitoring platforms and camera traps.

- **The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying**, operating under Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying released **20th Livestock Census**.
  - According to the census, total Livestock population has increased by 4.6% as compared to the previous census. The previous census was conducted in 2014.

- **The second edition of Indo-French Knowledge Summit** is being held from **17-18 October 2019 at University of Lyon in France**. The summit is dedicated to higher education, research and innovation.
  - The two-day summit is being organised by **Embassy of France in India** in association with **Union Ministry of Science and Technology and Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry**.

- **The National Council of Educational Research and Training** is planning to revise the 14-year-old National Curriculum Framework in accordance with a new National Education Policy. The Council will set up a new committee to frame the curriculum.
Curriculum Framework has been revised four times so far in 1975, 1988, 2000 and 2005. The proposed revision is the fifth framework. The Council is in the process of taking survey on the primary education available across the country. Shillong, Bhopal, Rajasthan, Mysore blocks have been identified for the preliminary survey.

- **The Indian Army** has begun to digitize its official records under its new programme called “OASIS”-Officers Automated Structures Information System. Under the programme, the records of the army officers are to be digitized. The software is to be hosted in the Army’s intranet.

  - Sajjan Jindal, Chairman and Managing Director, JSW Steel has been appointed as the Vice-Chairman of World Steel Association (Worldsteel). He is appointed for a period of one year.

- **Chennai becomes first in India to get an intelligent flood warning system** which will enable officials to get area wise inundation details during the monsoon.

  - The technology called CFLOWS is India’s first integrated coastal flood warning system, in forecasting flooding in a particular located area.
  
  - Explaining how CFLOWS works, NCCR director M V Ramamurthy said it is a Web GIS based decision support system, integrating data and output, derived from weather forecast.

- **On October 29, 2019**, the Prime Minister Modi is to attend the third session of Future Investment Initiative Forum in Saudi Arabia. The PM will deliver a keynote address at the forum.

- **Government of India** has accorded ‘Maharatna’ status to public sector undertaking’s (PSU’s) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Power Grid Corporation. Additional financial autonomy.

- **Indian tourists** will now be exempted from visas to enter Brazil for Tourism or business purposes. The exemption is also available for Chinese tourists. Both India and China are part of BRICS, an association of 5 major emerging national economies.

- **On October 24, 2019**, the member states of United Nations endorsed proposed a roadmap for action on nitrogen challenges called Colombo Declaration on Sustainable Nitrogen Management.
➢ It was organized by Sri Lanka with the support of UN and its member nations. A two-day event was conducted to frame the declaration.

❖ United Nations Founded: 24 October 1945
❖ United Nations Headquarters: New York

- **The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** is to observe **Vigilance Awareness Week** between 28th October, 2019 to 2nd November, 2019. The directions for the observance will be issued by the **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)**.
  ➢ Every year last week of October is observed as Vigilance Awareness Week.

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi appointed **Sukhbir Singh Sandhu** as the **Chairman of the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI)**.
  ➢ Sandhu is a 1988 batch IAS officer from the Uttarakhand Cadre.

- Economist and author **Bibek Debroy** have come out with English translations of two Hindu mythological texts **"Markendya Purana"** and **"The Bhagavad Gita"**, publishers Penguin announced.
  ➢ The book is a special bilingual edition of the foundational text on **"dharma"** and the Hindu philosophy.

- **Disarmament Week** is an annual event that is observed from **24 October to 30 October** in various parts of the world. The observance revolves around raising public awareness of the dangers of the arms race and the need for international disarmament.
  ➢ An important focus of this week is trying to convince nations to only keep the weapons they need for an adequate police force.

- According to the **System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR)** the overall air quality of the national capital is in the higher end of **'very poor'** category today.

  ➢ "Although the air quality is predicted to be touching **SEVERE** levels in the peak hours on October 28, the peak level of particulate matter (PM) 2.5 is likely to be lowest," said SAFAR.
An AQI between 0-50 is considered "good", 51-100 "satisfactory", 101-200 "moderate", 201-300 "poor", 301-400 "very poor", and 401-500 "severe".

Above 500 is "severe-plus emergency" category.

- **Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** started crediting interest to its six crore subscribers spread throughout India, provident fund account holders warned against a fraud.
  - The EPFO officials and seek personal details like Aadhaar card number, PAN card number, or even UAN (Universal Account Number), its password, or an OTP to siphon off money from your EPF account. The EPFO asked subscribers not to share these details with anyone over phone or email, as this could lead to fraud.

- **The ASI (Archaeological Survey of India)** recently discovered that the present-day state of Andhra Pradesh had a maritime center near the banks of Swarnamukhi river around 2,000 years ago.

**Highlights**

- The excavations were performed at the state’s Gottiprolu that began in December, 2018.
- The ASI unearthed brick-built structures in varied shapes. The sizes of the bricks were common in the Satavahana/Ikshvaku period of the Krishna valley.
- Also, the team unearthed four armed sculptures of Lord Vishnu. The sculpture belongs to Pallava period according to the analysis of headgear and drapery.
- Also, a series of broken terracotta pipes were found. This suggests that the period had a good system of drainage.
- So far, the ASI has excavated about 10% of the site in the first round. The second round is set to begin in November or December, 2019.
• **The Government of India** in its major boost towards cash less digital economy launched the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) channel.** The transactions through the channel has **reached One Billion** in the month of October.

**Highlights**

- The milestone has been achieved after three years of launch of technology backed payments solution. The system was built by **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**
- The platform is one of the fastest growing initiatives of GoI and also the fastest adoption among all other payment systems anywhere in the world.
- The system is to be taken to the global market. The plan is to be executed by NPCI. The team will first launch UPI in Singapore and then in UAE.

• **Indo-French Joint Exercise Shakti 2019.** The joint military exercise of **India and French troops** is to be held between **31st October 2019 and 13th November 2019.** It is a biennial exercise conducted alternately in India and France. The exercise is to be conducted at the Foreign Training Node at **Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan.**

• Scientists have accidentally discovered ‘**the footprints a monstrous galaxy**’ being called as ‘**Cosmic Yeti**’ in early universe that has never been seen before. The discovery provides new insights into the first growing steps of some of biggest galaxies in universe. The astronomical findings were published in Astrophysical Journal.

• **On October 26, 2019,** in the city of Ayodhya **4 lakh earthen lamps** were lit along the banks of **Sarayu river.** The event was organized by the **Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath.** It was the **third and largest Deepotsav in Ayodhya** after he came to power. Last year around 3 lakh lamps were lit.

• **A 28-member delegation from European Union met PM Modi on October 28, 2019.** The delegation will visit Kashmir on October 29, 2019. The delegation is to check on the reality of the situation in Kashmir.
➢ This is the first trip to the region by a foreign delegation after India revoked Article 370 and integrated Kashmir with the rest of the country. India rejected US’s plea to visit the region earlier in October.


➢ The European Union is a political and economic union of 28 member states that are located primarily in Europe.

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** has approved issuance of two Open General Export Licences (OGELs) for export of certain parts and components as well as intra-company transfer of technology to select countries.

  ➢ This decision is expected to give a boost to defence exports and enhance ease of doing business (EDB).

- India has approached the world body **ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization)** after Pakistan denied permission for PM Modi to use its air space. The overflight clearances are granted by other countries according to ICAO guidelines.

  ➢ Related Keys - In September 2019, Pakistan rejected India’s plea to allow PM Modi’s flight to use its air space. Pakistan also refused to allow President Ram Nath Kovind to use its airspace in the same month for his visit to Iceland.

- **International Internet Day** is celebrated worldwide, every year on **29th of October**. Since the year 2005 the International Internet Day has been famously celebrated to commemorate a momentous day in the history of telecommunications and technology.

- **The state government of Odisha** has signed a **Letter of Understanding (LoU)** with **UNICEF (United Nations Children’s Fund)** to provide safe drinking water to every household in the state. The LoU was signed by state housing and urban development department (HUDD) to provide 24-hour safe drinking water. The project has been named as ‘Drink from Tap Mission’.

- The ongoing frenetic of the North-East Monsoon in the Peninsular India were supported by the same factors that propelled the South-West monsoon. The Indian monsoon of 2019 saw a **neutral Pacific** (neither El Nino nor La Nina), a positive **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)** and a positive **Equatorial Indian Ocean Oscillation (EQUINOO)**.
El Nino

➢ The variation in sea surface temperature drives the Indian Ocean and the Pacific phenomena and thereby Indian Monsoon.

➢ The El Nino is a phenomenon in the equatorial Pacific where the temperature rises over a threshold of 0.5 degree Celsius. During El Nino the Equatorial East Pacific warms up relative to the west and has adverse impact on Indian monsoon.

➢ The monsoon winds and rains are strong during La Nina and weak during El Nino. La Nina years bring heavy rains and El Nino years are dry.

➢ Between 1950 and 2012, there were 16 La Nina years with monsoon rains ending up above or around average every time. Also, there were 14 other occasions. The 2002 was the driest monsoons in all these years when El Nino occurred.

➢ The weak El Nino in the Pacific Ocean this year is one of the reasons for rainfall deficit in the month of June.

IOD

In a positive IOD, the western basin of the Indian Ocean warms up creating a low pressure. This raises warm air clouds to set up storms and heavy rains in the South and South East Asia. A positive IOD aids in Indian monsoon. 2019 Monsoon witnessed a positive IOD

EQUINOD

The positive EQUINOD translates more or less positive IOD. The Positive EQUINOD aids in North East Monsoon. 2019 monsoon witnessed a positive EQUINOD.

• **The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)** has conducted a Whole Genome Sequencing of around 1,008 Indians from different populations across country in order to generate data on genetic diseases and to know risk of genetic diseases in future generations. The project is called as **IndiGen Genome project.**

• **In April 2019**, the IndiGen initiative was undertaken by CSIR. It was implemented by CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), New Delhi and CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad.
➢ The outcome of project will have applications in a number of areas such as predictive and preventive medicine with faster and efficient diagnosis of rare genetic diseases.

- In the state of **Himachal Pradesh**, around **2,209 panchayats** were brought under natural farming under **Prakritik Kheti Khushshal Kissan Yojana**. The State is promoting **Organic and Zero Budget Natural Farming** under the scheme.

- **The Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat Parv** is to be inaugurated by Union Human Resource Development Minister **Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank**. It is organized by **Kendra Vidhyalaya Sangathan** under Ministry of HRD.

  ➢ The event is organized to showcase the spirit of **“Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat”**. It promotes communication and artistic skills of students through various competitions.

  ➢ The students will prepare their own projects and exhibits on customs, dress, agriculture, economy, climate and topography. This will act as a good platform for the children to understand the art and culture of the states.

- **Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde** (**aged 63**) was appointed as **47th Chief Justice of India** (CJI).

- **The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit** was held in **Baku, Azerbaijan** between **October 25 and October 26, 2019**.

- **Sri Lanka** has been removed from ‘Grey List’ of **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** following the new measures taken by the country on financial security.

  ➢ The word ‘Grey List’ identified by FATF refers to a jurisdiction with strategic **Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism** (AML/CFT) deficiencies.

  ➢ Grey list

  ➢ Black List

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** unveiled a book titled **‘Bridgital Nation: Solving Technology’s People Problem’** in New Delhi on **20 October 2019**. He presented books’ first copy to eminent industrialist and philanthropist **Ratan Tata**. The book has been
authored by N Chandrasekaran, Chairman, Tata Sons and Roopa Purushothaman.

- The book ‘Bridgital Nation’ presents a powerful vision of future where technology and human beings co-exist in a mutually beneficial ecosystem. It stresses that instead of accepting technology as replacement of human labour, India can use it as an aid to generate more jobs. The cutting edge digital tools can act as bridge between aspirations and achievements – hence the term ‘bridgital’.

- **The 1st edition of Asia Health – 2019 conference** with the **theme Serving the World’s Fastest Growing Region through Healthcare Convergence**, organized jointly by the National Health Authority and CII (Confederation of Indian Industry) held in New Delhi from 16 – 19 October 2019 with the aim to bring multiple stakeholders together to discuss the future of Health.
  - § CII Formation : 1895
  - § CII Headquarters: New Delhi
  - § CII President : Vikram Kirloskar

- **India** will host the **91st International Criminal Police organization (Interpol) General Assembly in 2022**.
  - The proposal was made by **Union Home Minister Amit Shah to the Interpol Secretary General Jurgen Stock during a meeting in New Delhi during Mr. Stock’s official visit in August 2019**.
  - **Interpol Motto** : Connecting police for a safer world.
  - **Interpol Established** : 1923 (As International Criminal Police Commission)
  - **Interpol Renamed as Interpol** : 1956
  - **Interpol Headquarters**: Lyon, France

- **On October 18, 2019**, The Ministry of Finance notified that banks will not levy charges or **merchant discount rate (MDR)** on digital payments to the customers or merchants of the businesses with an annual turnover of more than Rs.50 crore from 1 November, 2019.
➢ This move is to encourage digital payments and they will have to mandatorily offer electronic mode of payments to their customers from the said date.

**Key points:**

i. In this regard, amendments have been made in the Income Tax Act 1961 an in the Payment and Settlement Systems Act 2007.

ii. The circular was issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

- **On October 18, 2019.** The United States (US) Space agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s (NASA) astronauts Christina Koch (40) & Jessica Meir (42) have created history by taking a walk outside the International Space Station (ISS).
  ➢ This is the 1st time that only a team of women astronauts has walked outside the ISS.
  ➢ NASA formed : July 29, 1958
  ➢ NASA Headquarters : Washington, D.C., United States
  ➢ NASA Motto: For the Benefit of All

- **On October 18, 2019** the chairman of State Bank of India (SBI) Shri Rajnish Kumar was appointed as the new chairman of Indian Bank’s Association (IBA).
  ➢ He succeeds Sunil Mehta, the former Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Punjab National Bank (PNB)
  ➢ IBA formed – 26 September 1946
  ➢ IBA Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- India has highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of ‘Sab Ka Saath – Sab Ka Vikas – Sab Ka Vishwas’ for inclusive health along with scheme — Ayushman Bharat, at the on-going two-day G20 Okayama Health Ministers’ Conference in Japan.
  ➢ Ayushman Bharath Launched on 23 September 2018.
  ➢ Ayushman Bharath Launched by Pm Modi.
  ➢ Ayushman Bharath CEO - Indu Bhushan.
India observes **Police Commemoration Day or National Police day on 21 October** every year. On this day in 1959, 10 police personnel were killed in a Chinese attack and the commemoration day is observed to mark the incident.

- Last year, on this day, the National Police Memorial in New Delhi was dedicated to the nation by PM Modi.

**United Nations World Food Programme** (WFP) has launched its cinema ad campaign “**Feed Our Future**” against hunger and malnutrition in India. It has been launched by WFP in collaboration with **UFO Moviez – India’s largest in-cinema advertising platform and SAWA - the Global Cinema Advertising Association**.

- **World Food Programme Formation** - 19 December 1961
- **World Food Programme Headquarters** - Rome, Italy

**On October 21, 2019**, the Assam Cabinet decided that no Government jobs will be provided to persons with more than 2 children after 1 January 2021. In September 2017, the Assam government had passed the “**Population and Women Empowerment Policy of Assam**”.

**The oldest known natural pearl** in the world has been discovered by **Abu Dhabi archaeologists working at a Neolithic site on Marawah Island**. Dubbed the „Abu Dhabi Pearl”, it was found in layers that have been radiocarbon dated to 5,800-5,600 BCE.

- The Emirates News Agency said that the discovery is a proof that pearls and oysters were being used in the UAE nearly 8,000 years ago, and represents the earliest known evidence for pearling yet discovered anywhere in the world.

**Indian Railways** has installed the **most advanced Electronic Interlocking System** on the Grand Chord route, one of the busiest section of railways. This most advanced and safer Electronic Interlocking System was **installed at Tundla Junction in Uttar Pradesh** by railways as part of upgradation process.

- Indian Railways established on **8 May 1845**
➢ Railway Minister of India Piyush Goyal

- The Union Cabinet on October 24, 2019 approved the proposal for Agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation between India and USA. The countries will share scientific and technical information and experts.
  ➢ The agreement would enable cooperation between the countries in training the scientists and experts according to the requirements.

- World Development Information Day is celebrated on 24th October Every year.
  This day is observed to draw the attention of the world to development problems and the need to strengthen international cooperation to solve them.

- National Cyber Security Coordinator’s office in partnership with Data Security Council of India (DSCI) launched a platform called ‘TechSagar’.
  ➢ It is a platform to discover consolidated and comprehensive repository of India’s cyber technological capabilities through a portal.
  ➢ Data Security Council of India Founded: August 2008
  ➢ Data Security Council of India Headquarters: Noida

- The Chinese scientists are constructing a huge cosmic ray observation station that is equivalent to 200 soccer fields in Sichuan province.
  ➢ The observatory is located 4,400 meters above sea level.
  ➢ Around 12 telescopes are to be erected to conduct high-precision measurements of cosmic rays

- Google has officially announced that it has achieved quantum supremacy with its advanced processor that was able to surpass the world's most powerful supercomputer.
  ➢ Google says that its 54-bit Sycamore processor was able to perform a calculation in 200 seconds that would have taken the world's most powerful supercomputer 10,000 years.
  ➢ Google Founded on 4 September 1998
  ➢ Google CEO - Sundar Pichai

- India was ranked 63rd in World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business ranking released on October 24, 2019. The ranking comes when the leading financing institutions including RBI, World Bank and IMF are slashing country’s growth forecasts. In 2014, India was ranked 142 among 190 countries.
➢ World Bank’s Founded on 1944
➢ World Bank’s Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
• Uttar Pradesh government launched its flagship scheme Kanya Sumangla Yojna. The scheme will provide an amount of 15 thousand rupees in a phased manner to every family in which a girl child takes birth.
  ➢ The scheme has been designed in a way that parents have to take care of the girl child’s health and education to get the benefit.
• A Memorandum of Understanding has been drafted by India, Nepal and Bhutan to create a trans-boundary wildlife conservation park. The park will include biodiversity rich landscapes.
  ➢ The initiative was started by India keeping in view the migratory wildlife species in the region, especially elephants.
  • Bhutan Capital: Thimphu
  • Bhutan Currency: Bhutanese ngultrum, Indian rupee

• The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi appointed Sukhbir Singh Sandhu as the Chairman of the National Highway Authority of India (NHA).
  ➢ Sandhu is a 1988 batch IAS officer from the Uttarakhand Cadre.
• Economist and author Bibek Debroy have come out with English translations of two Hindu mythological texts "Markendya Purana" and "The Bhagavad Gita", publishers Penguin announced.
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• Disarmament Week is an annual event that is observed from 24 October to 30 October in various parts of the world. The observance revolves around raising public awareness of the dangers of the arms race and the need for international disarmament.
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