



Current Affairs For 20th November 2018

(Important Current affairs)

APEC SUMMIT HELD IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- *Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit was held on 17 and 18 November 2018 in Papua New Guinea.*
- *This is the first time Papua New Guinea, the poorest of the 21 countries in APEC, has hosted the summit.*
- *The capital of Papua New Guinea is Port Moresby and its currency is 'Papua New Guinean kina'.*

'GLOBAL TALENT RANKINGS' RELEASED

- *The annual 'Global Talent' rankings was released by IMD Business School in Switzerland on 20 November 2018.*
- *The rankings are based on three factors: Investment and Development, Appeal, and Readiness.*
 - *India got the 53rd rank.*
- *Switzerland has topped the global ranking for the fifth year in a row.*
 - *Within Asia, Singapore got the 13th rank.*



HDFC DISBURSES RS 1,100 CRORE SUBSIDY

- *HDFC bank has disbursed over Rs 1,100 crore subsidy to over 51,000 customers under the government's flagship scheme PMAY (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana).*
- *It has provided loans of over Rs 9,800 crore under PMAY-Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS).'*
- *The loans were provided to customers belonging to EWS (Economically Weaker Section), LIG (Low Income Group) and MIG (Middle Income Group) category.*

RUSSIA, IRAN, & TURKEY TO HOLD SYRIA TALKS

- *Russia, Iran and Turkey will hold the next round of talks on Syria's conflict on November 28-29 in Astana, Kazakhstan.*
- *The meeting will be the 11th in the Astana peace process, which was set up in early 2017 by Russia and Iran.*
 - *The Astana process was launched after Russia's military intervention in Syria.*

SBI CAP VENTURES LAUNCHES SME & HOUSING FUND

- *SBI CAP Ventures Ltd. has launched Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and Affordable Housing Funds.*
- *SBI CAP Ventures Ltd is an alternative asset manager and subsidiary of SBI Capital Markets.*
- *SBI CAP SME Fund aims to raise Rs 400 crore and the Affordable Housing Fund Rs 350 crore.*



REPORT ON IPRS RELEASED BY COMMERCE MINISTRY

- *The report on ‘Industrial Park Rating System’ (IPRS) was released on 19 November 2018.*
- *The report was prepared by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry.*
 - *The IPRS is being developed to assess industrial parks in the country.*
- *Development of IPRS would help increase the competitiveness of industries and promotion of the manufacturing sector.*

MALDIVES TO REJOIN COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES

- *The Maldives cabinet has approved to rejoin the Commonwealth, two years after withdrawing from the 53-nation grouping.*
- *The country left the Commonwealth during former President Abdulla Yameen’s administration in October 2016.*
- *Ibrahim Mohamed Solih sworn in as President of Maldives on 17 November 2018.*

GROWTH-INDIA TELESCOPE’S FIRST OBSERVATION

- *The ‘GROWTH-India telescope’ at the Indian Astronomical Observatory located in Hanle, Ladakh has made its first science observation which is a follow-up study of a nova explosion.*



- *Novae are explosive events involving violent eruptions on the surface of white dwarf stars, leading to temporary increase in brightness of the star.*
 - *This recurrent nova has been named ‘M31N-2008’.*

14TH EDITION OF CHILDREN’S FESTIVAL BEGAN

- *The 14th edition of international children’s theatre festival, ‘JashneBachpan’, was inaugurated in New Delhi on 17 November 2018.*
 - *The festival is organised by the National School of Drama (NSD).*
- *The nine-day theatre festival will see performances from Switzerland, Sri Lanka and Indonesia along with their Indian counterparts.*
 - *The festival will conclude on 25 November 2018.*

SANJAY KUMAR APPOINTED AS CHIEF OF ED

- *IRS officer Sanjay Kumar Mishra was appointed as the full-time Chief of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on 18 November 2018.*
- *He was appointed as the Principal Special Director in ED in October 2018 and was given the ‘additional’ charge of ED director for three months.*
- *The post of ED director is an additional secretary rank post in the Union government.*

‘WOMEN EMPOWERMENT CAMPAIGN’ LAUNCHED



- *‘Nari Sashaktikaran Sankalp Abhiyan’ or Women Empowerment campaign was launched in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on 20 November 2018.*
- *The month-long campaign is aimed to empower women in the state through various programmes.*
- *The campaign will educate women about the schemes being run by central and state governments for their welfare and security.*

RBI’S NEW BODY TO LOOK INTO PCA ISSUES

- *On 19 November 2018, the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) Central Board decided to constitute a ‘Board for Financial Supervision’ (BFS).*
- *BFS will examine the framework for banks under Prompt Corrective Action (PCA).*
- *The Central Board also decided to constitute an expert committee to examine the Economic Capital Framework (ECF).*

‘GLOBAL EDUCATION MONITORING REPORT’ RELEASED

- *‘Global education monitoring report 2019’ was released by UNESCO on 19 November 2018.*
- *According to the report, the literacy levels in rural households of India dip with seasonal migration.*
- *About 80% of seasonal migrant children in seven cities lacked access to education near work sites.*
- *The report said that the construction sector absorbs the majority of short-term migrants.*



MILITARY EXERCISE 'VAJRA PRAHAR' COMMENCED

- *The joint military exercise 'Vajra Prahar' between India and the United States commenced in Jaipur on 19 November 2018.*
 - *The aim is to enhance the interoperability of the two armed forces.*
- *The armies will train on different aspects including hostage rescue, building intervention, desert survival, medical aid and combat firing.*

AIRSEWA 2.0 PORTAL AND APP UNVEILED

- *The Ministry of Civil Aviation has introduced the upgraded version of AirSewa 2.0 web portal and mobile app for air travellers.*
- *Major improvements include features such as secure sign-up and log-in with social media, chatbot for travellers support, and improved grievance management.*
- *The web portal and application will help to capture air travellers' feedback for policy interventions.*

'EASE OF DOING BUSINESS CHALLENGE' LAUNCHED

- *The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi launched the 'Ease of Doing Business Grand Challenge' on 19 November 2018.*
- *The objective of this challenge is to invite innovative ideas based on Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Big Data Analytics, Blockchain and other cutting-edge technology to reform Government processes.*
 - *The platform for the Grand Challenge is the Startup India Portal.*



AFRICA INDUSTRIALISATION DAY: 20 NOVEMBER

- *‘Africa Industrialisation Day’ is observed on 20 November every year.*
- *It’s a day dedicated to raising necessary awareness about Industrialisation in Africa.*
- *2018 Theme: ‘Promoting Regional Value Chains in Africa: A pathway for accelerating Africa’s structural transformation, industrialization and pharmaceutical production’*

‘WORLD MALARIA REPORT 2018’ RELEASED BY WHO

- *World Health Organisation (WHO) has released ‘World Malaria Report 2018’ on 19 November 2018.*
- *According to the report, India and 10 other countries in sub-Saharan Africa accounted for around 70% of estimated malaria cases (151 million) and deaths (274,000) in 2017.*
 - *India registered a 24% decrease in malaria cases in 2017 as compared to 2016.*

JALAJ SRIVASTAVA IS IWAI CHAIRMAN

- *Jalaj Srivastava has been appointed the Chairman of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) on 19 November 2018.*
 - *He is a 1984 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer.*
 - *At present, he is working as Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture.*
- *The IWAI comes under the Union Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways.*

UNIVERSAL CHILDREN’S DAY: 20 NOVEMBER



- *Universal Children’s Day is observed on 20 November every year.*
- *The aim of the day is to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children’s welfare.*
- *United Nations Universal Children’s Day was established in 1954.*
- *On 20 November 1989, the UN General assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.*