

## **International Current Affairs – October 2018**

### **Serena releases song to increase awareness about breast cancer**

- Tennis superstar Serena Williams releases song “I Touch Myself” to raise awareness for breast cancer.

### **Tropical Storm Rosa**

- Tropical Storm Rosa is nearing northwest Mexico where its heavy rains were expected to cause flooding and landslides before drenching parts of the U.S. Southwest.

### **Canada agrees to join trade accord with US & Mexico**

- Canada and the United States reached a deal last night for Canada to stay in a free trade pact with the U.S. and Mexico.

### **Programmes for 150 years of celebrating Mahatma Gandhi commences in Sri Lanka**

- In Sri Lanka, programmes for 150 years of celebrating Mahatma Gandhi commenced with several functions organised on the occasion of his 149th birth anniversary.

### **Resolution to posthumously award US Congressional Gold Medal to Mahatma Gandhi**

- In the United States, half a dozen influential US lawmakers, including four Indian Americans, have moved a resolution in the US House of Representatives to posthumously award the prestigious Congressional Gold Medal to Mahatma Gandhi in recognition of his promotion of peace and non-violence.

**Mahatma Gandhi's 149th birth anniversary commemorated in China**

- Mahatma Gandhi's popular quotes and bhajans resonated at the Chaoyang Park in Beijing, China as people from all walks of life gathered to commemorate the 149th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

**Australia scraps 'tampon tax'**

- Australia finally agreed to scrap its so-called "tampon tax".

**Amazon to raise minimum wage to \$15 for U.S. employees**

- Amazon.com Inc to raise its minimum wage to \$15 per hour for its U.S. employees from next month as it faces criticism for pay disparity from lawmakers and labour unions.

**International Court of Justice orders U.S. to lift sanctions on humanitarian goods' import by Iran**

- The United Nations' highest court ordered the United States to lift sanctions on Iran that affect imports of humanitarian goods and products and services linked to the safety of civil aviation.

**Kulbhushan Jadhav case in International Court of Justice**

- The case of Kulbhushan Jadhav, the Indian national who was sentenced to death by a Pakistani court on spying charges, will be heard by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) from 18th February to 21st February next year.

**Bangladesh scraps unpopular quota scheme for government jobs**

- Bangladesh abolished a controversial quota system for civil service jobs.

**Pakistan to set up a oil refinery in Balochistan with the aid of Saudi Arabia**

- Pakistan's Cabinet gave nod to the signing of a memorandum of understanding with Saudi Arabia to set up a oil refinery in the southwestern province of Balochistan.

**Indian-American nominated to key post**

- S. President Donald Trump has nominated prominent Indian-American nuclear expert Rita Baranwal to head the nuclear energy division at the Department of Energy.

**Joint WHO-UNICEF campaign**

- More than 306,000 people, including over 164,000 children under the age of 15, were vaccinated against cholera as part of a joint WHO-UNICEF campaign in Yemen.

**Tropical Storm Michael**

- A tropical storm “Michael” is likely to develop in the northwestern Caribbean and bring storm surges and heavy rainfall to the U.S. Gulf Coast.

**UN panel on climate change issues extensive warning on rising global temperatures**

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has issued it’s the most extensive warning on the risks of rising global temperatures.
- The report says the world is now completely off track, heading towards increase of 3 degree Celsius.
- The report pleads to keep the target of 1.5 degree Celsius above pre-industrial level.

**Bill to set up the Office for Reparations in Sri Lanka**

- In Sri Lanka, a bill to set up the Office for Reparations was introduced for debate in Parliament. The Bill provides for the provision of individual and collective reparations for aggrieved persons who have suffered violations of human rights or humanitarian law.

**Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Auditorium**

- In Sri Lanka, the Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Auditorium built with Indian grant assistance of 30 crore Sri Lankan rupees was dedicated to the people.

**Cyclonic storm Titli**

- The cyclonic storm ‘Titli’ over west central Bay of Bengal intensified into a severe cyclonic storm.

**Malaysia cabinet decides to abolish death penalty**

- Malaysia cabinet decided to abolish the death penalty. Capital punishment in Malaysia is currently mandatory for murder, kidnapping, possession of firearms and drug trafficking, among other crimes.

**World Bank, IMF heads urge the US, China to play by trade rules**

- The heads of the World Bank and IMF urged the US and China to follow world trade rules and de-escalate a dispute over Beijing’s technology development strategy that threatens to do lasting damage to the global economy.

**Compensation to victims of the island’s brutal civil war**

- Sri Lankan Parliament has passed legislation to pay compensation to victims of the island’s brutal civil war, which claimed one lakh lives during a decade.

**World’s largest fish market reopens**

- World’s largest fish market 83-year-old Tsukiji market reopens at new site in Tokyo.

**India wins election to UN Human Rights Council**

- India was elected to the United Nations’ top human rights body for a period of three years beginning January 1, 2019, getting 188 votes in the Asia-Pacific category, the highest number of votes among all candidates.
- In the Asia Pacific category, India got 188 votes followed by Fiji with 187 votes, Bangladesh 178, Bahrain and Philippines 165 each.

**Hurricane Leslie heading to Portugal, Spain**

- Hurricane Leslie is heading toward Portugal and Spain, with forecasters expecting it to bring heavy rains and dangerous winds and surf to parts of the Iberian Peninsula. The Category 1 storm was about 910 km southwest of Lisbon, Portugal, and about 320 km northwest of Madeira

**World's longest flight: Singapore Airlines sets record**

- A Singapore Airlines flight arrived in Newark after a nearly 18-hour trip from Singapore, completing the world's longest commercial flight. It marked the revival of a route that had been eliminated in 2013.

**First joint programme for Afghanistan to train its diplomats**

- India and China have launched their first joint programme for Afghanistan to train its diplomats in India.

**Storm Callum**

- In the United Kingdom, storm Callum is set to continue causing disruption across parts of south Wales. The Meteorological Office issued an amber warning for heavy rain in south Wales.

**Sri Lanka sets up committee to help Sri Lankan businesses**

- Sri Lanka sets up committee to formulate a strategy to help Sri Lankan businesses invest more in the Indian market.

**Afghan-Pakistani border closed after clashes**

- A major part of the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan remained closed for the second consecutive day following clashes between the security forces of the two countries.

**North Korea, South Korea and UN Command begin talks on demilitarising border**

- North Korea, South Korea and the US-led United Nations Command began talks on demilitarising a section of the heavily fortified border dividing the peninsula.

**Palestinians win UN backing to lead developing country bloc**

- The Palestinians have won backing to lead the biggest bloc of developing countries at the United Nations.
- The General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to grant the observer-state of Palestine temporary rights to act as chair of the Group of 77 plus China, a bloc that has grown to 134 countries at the United Nations.

**Third parliamentary elections in Bhutan**

- The stage is set for third parliamentary elections in Bhutan.

**Festival of Fulpati**

- The festival of Fulpati was celebrated with traditional gaiety and religious fervour in various parts of Nepal. In Nepali, “Phool” means flower and “Pati” means leaves and plants.

**US announces fresh sanctions on Iran**

- The United States Treasury has announced fresh sanctions on Iran, targeting banks and investment companies.

**Ethiopian prime minister’s new cabinet has 50% women**

- Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed formed a new cabinet with 50% women.

**Landslides blocked Milin Section of Yarlung Zangbo River in Tibet**

- China has informed India that landslides have blocked the Milin Section of the mainstream of Yarlung Zangbo River in Tibet.
- The river is known as Siang and Brahmaputra in India.

**US to merge Jerusalem consulate general with new embassy**

- The United States is to merge its consulate general in Jerusalem, which deals with Palestinian affairs, with its new embassy.

**Russia opposes the US sanctions against Iran**

- Russia has opposed the US sanctions against Iran, saying that Washington seems to be taking every opportunity to exert pressure on countries that do not follow its policies.

**New government in Bhutan**

- Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa to form new government in Bhutan. The party has won 30 seats in 47 member National Assembly, the lower house of the parliament.

**World's longest sea bridge between China-Hong Kong**

- The world's longest sea bridge Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge will be thrown open for traffic on October 24.

**China-built world's largest amphibious plane**

- China's indigenously designed and built amphibious aircraft AG600, touted as the world's largest, successfully carried out its first take-off and landing tests.

**Climate fund approves 1B for projects in poor countries**

- A UN-backed fund has approved more than 1 billion dollars for 19 new projects to help developing countries tackle climate change.

**US will withdraw from nuclear arms treaty with Russia**

- President Donald Trump has confirmed that the US will pull out of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces, INF treaty that it had signed with Russia during the Cold War.

**Hurricane Willa**

- Hurricane Willa has grown rapidly into an extremely dangerous near-Category 5 storm in the eastern Pacific, on a path that could hit Mexico's western coast in the coming days.

**Paul Biya wins 7th presidential term in Cameroon**

- In Cameroon, Paul Biya, who has ruled the country since 1982, won seventh presidential term with a landslide victory in presidential election.

**Japan orders Facebook to improve data protection**

- The Japanese government ordered Facebook to improve the protection of users' personal information following data breaches affecting tens of millions of people worldwide.

**Water, Energy, Technology, and Environment Exhibition begins in Dubai**

- This is considered as one of the leading sustainability exhibitions in the Middle East and North Africa region. The India Pavilion at WETX 2018, set up by the Indian Chamber of Commerce with support of the Consulate General of India, Dubai and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is in line with the vision and commitment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to have sustainable and inclusive growth for all with access to clean water, electricity and housing.

**Nepal launches electric bus service in Kathmandu**

- Nepal has introduced electric buses on the roads of the capital Kathmandu with Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli emphasising on the operation of such vehicles to deal with the shortage of petroleum products in the land-locked country.

**South Asia Regional WASH innovation**

- India's legend cricketer and UNICEF Ambassador for South Asia, Sachin Tendulkar gave away prizes to the winners of South Asia Regional WASH innovation in Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan.

**2018 UN Day Concert in the General Assembly Hall at United Nations Headquarters**

- 2018 UN Day Concert to be held in the General Assembly Hall at United Nations Headquarters in New York. **Theme of this year's concert "Traditions of Peace and Non-violence"**

**European Parliament backs ban on single-use plastics**

- The European Parliament has overwhelmingly backed a wide-ranging ban on single-use plastics to counter pollution in seas, fields and waterways.
- The ban would affect a range of products for which valid alternatives are available – from plastic straws to earbuds and plates – as of 2021 and would make sure that plastic bottles are 90 per cent recycled by 2025.

**Japan's Okinawa to hold referendum**

- Japan's Okinawa to hold referendum on polarising plan to relocate US military base.

**'Cesspool' reopens to visitors**

- Philippine tiny Boracay Island once called 'Cesspool' reopens to visitors.

**Foreign workers in Qatar can now leave country without prior permission from employers**

- In Qatar, the long-awaited reform of controversial foreign workers exit visa system came into force.
- Under the new law, all but five per cent of a company's workforce, except those in most senior positions, can leave without prior permission from employers.

**100,000 people around world are missing: ICRC**

- The International Committee of the Red Cross, ICRC has said over 100,000 people around the world are missing, which has created a global crisis.

**General Knowledge Study Materials** [Click Here for Download](#)

**All subject Study Materials** [Click Here for Download](#)

**2018 Current Affairs Download –** [Click Here](#)

**Whatsapp Group**  [Click Here](#)

**Telegram Channel**  [Click Here](#)