

The week from October 22, 2018 to October 28, 2018



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been chosen for the 2018 Seoul Peace Prize in recognition of his dedication to improving international co-operation, raising global economic growth, and accelerating the Human Development of people in India. The Committee lauded Mr. Modi's initiatives to make the government cleaner through various anti-corruption measures.

In Cameroon, Paul Biya, who has ruled the country with an iron fist since 1982, won the 7th presidential term with a landslide victory in a controversial presidential election. Biya secured 71.3% of the ballot in the October 7 presidential election, which was marred by allegations of widespread fraud, a low turnout, and violence in the poll run-up.



The Chinese President, Xi Jinping, inaugurated the world's longest sea-crossing bridge, Hong Kong-Macau-Zhuhai Bridge (HMZB), which is 55-km long. It will deepen the integration of Hong Kong and Macau with the rest of China, and will be at the heart of an integrated Greater Bay Area (GBA) covering 11 major neighbouring cities, including Hong Kong, Macau, Guangzhou and Shenzhen.



A Supreme Court judgment has declared a ban on toxic and loud crackers during Deepavali. The ban has been declared to avoid the air pollution caused due to the burning of firecrackers, which in turn lead to deterioration of air quality. The Bench acknowledged that there is a necessity to tackle the other contributory factors for air pollution.



Four Himalayan peaks near Gangotri glacier of Uttarkashi district have been named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Located near the Sudarshan and Saifi peaks in Raktvan valley, the peaks have been named Atal - 1, 2, 3 and 4. The peaks are located at 6,557m, 6,566m, 6,160m and 6,100m on the right flank of Gangotri glacier. The team, which returned after the climb, had hoisted the national tricolour on each of the peaks.



Train 18, the country's first engineless train, which is being regarded as a successor to the 30-year-old Shatabdi Express, is set to hit the tracks for trials on October 29. Driven by a self-propulsion module sans a separate locomotive, the train, capable of running at a speed of up to 160 kmph, comes with technical features for enhanced quick acceleration. It will cut the travel time by 15 per cent compared to the Shatabdi.



In Cricket, Indian captain Virat Kohli has recently become the fastest batsman to reach 10,000 runs in One-Day Internationals (ODIs) after scoring a second consecutive century against West Indies in Vishakhapatnam on October 24. He broke the record of compatriot and batting great Sachin Tendulkar, who had reached the milestone in 259 innings.



Ethiopia's parliament has approved senior diplomat Sahle-Work Zewde as the country's first female president cementing another shift in the country's political system from Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. She will replace Mulatu Teshome Wirtu. Prior to her appointment, she was serving as the United Nations' top official at the African Union.



The Indian telecom industry will roll out one million Wi-Fi hotspots in the country by December 2019. The Indian Mobile Congress 2018, 'Bharat Wi-Fi', would be a country-wide common inter-operable platform for these million hotspots which would be owned and operated by telecom service providers, Internet service providers, and virtual network operators.

Agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan will receive the first World Agriculture Prize instituted by the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA). The prize will be presented by Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu at Vigyan Bhawan at a special session, named Swaminathan Global Dialogue on Climate Change and Food Security and organised by ICFA.



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