

International Current Affairs

At 95, WW II veteran is oldest scuba diver

- A 95-year-old British veteran of Second World War broke his own record as the world's oldest scuba diver after taking the plunge to explore a shipwreck off Cyprus.

France's ban on bee-killing pesticides begins

- A ban on five neonicotinoid pesticides enters into force in France, placing the country at the forefront of a campaign against chemicals blamed for decimating critical populations of crop-pollinating bees.

France bans use of phones in schools

- A nationwide ban on mobile phones in France schools was brought in under a law passed which also banishes tablets and smart watches from primary and junior schools.

Spanish PM proposes referendum on greater Catalan autonomy

- Spain's Prime Minister proposed holding a referendum in Catalonia on greater autonomy for the wealthy region but ruled out allowing a vote on independence as demanded by Catalan leaders.

Tropical Storm Gordon

- Tropical Storm Gordon lashed South Florida with heavy rains and high winds and is expected to strengthen into a hurricane when it hits the central U.S. Gulf Coast.

Typhoon Jebi

- Japan issues evacuation advisories for almost 300,000 people and cancelled hundreds of flights as typhoon Jebi approaches.

Qatar lifts exit permit system

- Qatar amended its residency laws to allow most foreign workers to leave the country without exit permits from their employers.

Mahatma Gandhi statue unveiled in Bulgaria

- President of India Ram Nath Kovind jointly with the President of Bulgaria, unveiled a statue of Mahatma Gandhi at South Park, Sofia in Bulgaria.

Facebook to invest \$1 billion in data centre in Singapore

- Facebook to invest more than \$1 billion to build its first data centre in Asia in Singapore, slated to open in 2022.

LEMOA fully operational now

- The India-U.S. foundational agreement for mutual logistics support, the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), has been fully operationalised.

Florence expected to become a major hurricane as it heads to US

- Hurricane Florence is expected to become a dangerous ‘major hurricane’ as it heads toward the US East Coast and is expected to slam the Carolinas and Virginia the hardest.

Pakistan-China pledge to complete multi-billion dollars CPEC

- Pakistan and China pledged to complete the multi-billion dollars China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and further enhance the bilateral strategic partnership.

PM Modi, Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina, CMs of West Bengal and Tripura, jointly dedicate three projects in Bangladesh

1. 500 MW additional power supply from India to Bangladesh, through the existing Bheramara (Bangladesh) – Baharampur (India) interconnection.
2. Akhaura – Agartala Rail Link.
3. Rehabilitation of the Kulaura-Shahbazpur section of Bangladesh Railways.

First ever bus services between Bihar and Nepal flagged off

- For the first time bus services between Bihar and Nepal have started following the agreement between India and Nepal.

US marks 17th anniversary of 9/11 attacks

- Americans mark the 17th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks that killed almost 3,000 people in New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Vladimir Putin suggests long-awaited peace treaty to Japan

- Russian President Vladimir Putin suggested that Russia and Japan should sign a much-anticipated peace treaty formally ending hostilities from World War II before the end of the year.

Typhoon Mangkhut

- Super Typhoon Mangkhut is heading for the Philippines, Taiwan and Hong Kong.
- Typhoon Mangkhut, which is currently a Category 4 hurricane, is due to make landfall on the northern tip of the main island of Luzon.

UN gets access to Rakhine for the first time since Aug. 2017

- The UN began work inside Myanmar's violence-torn northern Rakhine State of Rohingya Muslims, the first time its agencies have been granted permission to operate there.

Hurricane Florence downgraded to category two storm

- Hurricane Florence has been downgraded to a category two storm as it approaches the US.

UN agrees global plan to step up fight against TB

- United Nations member states have agreed on a global plan to step up fight against tuberculosis, the world's number one killer among infectious diseases.

Jaipur Literature Festival

- Jaipur Literature Festival began in Houston at the Asia Society of Texas.

Archaeologists discover ancient sphinx in Egypt

- Egypt says archaeologists have discovered a statue of a lion's body and a human head in the southern city of Aswan.

Germany rolls out world's first hydrogen train

- Germany 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 eco-friendly technology.

Expats in UAE will be allowed to stay back in country for longer period of time after their retirement

- The length of the residency period in case of retired expats will be five years, with the possibility of renewal. The new policy is likely to be implemented from 2019.

Bangladesh Cabinet clears deal with India for port usage

- Bangladesh's Cabinet has approved a draft agreement with India to enable New Delhi to use the Chittagong and Mongla ports for the movement of goods to and from northeast India.

North Korea, Moon sign agreement on denuclearization

- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in signed an agreement on denuclearisation, reducing military tensions and defusing crisis on the peninsula in Pyongyang.

Nepal celebrates its Constitution Day

- Nepal is celebrating its Constitution Day which is also known as the National Day. The new constitution of Nepal was promulgated on this day in 2015.

India, Romania agree to intensify cooperation at UN

- India and Romania have agreed to intensify cooperation at the United Nations and other multilateral fora in order to address global challenges.

AYUSH Information Cell set up in Romania

- Ministry of AYUSH has set up an AYUSH Information Cell at the premises of the Indian Embassy in Romania to disseminate authentic information about AYUSH system of medicine and encourage Ayurveda practice in Romania.

UAE re-affirms commitments to developing nuclear programme to highest safety standards

- The UAE has re-affirmed its commitment to develop its national nuclear programme to the highest standards of safety, security, non-proliferation and transparency.

ANI, WAM sign MoU

- Asian News International, ANI and Emirates News Agency, WAM, the official news agency of the UAE government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding, MoU, to reinforce and develop bilateral cooperation in the area of the free news exchange.

Russia, Turkey agree on borders of demilitarised zone in Syrian

- Russia and Turkey have agreed on the borders of a demilitarised zone in northern Syria.

India, Nepal agree to use satellite images in boundary survey work

- India and Nepal have agreed to explore the possibility of using high-resolution satellite images in boundary survey work.

Hong Kong opens high-speed rail link with mainland China

- Hong Kong opened a new high-speed rail link to inland China that will vastly decrease travel times but also raises concerns about Beijing's creeping influence over the semi-autonomous Chinese region.

Nepal to be world's first country to double its tiger population

- Nepal is likely to be the first country in the world to double its tiger population. Nepal announced that there are now an estimated 235 wild tigers in the country, nearly doubling the baseline of around 121 tigers in 2009.

Maldives Presidential elections

- Opposition candidate Ibrahim Mohamed Solih has emerged victorious in Maldives Presidential elections.

'Indra Jatra' festival being celebrated in Kathmandu

- In Nepal, the famous Indra Jatra festival is being celebrated in Kathmandu with gaiety and religious fervor.
- The eight day long annual festival is observed to worship Indra, the lord of rain and good harvest.

'Gandhi March' in Netherlands

- India will organise 'Gandhi March' from the iconic Peace Palace at the Hague to Grote Kerk to launch the two-year long celebrations of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Statue of Nelson Mandela unveiled at United Nations

- A statue of Nelson Mandela has been unveiled at the United Nations to honour the late South African leader's birth. This year marks the 100th anniversary of Mandela's birth, and the U.N. is declaring 2019-2028 the "Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace."

India to ship first consignment of common grade rice to China

- India will send its first consignment of common grade rice to China. China is a leading importer of rice and sugar, while India is the world's biggest exporter of rice.

Typhoon Trami hit Japan's southern island of Okinawa

- Typhoon Trami hit Japan's southern island of Okinawa with a maximum speed of 216 kilometres per hour.

Syria says vital border crossing with Jordan

- A vital border crossing between Syria and Jordan reopened for the first time in years adding that the flow of trucks and transit across the border has begun.

Macedonia holds referendum

- Macedonia is holding a referendum on whether to change its name to the Republic of North Macedonia.

Sweden's anti-doping dog is 'world's first'

- Sweden's Sports Confederation says Molly is the world's first anti-doping dog, introduced to broaden the country's efforts in curtailing the use of performance-enhancing drugs in sport.

China tests three hypersonic missiles

- China has achieved a feat of testing three types of hypersonic aircraft missiles at the same time. The tests of three scaled-down models of 'wide-speed-range vehicles', which can fly at from hypersonic velocity to lower than the speed of sound, were carried out.

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