

PRELIMS EXCLUSIVE

• Appointments

- **Tushar Mehta** has been appointed as new Solicitor General of India.
- **Justice Ranjan Gogoi** has been sworn in as 46th Chief Justice of India.
- **Supreme Court judge Madan Bhimarao Lokur** has been appointed as Executive Chairman of NALSA.
- Indian-American **Gita Gopinath** has been appointed as Chief Economist of IMF.
- **Sajjan Jindal** has been elected as Treasurer of World Steel Association.

• Awards And Honours

- **Fali S. Nariman** has been awarded 19th Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration.
- **Sikkim** was awarded FAO's Future Policy Gold Award for 100% organic farming.
- William Nordhaus, Paul Romer have been awarded 2018 **Nobel Prize in Economics**.
- **Seoul Peace Prize for 2018**: PM **Narendra Modi** has been conferred with this award for his contribution to international cooperation and fostering global economic growth. The Seoul Peace Prize was established in 1990 to commemorate the success of the **24th Olympic Games** held in Seoul. The award was established to crystallise Korean people's yearning for peace on the Korean peninsula and in the rest of the world.
- **United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights 2018**: The Prize was established by the General Assembly in 1966 and was awarded for the first time on 10 December 1968, on the occasion of the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Prize has since been awarded in 1973, 1978, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008 and 2013. This was the tenth award of the prize, coinciding this year with the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
 - ✓ Ms. Rebeca Gyumi - activist for the rights of women and girls (Tanzania)
 - ✓ Ms. Asma Jahangir (posthumously) - human rights lawyer (Pakistan)
 - ✓ Ms. Joênia Wapichana (Joênia Batista de Carvalho) – activist for the rights of indigenous communities (Brazil)
 - ✓ Front Line Defenders – organization advocating and working for the protection of human rights defenders (Ireland)
- **Einstein Prize for 2018**
 - ✓ Indian American Professor of Physics, Abhay Ashtekar was awarded the Einstein Prize for 2018 for his contribution to the field of Gravitational Physics.
 - ✓ The prize, awarded by the American Physical Society, carries an award of \$10,000.
 - ✓ The first Einstein prize was awarded jointly to Peter Bergmann and John Wheeler, who introduced general relativity to American universities by creating research groups.

• Military Exercise

- The 15-day Pak-Russia Joint Training Exercise '**Druzba-III**' has begun at the National Counter-Terrorism Center in Pabbi, a Tehsil of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Nowshera District. Druzba military exercise between Russia and Pakistan was started in 2016. Druzba is a Russian word which means Friendship.
- US Marines and amphibious forces were joined by armed forces of the United Arab Emirates to start a two-week amphibious exercise called **Iron Magic**. Iron Magic enables regional

partners to coordinate amphibious landing, infantry training, military operations in urban terrain (MOUT), mechanized assault and maneuver, life fire, helicopter assault and internal security training events off the coast of the UAE.

- The 32nd edition of India-Indonesia coordinated patrol (**Ind-Indo CORPAT 2018**) took place at Belawan, Indonesia. Naval forces of both countries undertook patrolling on respective sides of 236 nautical miles long International Maritime Boundary Line. Under the strategic partnership between India and Indonesia, navies of both countries have been carrying out coordinated patrolling twice year since 2002 near International Maritime Boundary Line.
- The 3rd edition of Japan-India Maritime Exercise (**JIMEX 2018**) was held at Visakhapatnam. It was aimed to enhance interoperability, improve understanding and imbibe best practices between navies of two countries. This exercise started in January 2012 (Japan) with special focus on Maritime Security Cooperation. The last edition of JIMEX was conducted in Dec 2013 off Chennai.
- The 1st joint exercise between Indian and Vietnamese Coast Guards - **Sahyog HOP TAC 2018** – was held in Bay of Bengal off the coast of Chennai. The aim of this exercise was to promote interoperability between the two maritime forces. The exercise encompassed scenario of hijacking of oil tanker and subsequent rescue of its crew in coordinated anti-piracy joint operation as well as preventive efforts for marine environment protection.
- The 6th edition of **IBSAMAR**, a joint Multi – National Maritime Exercise between the Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies, was held at Simons Town, South Africa from Oct 1-13. Initiated in 2006, 'Exercise IBSAMAR' is the most visible manifestation of convergence of democratic values, economic interests and maritime cooperation. For the first time, earlier this year from Feb 19-26, IBSAMAR (IBSAMAR V) was conducted off Goa as all previous exercises were held in South Africa.
- India and U.S. are set to elevate the bilateral '**Cope India**' air exercise to a trilateral format by including Japan. The three countries already conduct naval war games under the expanded **Malabar naval exercise**. Cope India was first conducted in 2004 and has grown in scope with involvement of fighter aircraft and force multipliers such as Airborne Warning And Control System (AWACS). The exercise was repeated in 2005, 2006 and 2009.
- To promote Military cooperation, India and Japan are all set to hold the first ever joint military exercise '**DHARMA GUARDIAN-2018**'. It will be involving the Indian Army and Japan Ground Self Defence Force at Counter Insurgency Warfare School, Vairengte, India from 01 November to 14 November 2018. Both sides will jointly train, plan and execute a series of well developed tactical drills for neutralisation of likely threats that may be encountered in urban warfare scenario.

- **'World Peace' Monument**

- Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu has inaugurated the world's largest dome on the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- It is located at the Maharashtra Institute of Technology (MIT)'s World Peace University (MIT-WPU) campus at Loni Kalbhor. The dome is built atop the MIT World Peace Library and the World Peace Prayer Hall, which are named after the 13th century poet-saint and philosopher Dnyaneshwar — a pivotal figure of the Bhakti movement in Maharashtra.
- This dome has a diameter of 160 feet, compared with the Vatican Dome's 139.6 feet, and stands 263 feet tall with a bell hanging from the centre, and the prayer hall is of around 30,000 sq ft.
- At the periphery of the dome and underneath — inside and outside — stand imposing bronze statues of 54 of the biggest names in world history stand, irrespective of nationality or religion.

- The proposed Bilaspur-Manali-Leh Line would be the **world's highest railway line** once launched.
- **GI Tag for Alphonso**
 - Alphonso from **Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Palghar, Thane and Raigad districts of Maharashtra**, has recently been registered as Geographical Indication (GI).
 - The king of mangoes, Alphonso, better known as '**Hapus**' in Maharashtra, is in demand in domestic and international markets not only for its taste but also for pleasant fragrance and vibrant colour.
 - It has long been one of the world's most popular fruit and is exported to various countries including Japan, Korea and Europe. New markets such as USA and Australia have also opened up recently.

- A Geographical Indication or a GI is an indication used on products that have a **specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin**.
- It conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness which is essentially attributable to its origin in that defined geographical locality.
- At the international level, it is governed by WTO's Agreement on **Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)**.
- The recently launched tagline for GI in India is Invaluable **Treasures of Incredible India**.

- **Shahi Litchi gets GI tag**
 - After **Katrani rice, Jardalu mango, and Magahi paan** (betel vine), Bihar's **Shahi litchi** has got the GI tag and has become an exclusive brand in the national and international market.
 - Shahi litchi, which is famous for its sweet, juicy, unique flavour and aroma, is mostly grown in Muzaffarpur and neighbouring districts including East Champaran, Vaishali, Samastipur & Begusarai.
 - Bihar produces **40 per cent of the litchi grown in the country** on 38 per cent of the area.
 - The GI registration was done in the name of Litchi Growers Association of Bihar, which had applied for the tag.
 - The GI tag for the fruit will help and benefit thousands of litchi growers who will gain access to more markets and get better price in the country and abroad.
- **NCR RASTA and Yatri RASTA:** North Central Railways has launched two mobile apps for tracking assets and stations.
- **WEF:** WEF launches Centre for Fourth Industrial Revolution in India.
- **Ro-Ro Service:** IWAI has launched Ro-Ro service from Neamati to Manjuli Island in Assam.
- **SEBI** has allowed foreign entities to participate in commodity derivatives market.
- **PMFBY:** Crop damages in wild animal attacks put under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna on pilot basis.
- **Udyam Abhilasha:** This is the campaign launched by SIDBI for national level entrepreneurship awareness campaign.
- **BSE:** It became first stock exchange to launch commodity derivative contracts.
- **Nirman Kusuma Programme:** Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched this programme for providing financial assistance to the children of the construction workers. The children of construction workers would get financial assistance for their education in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and polytechnics. An ITI student will be entitled to get financial assistance of Rs.23,600, whereas a diploma student will get Rs.26,300 per annum.

- **Mahila Mall**, the first mall in the country with an all-women crew will come up in Kozhikode in the month of November. It houses business establishments run by around 75 women entrepreneurs or groups including those from the Kudumbashree fold.
- **Odisha's Food Security Scheme**
 - On Gandhi Jayanti, the Odisha government launched its own food security scheme to benefit 25 lakh vulnerable people who were left out of the National Food Security Act.
 - The beneficiaries will get **5 kg of rice per person per month at the rate of ₹1 per kg**. The scheme will have an annual financial outlay of Rs 444 crore.
 - Households having persons aged 60 or above with no regular support and assured means of subsistence will receive benefit from the scheme.
 - Households, where no adult member is available due to old age, lack of physical or mental fitness and social customs to care for disabled persons and engage in gainful employment will be also covered.
 - The **eldest woman in a household**, who is not less than 18 years of age, will be the **head of the family** for the purpose of issue of ration cards.
- **MedWatch**: On the occasion of 86th anniversary, the **Indian Air Force** has launched an innovative mobile health App named **MedWatch** in keeping with the vision of Digital India, Ayushman Bharat, and Mission Indradhanush. It is the first such health app to be built by any of the three armed forces. The app is conceived by the doctors of IAF and developed in house by Directorate of Information Technology (DIT) with zero financial outlay. It comprises of host of features like information on basic first aid, health topics and nutritional facts; reminders for timely medical review, vaccination and utility tools like health record card, BMI calculator, helpline numbers and web links.
- **BepiColombo** is a joint **Mercury mission** between *ESA and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)*, executed under ESA leadership. The mission comprises two spacecraft - the **Mercury Planetary Orbiter (MPO)** and the **Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter (MMO)**.
 - Two satellites under this mission have started their journey to the smallest and least explored terrestrial planet in our Solar System. It will reach at Mercury in late 2025.
 - Mercury has a oversized iron core, which represents 60% of its mass. Science cannot yet explain why the planet only has a thin veneer of rocks. Bepi's high-resolution data should bring us nearer to an answer.
- **Miginging Island**
 - Recently, Ugandan security forces have rejected an attempt by Kenyan authorities to raise a flag on the disputed Miginging Island.
 - Miginging Island is a 0.49-acre island in Lake Victoria, one of the African Great Lakes.
 - Ownership of the island has overlapped, as well, causing a dispute between Kenya and Uganda over who owns the valuable fishing waters.
 - The waters surrounding Miginging Island are rich in Nile perch, and the valuable fishing waters have been disputed by its neighboring countries.
 - The profitable fishing waters attracted pirates, and Uganda was the first to respond. They instituted costly entry permits and arrested fishermen who didn't have them. Kenya responded in kind by claiming the island, and Uganda sent Marines.
- China has opened the **world's longest sea bridge** to general traffic. The bridge spans 42.4km (26.3 miles) to connect the eastern coastal city of Qingdao to the suburb of Huangdao, in Jiaozhou Bay. It is 4km longer than the previous record-holder, the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway in the US state of Louisiana.

- China has indigenously designed and built world's largest amphibious aircraft AG600. It will be mainly used for maritime rescue, fighting forest fires and marine monitoring.
- Jamal Ahmad Khashoggi was a Saudi Arabian journalist, author, and a former general manager and editor-in-chief of Al-Arab News Channel. Khashoggi was a critic of Saudi rulers. He was killed inside the country's consulate in Turkey on 2 October when he went there to collect papers permitting him to marry his Turkish fiancée Hatice Cengiz.
- **12th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit**
 - The 12th ASEM was held on 18-19 October 2018 in Brussels, Belgium.
 - Discussions focused on the theme "**Europe and Asia: Global Partners for Global Challenges**".
 - The ASEM **was established in 1996** as a forum for dialogue and cooperation between Europe and Asia. It aims to strengthen the relationship between the two continents.
 - ASEM brings together 53 partners, including the European Union, 30 European countries (28 EU member states, Norway, Switzerland), 21 Asian countries, and the ASEAN Secretariat.
 - The ASEM summit is organised every two years to set out the priorities of the partnership. These summits are held alternatively in Asia and Europe. The 11th ASEM summit took place in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in 2016**.
 - Every year, the ASEM Day is celebrated on 1 March to promote connectivity and partnership between Asia and Europe.
- **Operation Samudra Maitri**
 - India has launched 'Operation Samudra Maitri' to assist victims of earthquake and tsunami in Central Sulawesi Province of the **Republic of Indonesia**.
 - Two Indian Air Force aircrafts - C-130J and C-17 and three Indian Naval Ships - INS Tir, INS Sujatha and INS Shardul - have been mobilised to carry out humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.
 - Indonesia's twin quake-tsunami disaster decimated parts of the central Indonesian island of Sulawesi.
 - The magnitude 7.5 earthquake struck the country and generated a tsunami said to have been as high as 6 metres (nearly 20 feet) in places.
- **India for Humanity**
 - Ministry of External Affairs has launched "**India for Humanity**" initiative to commemorate 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
 - With its focus on Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of compassion, caring and service to humanity, the initiative features a year long series of artificial limb fitment camps in a number of countries spanning the globe.
 - For this purpose, the Ministry has collaborated with the renowned charitable organization "Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti" (BMVSS).
 - Founded in 1975 and better known by its trademark limb "**Jaipur Foot**", BMVSS is among the world's largest organisations for the fitment of artificial limbs and till date has served over 1.73 million amputees.