

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### October 31 - World Cities Day

- The first World Cities Day was celebrated in Shanghai, China on 31 October 2014. The day is expected to greatly promote the international community's interest in global urbanization enhance cooperation among countries and cities in meeting opportunities and addressing challenges of urbanization, and contribute to sustainable urban development.
- **Theme: Better City, Better Life.**

### October 31 - 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' (National Unity Day)

- Sardar Patel was instrumental in keeping India united. He was the first Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of India.
- He is credited for the integration of over 500 independent princely states in 1947-49 from the British colonial provinces by Independence Act 1947.
- He is known as the Iron Man of India or Bismarck of India and he is also remembered as the Patron Saint of India's civil servants for establishing modern all-India services.

## NATIONAL

### Gujarat

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation Statue of Unity, built in honour of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at Kevadiya in Narmada district of Gujarat.
- 182-metre statue of the Iron Man of India, world's tallest, unveiled on his 143rd birth anniversary.
- The statue will remind the world about the courage of the man who thwarted attempts to disintegrate India.

**Haryana****Fabric of Unity unveiled**

- Textiles Minister Smriti Zubin Irani unveiled the Fabric of Unity on the occasion of the 143rd birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Gurugram in Haryana.

**Tamil Nadu****Train 18, the NextGen Shatabdi, launched at ICF**

- Train 18, Indian-made trainset was unveiled to the public with ‘touch-free’ bio-vacuum toilets, LED lighting, mobile charging points, and a climate control system.

**SCIENCE****North east monsoon**

- North east monsoon to hit Tamil Nadu and Puducherry during next 24 hours.

**Parker Solar Probe smashes record for closest approach to Sun**

- NASA’s Parker Solar Probe, mankind’s first mission to ‘touch’ the Sun, has set a new record for closest approach to the sun by a human-made object.
- The spacecraft passed the current record of 26.55 million miles from the sun’s surface.
- The previous record for closest solar approach was set by the German-American Helios 2 spacecraft in April 1976.

**NASA’s Kepler space telescope to retire**

- The Kepler space telescope has run out of fuel and will be retired after a 9-1/2-year mission in which it detected thousands of planets beyond our solar system.

**BUSINESS & ECONOMY****Oil prices fall on rising supply**

- Oil prices fell signs of rising global supply despite looming sanctions on Iran's crude exports.

**New SBI ATM withdrawal limits**

- New ATM cash withdrawal rules for SBI account holders will come into effect from October 31.
- The country's largest bank will reduce the daily cash withdrawal limit for Classic and Maestro debit cards to Rs 20,000 per day, from Rs 40,000.

**RANKINGS & INDEXES****Ease of Doing Business Index**

- India jumped 23 ranks in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index 2018 to 77. It ranked 100 in the 2017 report.

**SUMMITS & CONFERENCES****Financial Stability and Development Council Meeting**

- The Financial Stability and Development Council, FSDC, held a meeting in New Delhi which was presided over by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.

**APPOINTMENTS**

- **AIBA World Championships brand ambassador** - Mary Kom

**DEFENCE****‘Operation Faithful Patriot’**

- More than 5,200 active duty troops will be sent by the end of this week to the U.S.'s southwest border to assist border patrol agents in California, Texas and Arizona.

## AWARDS

- **2018 Gleitsman Award** - Malala Yousafzai to be honoured by Harvard University for her work promoting girls' education

## SPORTS

### Asian Snooker Tour

- Pankaj Advani wins Asian Snooker Tour Title in Jinan, China.

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